

Keep it Close

Revelation 22:1-7



SINGING A NEW SONG OF
PRAISE
TO OUR RISEN KING!

**THE ORDER OF THE SERVICE OF THE WORD
FESTIVAL OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 29, 2022 - 8:00 AM**

A warm welcome to all worshipping with Resurrection Lutheran Church today! We celebrate together God's work in our lives as we receive His Word and Sacraments to strengthen our relationship with Him and one another. By the blood of Christ, we are made the household of God. Here, God builds us up by grace, through faith, and for service!

LESSONS AND LITURGY TODAY

SINGING A NEW SONG

No, this is not a recruitment for more musicians at RLC (though if you are musical, contact Bob Unger or Chris Reed). This is our new sermon series for the season of Easter. Christ is risen! And that is reason to "sing praises" to God in all that we do! The book of Revelation gives us a glimpse of the heavenly Kingdom where all believers will sing a new song of praise to the risen Lamb, Jesus. As people of the heavenly Kingdom dwelling here below, we have the new song now. So we sing! But it's not just the vocal singing in worship, it is the way we live our lives for our risen King as we live out our worship of Him every day.

Today we celebrate Christ's Ascension to the Right Hand of the Father. Ascension Day goes beyond Easter and assures us that our future is in the care of our Gracious and Powerful God. As Jesus departed from this earth and was welcomed into Heaven, so we too look forward to worshipping the Lamb upon His Throne with our endless Alleluias.

❖ Denotes times when the congregation is invited to stand.

The congregation is encouraged to quietly and prayerfully prepare for worship during the prelude.

PRELUDE

Come Away to the Skies — Middlebury

GREETING



INVOCATION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the Name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11 [ESV]

(St. Luke relates how Jesus was taken up into Heaven.)

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen.

He presented himself alive to them after His Suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the Kingdom of God.

And 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; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

So when they had come together, they asked Him, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His Own Authority.

But 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.”

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.

And while they were gazing into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 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.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

❖ HYMN

See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph

LSB 494 (Tune: LSB 578)

**1. See, the Lord ascends in triumph; Conqu’ring King in royal state,
Riding on the clouds, His chariot, To His heav’nly palace gate.
Hark! The choirs of angel voices Joyful alleluias sing,
And the portals high are lifted To receive their heav’nly King.**

2. Who is this that comes in glory With the trump of jubilee?
Lord of battles, God of armies, He has gained the victory.
He who on the cross did suffer, He who from the grave arose,
He has vanquished sin and Satan; He by death has crushed His foes.

3. While He lifts His hands in blessing, He is parted from His friends;
While their eager eyes behold Him, He upon the clouds ascends.
He who walked with God and pleased Him, Preaching truth and doom to come,
He, our Enoch, is translated To His everlasting home.

4. Now our heav'nly Aaron enters With His blood within the veil;
Joshua now is come to Canaan, And the kings before Him quail.
Now He plants the tribes of Israel In their promised resting place;
Now our great Elijah offers Double portion of His grace.

5. He has raised our human nature On the clouds to God's right hand;
There we sit in heav'nly places, There with Him in glory stand.
Jesus reigns, adored by angels; Man with God is on the throne.
By our mighty Lord's Ascension We by faith behold our own.

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❖ DIALOG

P Christ is risen! Alleluia!

C **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P Christ is ascended into Heaven! Alleluia!

C **And He will come again! Alleluia!**

P God has ascended amidst shouts of joy! Alleluia!

C **The Lord amid the sounding of the trumpets! Alleluia!**

P For Christ is King over all the earth! Alleluia!

C **Sing to Him a psalm of praise! Alleluia!**

P God reigns over the nations! Alleluia!
C **God is seated on His Holy Throne! Alleluia!**

P “People of Galilee, 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.”

C **Christ has died! Alleluia! Christ is risen! Alleluia!**
Christ will come again! Alleluia! Alleluia!



CONFESSION OF SINS AND GOOD NEWS OF FORGIVENESS

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, Who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your Will and walk in Your Ways to the glory of Your Holy Name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins.
As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

P May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
C **Amen.**

❖ **INTROIT**

Ps. 110:1, 4-5; antiphon: Ps. 47:5

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

P The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at My Right Hand,
C **until I make Your enemies Your Footstool.”**

P The LORD has sworn and will not change His Mind,
“You are a Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”

C **The Lord is at your right hand;
He will shatter kings on the day of His Wrath.**

All **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

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

❖ **HYMN OF PRAISE**

This is the Feast – arr. R. Hillert

LSB 155

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**1. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain***

**2. Power, riches, wisdom and strength
And honor and blessing and glory are His. *Refrain***

**3. Sing with all the people of God,
And join in the hymn of all creation:**

**4. Blessing, honor, glory and might
Be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain***

5. For the Lamb who was slain
Has begun His reign. Alleluia. *Refrain*

❖ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Lord of time and eternity, as we observe with rejoicing the day on which Your Son, Jesus Christ, ascended and was received at Your Right Hand;

C **grant us Your Grace that we may journey in peace, and with joy, from earth to Your Glorious Presence in Heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

EPISTLE

Revelation 22:1-7 [ESV]

(The River of Life and the blessings of Eternal Life.)

Then the angel showed me the River of the water of Life, bright as crystal, flowing from the Throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

No longer will there be anything accursed, but the Throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His servants will worship Him.

They will see His Face, and His Name will be on their foreheads.

And night will be no more.

They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

And he said to me,

“These words are trustworthy and true.

And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent His angel to show His servants what must soon take place.”

“And behold, I am coming soon.

Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

❖ **ALLELUIA VERSE**

C Alleluia! Alleluia! Since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over Him. Alleluia!
Surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age. Alleluia!

