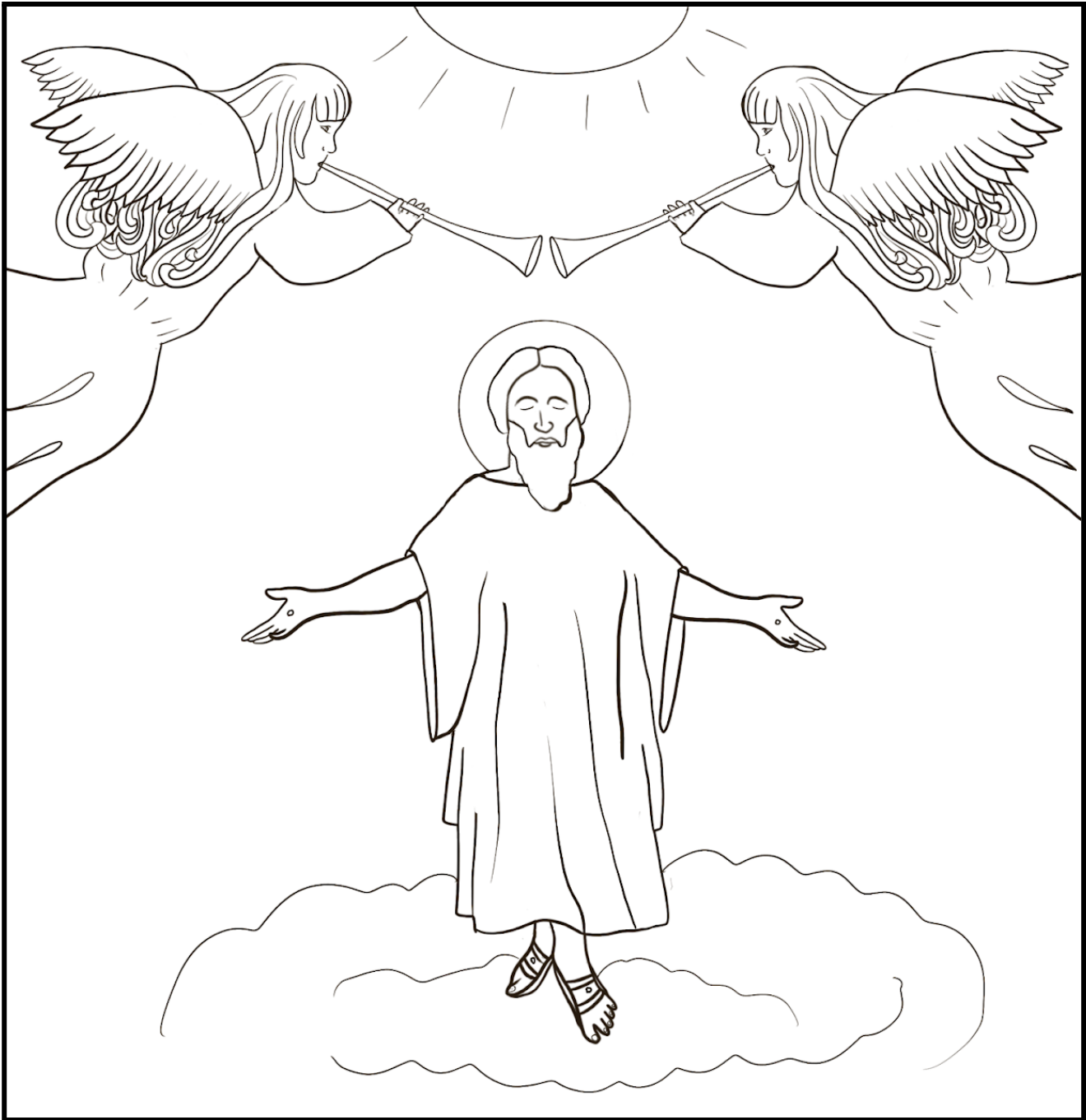


† Ascension of Our Lord †

“Jesus Is Lord of All Creation”



“Patience”

2 Peter 2:10—3:18

✠ The Divine Liturgy ✠

“Love the Creator & His Creation Like Jesus”

