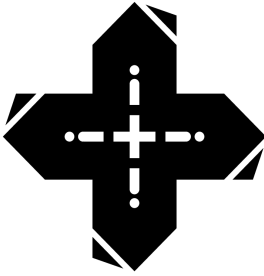


the **FESTIVAL** of



the **ASCENSION** of our  
**LORD**

Huntersville Lutheran | 05.16.21



# Huntersville Lutheran

*A Changeless Message for  
A Changing Community*

Worshipping at the Seven Oaks 19725 Oak St. Cornelius, NC

Worship @ 9:30am

Pastor@huntersvillelc.com | huntersvillelc.com | 248-807-3057

**W**elcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. Our service is centered on our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose from the dead so that we would have eternal life in him. God reveals this soul saving message in his Word. We gather to find strength through God's powerful and holy Word. Take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the order of service, readings, and hymns, and fill out the take action card. May God bless our time together this morning.

## About Our Worship

The gospel is the good news about what Jesus did to be the Savior for sinners. It is also the power of God—the very thing he uses to work faith in our hearts and transform our lives. Therefore, gospel-centered worship places the gospel in central focus. This order of service is called the liturgy. In the message, in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. Gospel-centered worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children).

## For Your Convenience

**Restrooms** are located in the hallway at the rear of the building. Simply follow the arrows once you are in the hallway.

## Service Participants

Rev Doug Van Sice, *pastor of Huntersville Lutheran*  
Andrea Van Sice, *keyboardist*

# Service Notes

## ~The Ascension of Our Lord ~

Forty days ago, the darkness of Lent was dispelled by the light of Easter. For forty days, the church has cried, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" But forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, he departed from his disciples and was enthroned in glory in heaven. From heaven he rules all things as our Lord and King.

The celebration of the Ascension has roots that go back to the earliest days of the Christian Church. St. Augustine, writing in the fifth century, says that this festival has her origins with the Apostles. He speaks of it in a way that shows it was celebrated long before his time.

In the early 700s AD, there lived an English churchman known to history as the Venerable Bede. He was the great teacher of the middle ages, the man who divided history into AD and BC, the first great historian of the English language and a devout man of God. On May 25, 735 AD, on the great Ascension Vigil, Bede finished his translation of the Gospel of St. John into Old English. Then, on that day of Ascension, he died. From his deathbed, the Teacher of the Middle Ages spoke the words that have become the Prayer of the Day on Ascension. This beautiful prayer sets the tone for the day, beginning with a note of triumph and ending with a supplication for the Spirit and his work. He is also the author of the hymn of the day we will sing today, *A Hymn of Glory Now We Sing*.

Today we celebrate the day he ascended (went up) to glory. But he promised not to leave his disciples alone. He promised to send them the Holy Spirit. They waited ten more days, and then on the Festival of Pentecost they saw Jesus' promise made good. Next Sunday we will celebrate that fiftieth day, the day of Pentecost.

### **Prayer Upon Entering Worship**

Great God of heaven and earth, as Jesus came among us in Bethlehem to raise us up to heaven, so today we recall his departing from us at Jerusalem, taking his rightful place as King of kings and Lord of lords. Though he is hidden from our sight, enable us to abide in him by the power and grace of the Holy Spirit, until his mercy and grace fill your whole creation. Amen.

## Dialogue for the Ascension of Our Lord

**L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**L** Christ is risen!

**C** He is risen indeed!

**L** Clap your hands, all you nations. Shout to God with cries of joy.

**C** God has ascended amid shouts of joy.

**L** Let us sing praises to our God and King.

Psalm 47:5,6

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on his  
2 Crown him the Lord of love— Be - hold his hands and  
throne; Hark how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns All  
side, Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In  
mu - sic but its own. A - wake, my soul, and  
beau - ty glo - ri - fied. No an - gel in the  
sing Of him who died for thee, And hail him  
sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But down - ward  
as thy match-less King Through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
bends his won-d'ring eye At mys - ter - ies so bright.

