



St. Mark

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Reach, Teach, Rejoice!

He Lives!

To Rule Over All

HYMN: CW 171 (verses 1-4) **A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing**

GREETING

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

DIALOGUE FOR THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

M: Alleluia! Christ is arisen!

C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

M: God has ascended amid shouts of joy!

C: **Let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.**

M: 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: **We believe and are sure that he is the Christ, the Son of the living God.**

M: God raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 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. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church.

C: **At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

The Lord's Prayer

M: O Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray...

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

HYMN: CW 170

Draw Us To Thee

CLOSING PRAYER

M: Almighty God, by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you turn us from the old life of sin and set our minds on things above. Grant that we who are reborn to new life in him may live in righteousness and holiness all our days, proclaiming his love to those who do not know him by faith, and longing for him to reappear in glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.**

HYMN: CW 175

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise

M: Even as your beloved Son intercedes on behalf of his Church, so has he commanded us, his kingdom of priests, to pray for others.

C: **Hear us, O Lord, as we implore you to show mercy to those in need:**

M: to the sick, the lonely, and the depressed grant relief;
to the dying and those who mourn bring comfort;
to the hungry, the homeless, and the unemployed send your help; to the elderly, give joy for living life to the full;
to the young send patience to wait for the fuller life to come;
to husbands and wives and their families, to single parents who raise their children alone grant wisdom and strength.

C: **Pour out your blessings to all who depend on your power and grace.**

M: Almighty Father, you are the good Giver of all that we have. In your mercy continue to grant us daily bread, supplying us with what we need before we even ask.

C: **Teach us to be thankful and content, whether we have plenty or are in need.**

M: O Lord, heavenly Father, we here remember the sufferings and death of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Praising his victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from his ascension before you, where he ever stands for us as our own high priest. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in his kingdom, which has no end.

C: **Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us.**

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: To you alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

M: Since you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

C: **Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.**

M: When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

C: **Never again will we hunger; never again will we thirst. The sun will not beat upon us, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be our shepherd; he will lead us to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from our eyes.**

After brief introduction, the congregation sings...

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!

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!"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day 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 reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Esther 6:1-14

After brief introduction, the congregation sings...

**Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, his the throne.
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.
Hark! The sounds of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation Has redeemed us by his blood."**

SECOND LESSON

Colossians 3:1-4

After brief introduction, the congregation sings...

**Alleluia! Bread of heaven, Here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! Here the sinful Flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners, Earth's Redeemer, hear our plea
Where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.**

GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53

After brief introduction, the congregation sings...

**Alleluia! Not as orphans Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us; Faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud of sight received him When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget his promise: "I am with you evermore."**

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age. Alleluia. (Matthew 28:20b cf. NIV)

HYMN: CW 341

Crown Him with Many Crowns

SERMON

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Luther's Explanation to the 2nd Article of the Apostle's Creed

- C: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.**
- M:** What do you mean when you make this confession of your faith?
- C:** **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.**
- He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.**
- All this He did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.**
- This is most certainly true.**

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M:** Confident of our Lord's return, let us approach our Father's throne of mercy on behalf of the Church and of all people.
- Gracious Lord God, amid shouts of joy we celebrate your Son's ascension into heaven where he is now seated in majesty at your right hand. Grant your Church steadfastness in these gray and latter days that she may hold to the truth and boldly confess the saving name of Jesus.
- C:** **As the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh seek to silence our witness to the truth, grant us courage to believe in our hearts and confess with our lips that Jesus is Lord.**