

# **New Life Ev. Lutheran Church**

## *Lake Zurich, IL*

*...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.*

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### **The Ascension of Our Lord (Observed)**

#### **May 21, 2017**

*A warm welcome to those who are visiting us today. You may hang your coat in the entryway of the church or on the coat rack downstairs. The bathrooms are located in the basement of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entryway. Also, refreshments are served in the basement after our service this morning. We invite you to join us for something to eat and drink.*

*Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won't miss any of the sermon.*

*In the unlikely event of an emergency during this morning's service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system that is wired directly to the fire department.*

*Before Service Prayer:* Almighty God, Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens in order to fill all things. By Your grace give us faith to see that by His cross He saved us, by His life He assured us of eternal life, and according to His promise He continues with us on earth to the end of the age. By His Spirit lead us in love to live for Him and to tell Him to all who will listen. We pray in the name of our ascended Lord. Amen.

*Today's Service:* *Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, CPH; used with permission under the OneLicense.net copyright agreement #A-800156.*

### **AS WE GATHER**

In some parts of the Christian world the Day of the Ascension is known in translation as the "Day of the Heavenly Journey of Our Lord." Some of the most joyful of celebrations on earth are celebrations of homecoming. When someone has been away from their home for an extended period and then comes back to their home, it is a cause for celebration. As we celebrate the ascension of Jesus, our focus turns to the courts of heaven and to the great celebration that must have occurred there when Jesus returned from His sojourn on the earth. We anticipate our heavenly journey as well.

### **PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

### **PASTOR'S WELCOME**

### **OPENING HYMN – CW 171 "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"**

*Stand*

## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: God has gone up with a shout,

**People: the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.** *Psalm 47:5*

Pastor: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! *Psalm 47:1*

**People: This is the LORD's doing. It is marvelous in our eyes!** *Psalm 118:23*

Pastor: With confidence will I confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

**People: For the Lord is gracious and compassionate and rich in forgiveness.**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins unto our gracious Lord.

**People: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We have not lived up to our calling as Your faithful people. We have not lived as Your people are to live, doing the evil You forbid and not doing the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for our sins in thought, word, and deed. Have mercy on us, merciful Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son. Forgive us our sins, our debts, and our trespasses. By the power of the Holy Spirit set our feet firmly on the pathway that leads to heaven and direct us to serve You faithfully all our days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Pastor: God has promised His grace and forgiveness to those who acknowledge their guilt, confess their sins, and turn to Him in true repentance. As a servant of the ascended Lord and by His command, therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: May our God keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit, lead you in ways of faith and obedience, and finally bring you to live with Him forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

**Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;  
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:  
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation Has redeemed us by His blood."**

**Alleluia! Bread of heaven, Here on earth our food, our stay;  
Alleluia! Here the sinful Flee to You from day to day.  
Intercessor, Friend of sinners, Earth's Redeemer, hear our plea  
Where the songs of all the sinless Sweep across the crystal sea.**

**Alleluia! Not as orphans Are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! He is near us; Faith believes, nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received Him When the forty days were o'er,  
Shall our hearts forget His promise: "I am with you evermore"? (CW 169)**

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

*Sit*

## THE WORD

**FIRST READING: ESTHER 6** *(Esther is unique among Biblical books: it makes no mention of God at all. Yet the book clearly shows the sovereignty of God throughout. The account of Haman and Mordecai shows that our Lord rules all things for His Church—often in ways unseen. History does not happen by coincidence or accident, but the book of Esther shows the hand of God ruling over the nations with quiet acts of providence. No matter the evil plans and purposes of men, God’s providential care for His Church cannot be thwarted.)*

1 That night the king could not sleep; so he ordered the book of the chronicles, the record of his reign, to be brought in and read to him. 2 It was found recorded there that Mordecai had exposed Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king’s officers who guarded the doorway, who had conspired to assassinate King Xerxes.

3 “What honor and recognition has Mordecai received for this?” the king asked.

“Nothing has been done for him,” his attendants answered.

4 The king said, “Who is in the court?” Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the palace to speak to the king about hanging Mordecai on the gallows he had erected for him.

5 His attendants answered, “Haman is standing in the court.”

“Bring him in,” the king ordered.

6 When Haman entered, the king asked him, “What should be done for the man the king delights to honor?”

Now Haman thought to himself, “Who is there that the king would rather honor than me?” 7 So he answered the king, “For the man the king delights to honor, 8 have them bring a royal robe the king has worn and a horse the king has ridden, one with a royal crest placed on its head. 9 Then let the robe and horse be entrusted to one of the king’s most noble princes. Let them robe the man the king delights to honor, and lead him on the horse through the city streets, proclaiming before him, ‘This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!’”