Saint Luke Lutheran Church | May 21, 2023

Invocation

Father, Creator of all heaven and earth, ✠ **you save us from our selfishness and make us your children through Baptism, Repentance, and Communion.** ✠ Through your Son Jesus, who is your Word embodied in flesh, ✠ **we die to Civilization's Way of arrogance, fear, and violence.** ✠ Through your Holy Spirit, who dwells among us and within us, ✠ **we are reborn in Jesus's Way of faith, hope, and love.**

Processional Song ✠ *LSB 512 “At the Name of Jesus”*

- ♫ *At the name of Jesus ev'ry knee will bow, ev'ry tongue confess him King of earth right now. It's the Father's desire we should call him Lord, who from the beginning was the mighty Word.* ♪
- ♫ *At his voice creation sprang at once to sight. All the seas and forests, all the stars of light, all plants and animals, rivers on their way, creatures all big and small, in their great array.* ♪
- ♫ *In your hearts enthrone him, there let him subdue, all that is not holy, all that is not true. Look to him your Savior, in temptations' hour, let his will embrace you, in its light and pow'r.* ♪
- ♫ *Christians this Lord Jesus has not come in vain, through his Father's Spirit he does truly reign. For all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow, and our hearts confess him King of mercy now.* ♪

Ascension Litany

Jesus has ascended to the Father! ✠ **He is Lord of all creation! Alleluia!**
All authority in heaven and earth ✠ **has been given to Jesus!**
He is now present throughout creation! ✠ **He will be with us always!**
We are his Church, ✠ **his Body on earth!**
We wait for his coming! ✠ **He will return through his Spirit!**
We wait for his coming! ✠ **He will judge and restore all creation! Alleluia!**

† Baptism — The Way of Faith †

Surrendering to the Creator

Jesus says, “You must be born again through water and the Spirit ✠ **to enter the Creator's Kingdom.**” ✠ Father, Son, & Holy Spirit ✠ **I surrender to you all of my mind, all of my heart, and all of my body and soul.**

(we make the sign of the cross—touching forehead, heart, and shoulders)

Jesus says, “If you love your self, family, or nation more than me, ✠ **you cannot be my disciple.** ✠ If you hold onto your life, you will destroy it, ✠ **but if you let go of your life, you will save it.**” ✠ Father, into your hands ✠ **I commit my spirit.** ✠ Father, not my will, ✠ **but your will be done.** ♪ *Take my life and all my heart, take my whole soul ev'ry part. Take my mouth and let it be, filled with your truth and mercy.* ♪ *Take*

my hands and let them love, with compassion from above. Take my feet and let them go, on the Way that Jesus showed. ♪ Take my money and fam'ly, give me faith and set me free. Take my life and teach me how to love all creation now. ♪ (LSB 783)

Prayer of the Day

Jesus says, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them."
(the Christ candle is lit to remind us that Jesus is coming among us)

♪ *All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let all before him fall. Lay down to him all pow'r and fame, and crown him Lord of all. Lay down to him all pow'r and fame, and crown him Lord of all!* ♪ (tune LSB 549)

The Lord Jesus be with you. ✠ **And also with you.** ✠ Let us pray. Heavenly Father, help us to continue to grow and mature spiritually, adding virtue upon virtue. In the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

Listening to the Creator

Jesus says, "Come to me, all of you who are tired and burdened. Learn from me and practice my teachings and you will find rest for your souls. Those who listen will live." ♪ *Listen to what Jesus teaches, listen to him every day. Listen as you walk and follow, listen also as you pray. Listen to him every moment, listen with an open mind. Listen to find peace and patience, listen so you will be kind.* ♪ (LSB 770)

Remembering the Saints & Martyrs ✠ Flavia Domitilla

Father, we give you thanks for the great cloud of saints and witnesses who have gone before us and have embodied the Way of Jesus. Today we remember Flavia, the niece of Emperor Domitian, who was banished and exiled on an island for her faith in Jesus and then was brought back by Emperor Trajan only to be burned alive for refusing to sacrifice to idols in 98 AD. Help us learn from her faith and example, **Amen.**

Chanted Psalm ✠ *Psalm 27*



♪ *The Lord is my light and my | salvation.*

* *There is nothing | I will fear.*

One thing I have asked | from the Lord:

* *that I may live in his presence | all my life.*

I will see the goodness | of the Lord

* *in the land of | the living.*

Be strong and let your heart | take courage;

