

SCRIPTURE, SERMON, AND SONG

Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53 NIV



Jesus Came, Lived, Died, Rose, Ascended, and Will Return!

Thursday, May 29 at 7:00 PM
The Ascension of our Lord – 2014

[Our Summer Schedule, June – August, begins on June 1](#)

[Sundays: Service 9; Refreshments 10:10; Classes 10:30](#)

[Mondays: Service 7 PM](#)

Pastor James May and Family will be with us this Sunday, June 1

9:00 – Preaching; 10:30 – Presenting; 11:30 – Light Lunch

NT HISTORY: Acts 1:1-11**A Summary:**

¹ In [my former book](#) [the gospel of Luke], [Theophilus](#) [possibly the financial backer behind Luke's research and writing], I wrote about [all that Jesus began to do and to teach](#) ² until the day he [was taken up to heaven](#) [a summary of Jesus' whole ministry], after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering [and death], he showed himself to these men [His disciples] and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive [that He definitely rose]. He appeared to them over a period of forty days [from His resurrection to His ascension] and spoke about the kingdom of God.

Instructions about the Holy Spirit:

⁴ 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. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days [literally in ten days] you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit [just as water is

poured upon a person being baptized, so the Holy Spirit was poured upon Jesus' disciples on the day of Pentecost]."

Instructions about their mission:

⁶ So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to [restore the kingdom to Israel](#) [the disciples and probably many others were focused more on the physical kingdom of Israel than the spiritual kingdom of God]?" ⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority [so don't worry about or waste your time with such things]. ⁸ But you will receive power when [ten days from now] the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in [Jerusalem](#) [this city], and in all Judea and Samaria [this country], and to the ends of the earth [this world]." // Since God has enabled us to believe the account of His eyewitnesses and receive Jesus as our Savior, let us also share the good news!

"Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

LSB 707, vv. 1-2

Jesus' ascension:

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

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"

LSB 493, vv. 1-2

A reminder of Jesus' return:

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly [two men dressed in white](#) [two angels] 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." // Jesus ascended nearly 2,000 years ago, but He is definitely coming back! May God keep us ready!

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"

LSB 493, vv. 3-4

NT LETTER (Epistle): Ephesians 1:15-23**Faith > love; then thanks and prayers:**

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about [your faith in the Lord Jesus](#) and [your love for all the saints](#), ¹⁶ I have not stopped

giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. // Notice the order: Their faith *resulted in love!* Even I, like Paul, when I ♦hear you confess your faith AND ♦see your love, I am moved give to thanks to God and pray for your spiritual growth!

¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. // Let us pray: Dear Father, for all who know Jesus, *fill them with the Spirit and grow them in Your Word*; for all others, make them miserable, *then give them Jesus!*

¹⁸ I pray also 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 the saints, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. // For all who know Jesus as Savior, *let us know that our blessings are FAR beyond our comprehension!* Now, listen to Paul's description of this power:

That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him 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 title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come [*think about Jesus: crucified, dead, and buried, YET raised and exalted far above everyone*]. 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. // So the Church, *the body of Christ*, includes everyone who knows Him as their Savior! So Jesus is reigning *for us who believe!*

“His Name Is Wonderful” (TSC 79, v. 1)

GOOD NEWS (Gospel): Luke 24:44-53

Jesus fulfilled the Scriptures:

⁴⁴ 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 [*thus in the OT*

Scriptures].” // The Bible is about JESUS, JESUS, JESUS! Let us †read it, †study it, †believe it, †live it, and †share it!

Jesus explained the Scriptures:

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written:

‘The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.’ // We know Jesus died AND rose, *so let us also know the importance of everyone being sorry for sin and receiving Jesus as Savior!*

“God Loves Me Dearly”

LSB 392, vv. 2-3

Jesus explained the role of His disciples:

⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. // Since we also know such things are true, *let us hear and respond to Jesus' cry!*

“Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying”

LSB 826, v. 1

Jesus told of the coming Holy Spirit:

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.” // Now, *since we have also received the Spirit*, God is calling us to use the Spirit's power to serve in His kingdom!

Jesus ascended into heaven:

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.

The disciples worshiped and praised the Lord:

⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God. // *Please arise!*

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

LSB 805

For Much More: www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com

Having been saved thru Jesus, let us live for Him and share the good news!
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