

Ascension – May 12, 2024

Grace Lutheran Church – Yorba Linda, CA



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH – YORBA LINDA

*Gathering around Grace – Growing in Grace – Going with Grace
in the land of gracious living*

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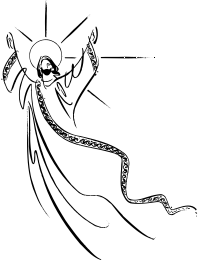
Welcome

- ✝ **Restrooms** are located across the breezeway just inside the doors to our Grace Hall.
- ✝ **A cry room/nursery room** for parents needing to quiet small children is located at the back of the chapel. The room is equipped with chairs and toys and offers audio of our services.
- ✝ There is **coffee** located across the breezeway in the Grace Hall.
- ✝ If you would like to know more about Grace - Yorba Linda, visit our **website** at www.gracelutheran.church. A **membership** class, a class that covers the basic teachings of the Bible and what it means to be a Christian, will be starting this summer. Speak to Pastor Sievert for more information. We would also love to share information with you about our Sunday worship services, our weekly Bible Classes, and our youth programs. We look forward to visiting with you.



*Grace Lutheran Church
is a member of the
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
and the federation of
California Lutheran High School*





The Ascension

May 12, 2024

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 of our Lord

Welcome and Invitation of Worship

The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice. Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

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

Amen.

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

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

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

For God is the King of all the earth;

Sing to him a psalm of praise.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prayer of the Day

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.

Amen.

God's Word

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11 *Luke records the account of the Ascension which leaves the disciples with joy and a mission.*

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.³ 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. 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?"

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

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

¹⁰They 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."

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing (#472)



**The Ascended Lord
has some departing gifts for you**

SERMON based on Ephesians 4:7-16

⁷ But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸ This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high,
he took many captives
and gave gifts to his people.” [Psalm 68:18]

⁹ (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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.



God loves a cheerful giver.

THE OFFERING & PRAYERS

LITANY FOR ASCENSION

Blessed Jesus, you ascended to the right hand of your Father in majesty, power and glory and now rule as eternal King of kings and Lord of lords:

Rule over everything for the good of your church.

Ascended Prophet, that we may continue to proclaim the precious message of the gospel in this place and throughout the world:

Rule over everything for the good of your church.

Ascended Priest, represent us before our Father as his own dear children and heirs. That we might be protected from Satan's accusations and receive the Father's blessing in our everyday life:

Rule over everything for the good of your church.

Ascended King, direct the affairs of governments and nations that they may serve the best interests of your Church, and that those suffering throughout the world, might find healing in your love.

Lift your hands in blessing over our relatives and friends who need your peaceful presence. Grant healing to our fellow members here at Grace who need your healing touch. We ask this of you because you laid down your life that we might share a heavenly glory with you. There is no greater love than this.

Rule over everything for the good of your church.

Lord, on this day when we honor and remember mothers, we give you thanks. We are grateful that they received the gift of life from your hands, and gave it to us. Thank you for the sacrifices they made in carrying us and giving us birth.

We thank you for the women who raised us, who were our mothers in childhood. Whether birth mom, adopted mom, older sister, aunt, grandmother, stepmother or someone else, we thank you for women who held us and fed us, who cared for us and kissed away our pain. We pray that our lives may reflect your love modeled in the love they showed us, and that they would be pleased to be called our moms. Today, may they find joy in not what they receive, but in what they give. And ultimately, lead them, and all of us, to find our value in your holiness, that as your Bridegroom, your Church, your Body, we might lift each other up and live for the one who died for us and now fills everything in every way.

Other petitions may follow... As the disciples lifted their eyes to watch your ascension, so lift our eyes daily to look for your coming again in glory.

Lord Jesus, rule over everything for the good of your church. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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.

Amen.