❖ **HOLY GOSPEL WITH ACCLAMATIONS**

John 17:20-26 [ESV]

(Jesus prays for all believers.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me. The glory that You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one even as We are one, I in them and You in Me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that You sent Me and loved them even as You loved Me.

Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, may be with Me where I am, to see My Glory that You have given Me because You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

O Righteous Father, even though the world does not know You, I know You, and these know that You have sent Me. I made known to them Your Name, and I will continue to make It known, that the Love with which You have loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Pastor Zach Sarrault

HYMN OF THE DAY

A Hymn of Glory Let us Sing

LSB 493

v. 1 – All

v.2 – Men

v.3 – All

v. 4 – Women and Children

v.5 – All

v. 6 – All

1. A hymn of glory let us sing! New hymns throughout the world shall ring:
Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ, by a road before untrod, Ascends unto the throne of God.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2. *The holy apostolic band Upon the Mount of Olives stand.*
Alleluia, alleluia!

And with His faithful foll'wers see Their Lord ascend in majesty.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3. To them the shining angels cry, "Why stand and gaze upon the sky?"
Alleluia, alleluia!
"This is the Savior," thus they say; "This is His glorious triumph day!"
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4. *"You see Him now, ascending high Up to the portals of the sky."*
Alleluia, alleluia!
"Hereafter Jesus you shall see Returning in great majesty."
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

5. Be now our joy on earth, O Lord, And be our future great reward.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Then, throned with You forever, we Shall praise Your name eternally.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6. O risen Christ, ascended Lord, All praise to You let earth accord:
Alleluia, alleluia!
You are, while endless ages run, With Father and with Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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SERMON

Pastor Zach Sarrault

KEEP IT CLOSE
Revelation 22:1-7



CREED

APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 Maker of Heaven and earth.
 And 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 sits at the Right Hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence 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.



GREETING OF PEACE

All are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (*Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3*)
 Any gesture accompanying this greeting (wave, hand over heart with slight bow) is welcome.

OFFERING

(The offerings of God's people will be received through electronic giving, by postal mail, and in baskets located in the Narthex.)



OFFERING HYMN

Look, Ye Saints the Sight Is Glorious

LSB 495

**1. Look, ye saints, the sight is glorious; See the Man of Sorrows now!
 From the fight returned victorious, Ev'ry knee to Him shall bow.
 Crown Him! Crown Him! (3X) Crowns become the victor's brow. (2X)**

2. Crown the Savior! Angels, crown Him! Rich the trophies Jesus brings;
On the seat of pow'r enthrone Him While the vault of heaven rings.
Crown Him! Crown Him! (3X) Crown the Savior King of kings. (2X)

3. Sinners in derision crowned Him, Mocking thus the Savior's claim;
Saints and angels crowd around Him, Own His title, praise His name.
Crown Him! Crown Him! (3X) Spread abroad the victor's fame. (2X)

4. Hark, those bursts of acclamation! Hark, those loud triumphant chords!
Jesus takes the highest station; Oh, what joy the sight affords!
Crown Him! Crown Him! (3X) King of kings and Lord of lords! (2X)

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PRAYER FOR THE ARMED FORCES

P Lord God, You have sustained our nation in the past and continue to bless us.
We recall how so many have given their lives for the cause of freedom.
Men and women continue to sacrifice and serve in the armed forces. Today, we
pause to reflect and honor those who gave or who continue to sacrifice so much
in the defense of our freedom to be faithful.

C **We remember the great courage and selfless service of so many throughout
history who have answered the call to serve. We remember their honorable
sacrifice for the freedom of others. Comfort the families who mourn the loss
of loved ones. Comfort also those who suffer permanent injuries as a result
of serving our nation in the military.**

P We remember with thankfulness the millions of Americans who give so generously
of their life and labor in times of national conflict, particularly the family members
of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen.

C **We are grateful for the devotion and sacrifices of military families.
Grant us the resources and willing hearts to support them.**

❖ PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Ascended Lord Jesus Christ, we rejoice in bringing You our *Alleluias* and our homage. Now also we bring our prayers to Your Throne of Mercy, asking that You graciously will hear us.

We pray for the Church, which is our spiritual home: bless our Christian family with a full measure of faithfulness, as we journey together toward our Heavenly home.

C We pray that we would be true ascension witnesses, sharing the Good News of Your triumph over sin, death, and the devil; and showing people the way in which You have gone.

P On this day of rejoicing, we pray for those with special needs, whose earthly journeys are challenging or difficult. Especially we remember the sick and the shut-in; and also those others, known to each of us, who are in need of our prayers.

After each portion of the prayers:

P Lord, in Your Mercy,
C hear our prayer.

P Into Your Hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your Mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray...

❖ LORD'S PRAYER

**C Our Father Who art in Heaven,
hallowed be Thy Name,
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy Will be done on earth
as it is in Heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,**

C but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom
and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

❖ **BENEDICTION**

P The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His Face to shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. *(Numbers 6:24-26)*
C Amen.

❖ **CLOSING HYMN**

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

LSB 717

**1. Eternal Father, strong to save, Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep Its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to Thee For those in peril on the sea.**

**2. O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain, O'er which our traffic runs amain
By mountain pass or valley low; Wherever, Lord, Thy people go,
Protect them by Thy guarding hand From ev'ry peril on the land.**

**3. O Spirit, whom the Father sent To spread abroad the firmament;
O Wind of heaven, by Thy might Save all who dare the eagle's flight,
And keep them by Thy watchful care From ev'ry peril in the air.**

**4. O Trinity of love and pow'r, Our people shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe, Protect them wheresoe'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee Glad praise from air and land and sea.**

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P Christ is risen! Alleluia!
C He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE
God of Our Fathers - Steven Scott

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Acknowledgments
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