10 “Go at once,” the king commanded Haman. “Get the robe and the horse and do just as you have suggested for Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king’s gate. Do not neglect anything you have recommended.”

11 So Haman got the robe and the horse. He robed Mordecai, and led him on horseback through the city streets, proclaiming before him, “This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!”

12 Afterward Mordecai returned to the king’s gate. But Haman rushed home, with his head covered in grief, 13 and told Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had happened to him.

His advisers and his wife Zeresh said to him, “Since Mordecai, before whom your downfall has started, is of Jewish origin, you cannot stand against him—you will surely come to ruin!” 14 While they were still talking with him, the king’s eunuchs arrived and hurried Haman away to the banquet Esther had prepared.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 47**

1 Clap your hands all you na - tions;  
 2 God sub - dues ev - ery na - tion;  
 3 To the shout - ing in tri - umph, A - men. Hal - le - lu - jah!  
 4 Praise the Lord with your sing - ing;  
 5 Those on earth who are might - y,

Eb7(D7) Ab(G) Bb6(A6) Eb(D)

shout for joy all you peo - ple.  
 God is king of all crea - tures.  
 to the blast - ing of trum - pets, A - men. Hal - le - lu - jah!  
 sing God psalms— for - ev - er.  
 still be - long to our Mak - er,

Eb/G(D/F#) A° 7(G#° 7) Eb/Bb(D/A) Bb7(A7) Eb(D)

Ho - ly is the most high,  
 God has giv - en this land,  
 God— has— gone up; A - men. Hal - le - lu - jah!  
 God is mon - arch of all,  
 God ex - alt - ed on high,

Eb/G(D/F#) A° 7(G#° 7) Eb/Bb(D/A) Bb7(A7) Eb(D)

might - y o - ver the earth.  
 to the peo - ple he loves.  
 God as - cends o - ver all. A - men. Hal - le - lu - jah!  
 sov - 'reign o - ver the earth.  
 God, for - ev - er our Lord.

**EPISTLE: COLOSSIANS 3:1-4** (*On the mount of Ascension the angels asked, “Why do you stand here looking into the sky?” The Church must be about its appointed work in the post-ascension world; we cannot merely stare after our ascended Lord. Yet while our eyes turn back to this world and the work in front of us, our hearts never cease their upward gaze, longing to see Him come again, just as He went. With hearts and minds set on things above, and with eyes and hands and mouths busy with the work He has given us, the Church journeys on in confidence and hope that cannot be shaken, no matter what befalls us here on earth. Our Gospel is not one of health and wealth, but of a life hidden from this world—hidden with Christ in God...for now, but not forever.*)

1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL CHILDREN SING: “He is Exalted”**

*Stand*

**GOSPEL: LUKE 24:44-53** (*Jesus’ return journey to heaven*)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

44 He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

45 Then He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46 He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 I am going to send you what My Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

50 When He had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up his hands and blessed them. 51 While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven. 52 Then they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. 53 And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Sit*

**REJOICING IN HEAVEN**

Elder: On Ascension Day we rejoice in the return of Jesus to heaven. Although the disciples were saddened at the departure of Jesus from being among them on earth, they had heard Him promise what was to come.

Describing what was to be, our Lord had said: —Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. In My Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. (*John 14:1–2*) Through the centuries artists have portrayed the glory of heaven in many ways. Writers of hymn texts have also shared their visions of what the courts of heaven are like. One vision, dating back many centuries is shared by an author whose identity is not known.

**HYMN RESPONSE — “Jerusalem, My Happy Home” (CW 215)**

**Jerusalem, my happy home,  
When shall I come to thee?  
When shall my sorrows have an end?  
Thy joys when shall I see?**

**Thy gardens and thy gallant walks  
Continually are green;  
There grow such sweet and pleasant flow'rs  
As nowhere else are seen.**

**There trees forevermore bear fruit  
And evermore do spring;  
There evermore the angels dwell  
And evermore do sing.**

Elder: The joy of the ascension is found not only in rejoicing in the completion of the earthly mission of Jesus and His restoration to the courts of heaven from which He had come. It is also a time to rejoice in the promise that we by faith will join our Lord in His heavenly kingdom. His words to His disciples are words of hope and comfort for us that give us a sense of holy anticipation. Jesus says: “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am.” (*John 14:3*) Today we rejoice not only in the ascension of Jesus—but in our ascension as well, whenever that may be. A Scandinavian hymn writer from the fifteenth century puts us joyfully in the final post-ascension picture.