* *Yes, I will always wait | for the Lord.* ♪

Law & Prophets ✠ Isaiah 35:1-10

The Prophets reading comes from Isaiah 35. ✠ **Blessed are the ears that listen.**
We do not live on bread alone, ✠ **but on every word from the Lord.**

Epistle ✠ 2 Peter 2:10—3:18

The Epistle reading comes from 2 Peter 2. ✠ **Blessed are the ears that listen.**
We do not live on bread alone, ✠ **but on every word from the Lord.**

† Holy Gospel † Matthew 6:19-34

We stand for the word of Jesus. ♪ *Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.* ♪ (LSB 156)

The holy Gospel comes from Matthew 6. ✠ **Blessed are those who listen to Jesus.**

If you have ears to hear, then listen! ✠ **Lord Jesus, help us to practice your Word.**

Message

† Repentance — The Way of Hope †

Confronting Our Past

Jesus says, “I know everything you do. Pay attention and remove the log from your own eye. I have called you out of Civilization. Repent, the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!”

(silence for reflection)

For placing our self, family, and nation above you, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For trusting the technology and works of human hands, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For being hypocrites who misrepresent your name, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For not living in restful peace with land, animals, and each other, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For not respecting our fathers and mothers in Christ, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For being violent to our bodies and your creation, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For not keeping our sexuality within marriage, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For trying to possess and control your creation, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For not being vulnerable and truthful with others, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For competing with others and not being content with our lives, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

Father, turn us back to walking in your Spirit. ♪ *Lord Father we have wandered and hidden from your face. Rescue your whole creation with your almighty grace. From trust in wealth and weapons and blindness to your Way, save us and all creation with your own hands, we pray.* ♪ (LSB 449)

Jesus says, “I discipline those I love. Come out of Civilization, my people, so you will not share in its sins and plagues. Not one stone will be left standing, it will all be torn down.” Will you turn away from Civilization’s Way of arrogance, fear, and violence and reaffirm your Baptism into Jesus’s Way of faith, hope, and love? ✠ **Yes, I renounce Civilization’s Way and pledge to follow Jesus.** ✠ Jesus says, “Put your sword away. If you live by the sword, you will die by the sword. But if you forgive others, your heavenly Father will forgive you.” Will you release all debts and grudges that you hold against anyone—including yourself and every member of this church? ✠ **Yes, I forgive all those who have hurt me, frustrated me, or owe me anything.** ✠ Jesus says, “Your sins are forgiven. Get up and walk. Go and sin no more.” ✠ **Amen.**

Song of the Day ✠ “*God, You Alone Know*” (tune: LSB 444)

♪ *God, you alone know what you’ve planned For earth and sky and sea. Creation waits your loving hand To bring in what will be. When things we trust in shift and shake And sorrows multiply, We hear you calling, “Keep awake! Redemption is close by!”* ♪

♪ *O Christ, you taught us, “Watch the trees As seasons change each year, For when they bud and grow new leaves You know that summer’s near.” May we look round*

this changing earth And see with faith-filled eyes Your signs of judgment, death, and birth That witness to the wise. ♪

♪ *Though heav'n and earth will pass away, Your word will still be true. Our good Father, on that great day, We'll be secure in you. For when the judgment comes on us, Christ will be our safe ark. He'll carry us through that great flood, and bring us through the dark. ♪*

♪ *So by your Spirit may we share The life you're bringing forth: Make us ready to love and care, And work to heal your earth. For your new day has now come near, Not ruled by death or pain; So make us seek to serve you here And welcome in your reign. ♪*

Waiting on the Creator

♪ *Our Father, bring your Rule and will to earth. Give what we need for worry-free rebirth. Bring peace among us and forgive us too, as we forgive and love in all we do.*

♪ *Protect us from all things that will mislead. Keep us from selfishness, violence, and greed. We place our lives into your hands this day. Teach us to listen and to walk your Way. Amen. ♪ (LSB 637)*

(incense is lit to symbolize our prayers ascending to God and as its smell fills this space we are reminded of his presence among us)

Jesus says, "Learn from the birds. They do not store up for tomorrow and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Do not fear or worry about tomorrow. Not a hair from your head will be destroyed. Seek only your Father's Kingdom and he will give you everything you need." *In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪*