**L** God has ascended amid shouts of joy! He is King of all the earth; he reigns over the nations; He is seated on his holy throne. *Psalm 45:5, 7-8*

**C** Let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. *Psalm 95:1-2*

**L** “Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen go into heaven.” *Acts 1:11*

**C** **We believe and are sure that he is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.** *John 6:69*

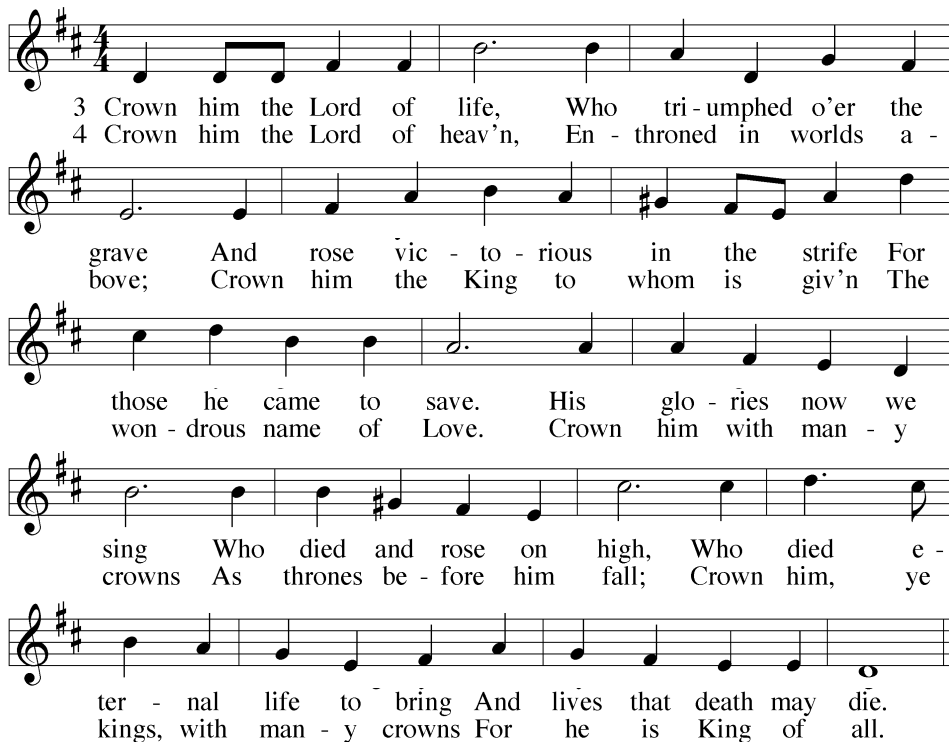
**L** God raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church. *Ephesians 1:20-22*

**C** **At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.** *Philippians 2:10*

**L** Since you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

**C** **When Christ, who is your life, appears, then we also will appear with him in glory.**

*Colossians 3:1,4*



3 Crown him the Lord of life, Who tri-umphed o'er the  
4 Crown him the Lord of heav'n, En-throned in worlds a -  
grave; And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For  
bove; Crown him the King to whom is giv'n The  
those he came to save. His glo - ries now we  
won - drous name of Love. Crown him with man - y  
sing Who died and rose on high, Who died e -  
crowns As thrones be - fore him fall; Crown him, ye  
ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.  
kings, with man - y crowns For he is King of all.



## THE WORD

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### Prayer of the Day

**L** Let us pray.

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.

**C** Amen

### Children's Sermon

#### First Reading | *Acts 1:1-17* |

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup>until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>6</sup>Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

<sup>7</sup> He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

<sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

<sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm of the Day | *Psalm 47*

**L** Clap your hands, all you nations;

**C** shout to God with cries of joy.

**L** How awesome is the LORD Most High,

**C** the great King over all the earth!

**L** God reigns over the nations;

**C** God is seated on his holy throne.

**L** God has ascended amid shouts of joy,

**C** the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

**L** Sing praises to God, sing praises;

**C** sing praises to our King, sing praises.

**L** For God is the King of all the earth;

**C** sing to him a psalm of praise.

## Second Reading | *Ephesians 4:7-16* |

<sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace has been given according to the measure of the gift of Christ. <sup>8</sup> This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high,  
he led captivity captive  
and gave gifts to his people.”

<sup>9</sup> (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower regions, the earth? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

<sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup> Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup> From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.





## Hymn | *On Christ's Ascension I Now Build* |



1 On Christ's as - cen - sion I now build The hope of  
2 Since Christ re - turned to claim his throne, Great gifts for  
3 Oh, grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Re - call - ing



my as - cen - sion. This hope a - lone has al - ways stilled  
me ob - tain - ing, My heart shall rest in him a - lone,  
your as - cen - sion, That I may serve you faith - ful - ly,



All doubt and ap - pre - hen - sion; For where the  
No oth - er rest re - main - ing, For where my  
A - dorn - ing your re - demp - tion; And then, when



head is, there as well I know his mem - bers  
trea - sure went be - fore, There all my thoughts shall  
all my days will cease, Let me de - part in



are to dwell When Christ shall come and call them.  
ev - er soar To still their deep - est yearn - ing.  
joy and peace In an - swer to my plead - ing.

