

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD / May 15, 2010

Introit

Ps. 47:1–2, 5, 8; antiphon: Acts 1:11

Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? Alleluia.

This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven. Alleluia.

Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.

God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

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. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

2 Kings 2:5–15

⁵The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know it; keep quiet.”

⁶Then Elijah said to him, “Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan.

⁸Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.” And Elisha said, “Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.” ¹⁰And he said, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.” ¹¹And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²And Elisha saw it and he cried, “My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more.

Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. ¹³And he took up the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water, saying, “Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

¹⁵Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho saw him opposite them, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.” And they came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.

Second Reading

Acts 1:1–11

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem

and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Holy Gospel

Mark 16:14–20

¹⁴Afterward [Jesus] appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen.

¹⁵And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues;¹⁸ they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

¹⁹So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

²⁰And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.

Daily Lectionary

Seventh Sunday of Easter	Numbers 14:1-25; Luke 18:18-34
May 17	Numbers 14:26-45; Luke 18:35-19:10; Numbers 15:1-41
May 18	Numbers 16:1-22; Luke 19:11-28
May 19	Numbers 16:23-40; Luke 19:29-48
May 20	Numbers 16:41-17:13; Luke 20:1-18; Numbers 18:1-19:22
May 21	Numbers 20:1-21; Luke 20:19-44
May 22	Numbers 20:22-21:9; Luke 20:45-21:19

Next Weeks Lessons: THE FEAST OF PENTECOST

Man’s self-exaltation causes a confusion of language. In his desire to make a name for himself, he brings the judgment of being divided and scattered. (Genesis 11:1–9) However, by the coming of the Holy Spirit, mankind is brought together and united in Christ. Language barriers are broken down as the people hear the wonderful works of God in their own native tongue. (Acts 2:1–21) Through the preaching of the cross, the Holy Spirit draws people from all nations into the one, holy, Christian, apostolic church. The Holy Spirit teaches and brings to our remembrance the words of Jesus, which are the words of the Father who sent Him. These words bestow forgiveness and peace to those who keep and hold on to them in love for Jesus. For He said, “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (John 14:23–31)

Collect: O God our merciful Father, who taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending to them the light of Your Holy Spirit, bring us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy comfort; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament: Genesis 11:1–9 [Confusion of languages]

Epistle: Acts 2:1–21 [Pentecost]