Father, set us apart from Civilization in all our thoughts, words, and deeds. Take charge of our lives and all those in authority. Use everything that happens to bring your good judgment and healing upon all creation. *In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪* Father, provide for us, protect us, and heal our brokenness. Especially this day we remember Charlene Sargent, Jan & Paul Zugelder, Carolyn Davis, Celise Sims, Dale Bridge, the birthdays of Sarah Martin & Kevin Dierks, and those we name in our hearts... Father, give us exactly what we need this day and teach us to be content with that. *In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪* Father, forgive us and free us from all that enslaves us. Help us to walk away from our anxieties, traumas, and addictions to Civilization's Way, so we may walk in Jesus's Way. Empower us to love and forgive everyone, even our enemies, in the same way you have loved and forgiven us. *In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪* Father, humble us and remind us that we have no strength apart from you. Stay with us in times of difficulty and save us from our selfishness. Comfort us in the certain hope that all your creation and children will be renewed and raised from the dead. *In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪*

Father, help us to let go and surrender everything into your loving hands, trusting that you are working all things to the good of those who love you. ✠ **Our Father in heaven, may your name be holy, may your Kingdom come, and may your will be done—on earth as in heaven. Give us this day what we need for today. Forgive us in the same way that we forgive others. Do not abandon us when we are tempted, but pull us away from what is evil. For all authority, power, and glory are**

yours—now and forever. Amen.

† Communion — The Way of Love †

Sharing the Lord's Peace

Jesus says, “Make peace with each other ☩ **before you come to the Lord's altar.**
By this all people will know that you are my disciples: ☩ **if you love each other.**”

Offering

Jesus says, “Do not store up things on earth. To be my disciple you must give up everything you own. Sell your possessions and give to the poor.” We offer all we have to the Lord, while also offering gifts to support this communion.

Musical Offering

Pledge of Allegiance

♫ *We come before you, Lord, to bow. We lay our lives at your feet now. All things are yours, we own nothing! Our lives are in your hands this day. Give what we need, O Lord, we pray. Please protect us, provide for us! Watch over us, ever with us, always love us!* ♫ (LSB 816) Jesus says, “If you pledge your allegiance to me before others, then I will pledge my allegiance to you before my heavenly Father.”

I pledge allegiance to one God, the all-powerful Father, who is the Creator of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I pledge allegiance to one Lord, Jesus Christ, who is God's only Son. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He loved and he suffered. Under Pontius Pilate, he was crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day he was raised from the dead. He ascended to heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. He is coming to judge the living and the dead. His Kingdom will not end.

I pledge allegiance to the Holy Spirit, who is the giver of life, the holy universal Church, the communion of saints, the baptism for forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life in the age to come. Amen.

Thanksgiving

The Lord Jesus be with you. ☩ **And also with you.** ☩ Lift up your hearts! ☩ **We lift them to the Lord!** ☩ Let us give thanks to our Creator! ☩ **It is right to give him thanks and praise!** ☩ Praise and thanks are due to you, Father, ☩ **for you provide, protect, love, and renew us and all creation!** ☩ We are grateful that you bring heaven and earth together through Jesus's love for all creation!

♫ *Joyful, joyful we adore you, Creator of all that lives! Earth and heaven praise and thank you, for your love and all you give! Fields and forests, fruit trees and birds, thunderstorms and starry skies, seas and mountains, and grazing herds, praising you who never dies!* ♫ (LSB 803)

† Words of Our Lord Jesus †

On the night before our Lord Jesus was crucified, he revealed his Way of rescuing all creation from the Way of Civilization. Before supper, Jesus humbly washed the feet of

his students and enemies. Jesus said, ✠ **“Follow my example. Love each other, even your enemies, in the same way I have loved you.”** ✠ During supper, Jesus then took the bread and broke it. He gave it to them, saying, “This is my body which is being given for you. Do the same for each other in my memory.” After supper, Jesus then took the cup and gave thanks. He said, “This is my blood which is being shed for you, for the forgiveness of all of your sin. Do the same for each other in my memory.”