## The Gospel

□ The Gospel according to Luke, chapter 24.

<sup>44</sup> 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.”

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> 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.”

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

□ The Gospel of the Lord.

■ **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

*Be Seated.*



## Hymn of the Day | *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing* |



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New songs through-  
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band Up - on the  
 3 To them the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and  
 4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high Up to the



out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Mount of Ol - ives stand, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 gaze up - on the sky?" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 por - tals of the sky." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Christ, by a road be - fore un - trod, As - cends un -  
 And with his fol - low - ers they see Their Lord as -  
 "This is the Sav - ior," thus they say. "This is his  
 "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall see Re - turn - ing



to the throne of God. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 cend in maj - es - ty. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 glo - rious tri - umph day." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 in great maj - es - ty." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!




Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

# Sermon | *Looking to the Sky* |

*Acts 1:1-11*

## Personal Sermon Notes



## **Confession of Faith | *Apostles' Creed* |**

**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.**

# **THANKSGIVING**

**Offering |** The members of Huntersville Lutheran have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you would like to give digitally, text any dollar amount to **84321**. Easy to follow instructions will be sent to your phone to complete your digital offering. Guests, you are welcome to participate in supporting our ministry, but certainly do not feel obligated.

**Take Action Cards |** In your service folder, you will find *Take Action* Cards. If you haven't done so already, please take a moment and fill it out completely to give us a record of your attendance. In addition, you may request prayers be said on your behalf today. Place your *Take Action* card in the offering plate as it comes around.

## Prayer of the Church

- L** 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.
- C** **We praise you for your victory over sin, death, Satan, and hell.**
- L** O ascended Prophet, equip your Church to proclaim the precious gospel message of God's love for all the world.
- C** **Give courage to our hearts, power to our words, and success to our efforts.**
- L** 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.
- C** **Please for his mercy and grace on our behalf.**
- L** O ascended King, direct the affairs of governments and nations that they may serve the best interest of your Church and not impede the free course of your gospel.
- C** **You are our Lord, our Prophet, our High Priest, and our King.**
- L** As the disciples lifted their eyes to watch your ascension, so lift our eyes daily to look for your coming again in glory.
- C** **Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

- C** **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.**

## The Lord's Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

*Numbers 6:24*

**C** Amen.

## Song of Departure | *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* |



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels  
2 Hail him, ye heirs of Da - vid's line, Whom Da - vid  
3 Sin - ners whose love can ne'er for - get The worm - wood  
4 Let ev - 'ry kin - dred, ev - 'ry tribe On this ter -  
5 Oh, that with yon - der sa - cred throng We at his



pros - trate fall; Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And  
Lord did call, The God in - car - nate, Man di - vine, And  
and the gall, Go, spread your tro - phies at his feet And  
res - trial ball To him all maj - es - ty as - cribe And  
feet may fall! We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song And



crown him Lord of all. Bring forth the roy - al  
crown him Lord of all. The God in - car - nate,  
crown him Lord of all. Go, spread your tro - phies  
crown him Lord of all. To him all maj - es -  
crown him Lord of all. We'll join the ev - er -

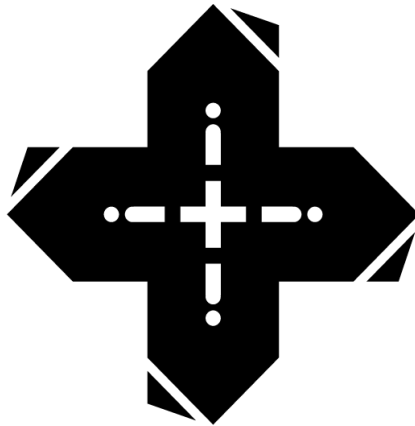


di - a - dem And crown him Lord of all.  
Man di - vine, And crown him Lord of all.  
at his feet And crown him Lord of all.  
ty as - cribe And crown him Lord of all.  
last - ing song And crown him Lord of all.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Thank You |** You could have chosen to be anywhere this morning and you chose to spend it here, so thank you. To our guests and visitors this morning we pray that your time with us has been enjoyable. If you have any questions, feel free to speak with any of our members or pastor after the service.

**Want to Learn More? |** Aside from worship, one of the best way to learn more about Scripture and Huntersville Lutheran teaches is to join a Faithbuilders class. Faithbuilders is a class on the basics of Christianity and is our path to membership at HLC. Whether you are brand new to Christianity or a life-long believer, this class is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen your faith and grow in your relationship with your Savior. If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please contact Pastor ([pastor@huntersvillelc.com](mailto:pastor@huntersvillelc.com)).



**HUNTERSVILLE**  
*Lutheran Church*