**HYMN RESPONSE — “O Day Full of Grace” (CW 254)**

**When we on that final journey go  
That Christ is for us preparing,  
We'll gather in song, our hearts aglow  
All joy of the heavens sharing,  
And walk in the light of God's own place,  
With angels His name adoring.**

Elder: There is joy in the journey of our Lord from earth to heaven. Although the ascension is a completed historical event, it continues to have its blessed effect on us. Not only has Jesus ascended and is seated at the right hand of the Father, He continues to bless us as we await the time of our ascension. St. Paul writes to the Ephesians: “But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. That is why it says: ‘When He ascended on high, He led captives in His train and gave gifts to men.’” (*Ephesians 4:7–8*) We rejoice in the gifts and blessings from our Lord, confident of the hope of our ascension to be with Him where He is and to join with all the faithful in the unending hymn of praise that resounds in the courts of heaven.

**SERMON HYMN – CW 173 “On Christ's Ascension I Now Build”**

**THE SERMON**

*Stand*

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Sit*

## OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

*Stand*

## PRAYERS

Pastor: Blessed Jesus, You ascended to the right hand of Your Father's majesty, power and glory and now reign as eternal King of kings and Lord of lords.

**People: We praise You for Your victory over sin, death, Satan and hell.**

Pastor: O ascended Prophet, equip Your Church to proclaim the precious gospel message of God's love for all the world.

**People: Give courage to our hearts, power to our words and success to our efforts.**

Pastor: O ascended High Priest, represent us before the Father as His own dear children and heirs. Defend us against Satan's every accusation. Ask for the Father's rich blessings in our everyday lives.

**People: Plead for His mercy and grace on our behalf.**

Pastor: O ascended King, direct the affairs of governments and nations that they may serve the best interest of Your Church.

**People: You are our Lord, Master and King.**

*(Special prayers and intercessions may follow)*

Pastor: Hear us, Lord, as we bring You our private petitions.

*(Silent prayer)*

Pastor: As the disciples lifted their eyes to watch Your ascension, so lift our eyes daily to look for Your coming again in glory.

**People: Come Jesus, come quickly.**

Pastor: And now we ask the Father, for the sake of the ascended Lord, to hear us as we pray, using the words He has given us to speak.....

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.**

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day You ascended far above the heavens and at God's right hand You rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that at Your command and by Your power we may be Your witnesses in all the world; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**People: Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN – CW 170 “Draw Us to Thee”**

*Sit*

## **THE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **THE WELS CONNECTION**

<b>Our Father's Business in the Coming Week</b>
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*Cleaning This Week: Spangle / Bauer*

**Today**—Worship Service at 9:30 AM

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class in the Café at 10:45 AM

Preschool Spring Program at 1:30 PM

Confirmation Class at 6:00 PM

**Monday**—Men's Bible Class at 11:30 AM

**Wednesday**—Choir rehearsal at 7:00 PM

**Thursday**—**The Ascension of Our Lord, 40<sup>th</sup> Day after Easter**

**Next Sunday**—Communion Service at 9:30 AM

Examination of the Confirmands at 10:45 AM in the New Life Café

Today, Adult Bible Class in the Café will finish the topic of “immigration.”

Thanks to the Sunday School teachers who prepared and taught lessons to the children of the congregation this school year. Thank you to John Lester, Tracy Morse, Becky Freeman and Wendy Landenberger.

Volunteers are needed to bring something to eat and drink for fellowship on Sunday mornings. Please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board in the lower level.

New Life will be hosting a screening of “A Return to Grace,” a movie about the Lutheran Reformation on Thursday, June 22 at Century 16 Theatre in Deer Park. The movie will start at 7:00 PM. There is no cost for the movie. Sign up for a ticket on the sign-up sheet in the lower level. Please consider inviting a friend to join you for the movie. Hosting of the screening is being shared between New Life, Christ the King in Palatine and Lord and Savior in Crystal Lake. New Life has committed to 30 people from our congregation attending the screening.

The preschool currently has 21 children enrolled for the 2017-18 school year, six three-year-old and fifteen four-year-old children. The goal for enrollment is 40, twenty in each session.

Joyce Nicklaus had surgery on her shoulder this past Tuesday. **Members of New Life can show loving kindness to the Nicklaus family by providing meals for the family.** Meals can be taken to the Nicklaus’ apartment (708 E. Independence Dr. #2, Palatine; phone # 847-202-1288) between 5:00 – 6:00 PM. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the lower level for you to indicate what day works best for you and what you’d like to provide. The meals should be provided in containers that do not need to be returned. If no one is home at the time you stop, you can leave the meal on their front patio near or under the grill.

There are three confirmands this year: Sarah Lester, Christine Massa, and Seann O’Mara. The Examination of New Life’s 3 confirmands will take place after the service in the New Life Café on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Confirmation will take place during the service on June 11th.

**Our Faithfulness to God’s Word**  
**Easter Sunday—75**