♪ *When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death Lord Jesus. So as we share this feast may we, remember your love for us. Help us now to follow your Way, and to walk in your goodness. Always make us one in you.* ♪ (LSB 384)

Invitation to the Table

Jesus says, “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood is united with me and will be raised from the dead.” We gather around Jesus’s table, ✠ **trusting that he is truly giving his whole self to us through this bread, wine, and communion.** ✠ As we receive the Lord’s gifts, ✠ **we commit to laying down our lives for each member of this church in the Way that Jesus has laid down his life for us.** ✠ We invite all Baptized members of the holy universal Church, who give their undivided allegiance to Jesus and are at peace with their brothers and sisters in Christ, to join us in this mysterious communion between the Creator and his creation.

REFRAIN: ♪ This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. ♪
♪ Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. (REFRAIN) ♪ Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. (REFRAIN) ♪ Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation. Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. (REFRAIN) ♪ For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. (REFRAIN) ♪ (LSB 155)

Sharing the Bread & Wine

Sent to “Do the Same in My Memory”

Christ Jesus, as we feed on you ✠ **we are made members of your Body.** ✠ We no longer live for ourselves ✠ **but you, Lord Christ, live within us.** ✠ As you have laid down your body and blood for us, ✠ **help us to do the same for each other in your memory.** ✠ Jesus says, “Go and live this truth: ✠ **The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!** ✠ Heal the sick, raise the dead, ✠ **cleanse the unclean, and cast out evil spirits.** ✠ Freely you have received from the Lord, ✠ **now freely you must give.** ✠ I am sending you like sheep among wolves, ✠ **but do not fear, take up your cross and follow me.”**

♪ *Blessings abound where’er Jesus reigns, the prisoners leap to lose their chains. The tired find eternal rest, and all the poor and weak are bless’d. ♪ Let ev’ry creature rise and bring, the highest honors to our King. To him who does now raise the dead, give honor as you crown his head.* ♪ (tune: LSB 832)

Blessing

Jesus says, “Blessed are you in your poverty and suffering, for you are in the Creator’s Kingdom. Blessed are you in your humility, for you will inherit the earth. Blessed are you when you are merciful and peaceful, for you will find mercy and peace.” ✠ **Amen.**

Recessional Song ✠ **“O Christ, When You Ascended”** (tune: LSB 478)

- ♫ *O Christ, when you ascended, you took your rightful throne; Your time on earth had ended — yet we weren't left alone. You reign o'er earth and heaven; your Spirit guides our way. Your prayers uphold your people; you're with your church each day.* ♪
- ♫ *We look at earthly rulers and see what they command: We note their years of power, the borders of their land. Yet, Lord, you are not bounded by things like time and space; Your reign is never-ending, you rule in every place.* ♪
- ♫ *We're tempted. Lord, to leave you in stories nicely told; Sometimes we don't believe you and say your ways are old. Sometimes we feel so lonely and live in doubt and fear — But your ascension means, Lord, you're present with us here.* ♪
- ♫ *It's often quite a challenge to follow in your Way; We're easily distracted! It's hard, Lord, to obey. Sometimes we give you Sundays — an hour, maybe two — But your ascension means, Lord, all life belongs to you.* ♪
- ♫ *One day, O Lord, we'll know you, as we are fully known; One day this world of sinners will bow before your throne. One day, God's whole creation will sing and praise your name; On earth as now in heaven, we'll celebrate your reign.* ♪

- * **Faith & Film: “First Reformed”** May 22 @ DG
- * **Faith & Film: “Pan’s Labyrinth”** May 29, Jun 5 @ DG
- * **Faith & Film: “Promising Young Woman”** Jun 19, Jun 26 @ DG
- * **Scripture Study: “The Shepherd of Hermas”** Wed, 6 pm @ DG

Weekly Calendar May 21 - 28, 2023		
Sun, May 21	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy “Patience” 2 Peter 2:10—3:18
	10:45 am	Food & Fellowship Text of the Day Study
Mon, May 22	6:00 pm	Faith & Film: “First Reformed” @ DG
Wed, May 24	4:30 pm	Jesus Time @ DG
	6:00 pm	Scripture Study: “The Shepherd of Hermas” @ DG
Sat, May 27	7-9 am	Breakfast & Devotion
Sun, May 28	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy “In the Beginning” Genesis 1—5
	10:45 am	Food & Fellowship Text of the Day Study

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