



HE LIVES

TO RULE ALL THINGS FOR THE CHURCH

Easter 7 – The Ascension of our Lord- May 21, 2023
Grace Lutheran Church – Yorba Linda, CA



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*Gathering around Grace – Growing in Grace – Going with Grace
in Yorba Linda, California, the land of gracious living*

Pastor – Phillip Sievert Vicar – Hugo Ugalde-Bemer

We are part of the Wisconsin Lutheran Synod, churches throughout the world united to share Jesus.

We are part of the federation of Californian Lutheran High School here in southern California.

Whether you are a first time visitor or back at “home”, we are delighted to share our worship with you. Please come and worship with us again.

- If you would like more information about Grace Church, we would love to share. Speak with Pastor Sievert or any of our members. You may also want to check out our website www.gracelutheran.church.
- Restrooms are located across the breezeway just inside our Grace Hall.



Notice today that The Paschal Candle, lighted during the Easter Season and at every baptism, connects us to the Savior’s resurrection. As Jesus lives and is the light of the world, so we have life with God. Next week, our worship begins a focus on the work of the Holy Spirit, so today is the final time we light the candle until we gather at the empty tomb again.



*40 days after Easter,
Jesus ascended into
heaven assuring us His
work for us is
victorious and fulfilled
for us. May the
uplifted hands of our
Ascended Lord bless
you today.*

The Ascension - Welcome and Invitation of Worship

L. Christ is risen!

C. He is risen indeed!

L. The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.
Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

C. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

L. Christ is risen!

C. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

OPENING HYMN

Christ High-Ascended #747

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

C. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING *(Selected from Psalm 47 & 68)*

L. God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.

C: Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King.

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

C: Sing to him a psalm of praise.

L: When you ascended on high, you led captives in your train.

C: Praise to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens.

L: For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a song of praise.

C: God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.

L: Clap your hands all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.

C: How awesome is the Lord Most High, the great King over all the earth

L: Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.



Prayer of the Day

L. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

L. Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, King of Glory, after you rose from the dead, 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 you reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen. (spoken)

God's Word

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ²until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.³After 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. ⁴On 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. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

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

⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ 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."

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

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ "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."

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 47

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit^[a] of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

The Ascension Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

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 Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the 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.

L. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise be to you O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

He Will Hold Me Fast



Sermon based on Ephesians 1:15-23 (p.6)

HE LIVES TO RULE FOR THE CHURCH

1. That's reason for optimism!
2. That's power for life!

Church Prayer & Lord's Prayer

BLESSING

- L. 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.

C. Amen.