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Affiliation: Church of the Lutheran Confession

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WELCOME: *To all who are present today, we offer a heart-felt welcome in Jesus' name.*

The Lord cleanses sinners, gives them a new heart, and places His Spirit within them so they may live as His redeemed people in the world. Though Christ has ascended and His Church endures suffering and opposition, the risen Savior still reigns through His Word and Spirit to sustain His people in faith and witness. Therefore Christians live in confident hope, awaiting the return of the same Jesus who ascended in glory for their salvation.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER: *We ask the Lord's blessings on our worship.*

HYMN: #212

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

**A hymn of glory let us sing;
New songs thro'out the world shall ring:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ, by a road before untrod.
Ascendeth to the throne of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**The holy apostolic band
Upon the Mount of Olives stand;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
And with His followers they see
Jesus' resplendent majesty.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**To whom the angels, drawing nigh,
"Why stand and gaze upon the sky?
Alleluia! Alleluia!
This is the Savior," thus they say;
"This is His noble triumph-day."
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**"Again shall ye behold Him so
As ye today have seen Him go.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
In glorious pomp ascending high
Up to the portals of the sky."**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Oh, grant us thitherward to tend
And with unwearied hearts ascend,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Unto Thy kingdom's throne, where Thou,
As is our faith, art seated now.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Be Thou our Joy and strong Defense,
Who art our future Recompense:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
So shall the light that springs from Thee
Be ours through all eternity.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All praise to Thee let earth accord,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Who art, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit One.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Amen.**

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Cong: (spoken) Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

Cong: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love; cleanse me from my sin; and take away my guilt.

Pastor: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. This Gospel is the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes, because in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written: The just shall live by faith.

Cong: Amen.

GLORY TO GOD

**Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.**

**Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise;
Of heav'nly joy and peace on earth we sing.
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,
Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict'ry won,**

Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.

**Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,
At God's right hand in majesty most high:
Who, with the Spirit worshipped and adored,
With all the heav'nly host we glorify.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, our true Good Shepherd, we thank You that through the preaching and teaching of Your Word You are continually leading us, Your sheep, to the green pastures and still waters. We pray, when we pass through the dark valley of the shadow of death that You would be with us to comfort us with the rod and staff of Your Word that we might, by Your great sacrifice, dwell in the house the Lord forever; You who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Cong: Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ezekiel 36:22-28

(EHV) Therefore, say this to the house of Israel. This is what the LORD God says. I am about to act, O house of Israel, not for your sake, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you have gone. (23) I will sanctify my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the LORD God, when I reveal myself as holy in front of their eyes through you. (24) I will take you from among the nations. I will gather you from all the lands, and I will bring you to your own soil. (25) I will sprinkle purifying water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your impurity and from all your filthy idols. (26) Then I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit inside you. I will remove the heart of stone from your body and give you a heart of flesh. (27) I will put my Spirit within you and

will cause you to walk in my statutes, and you will carefully observe my ordinances. (28) Then you will live in the land I gave your fathers. You will be my people, and I will be your God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 Peter 4:7-14

(EHV) The end of all things is near. So have sound judgment and be self-controlled for the sake of your prayers. (8) Above all, love each other constantly, because love covers a multitude of sins. (9) Be hospitable to one another without complaining. (10) Serve one another, each according to the gift he has received, as good stewards of the many forms of God's grace. (11) If anyone speaks, let him do it as one speaking the messages of God. If anyone serves, let him do it as one serving with the strength God supplies so that God may be glorified in every way through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. (12) Dear friends, do not be surprised by the fiery trial that is happening among you to test you, as if something strange were happening to you. (13) Instead rejoice whenever you are sharing in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. (14) If you are insulted in connection with the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, And was made man; And was crucified also for

us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures And ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN: #219

The Head that Once was Crowned

**The Head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now;
A royal diadem adorns
The mighty Victor's brow.**

**The highest place that heav'n affords
Is His, is His by right,
The King of kings and Lord of lords,
And heav'n's eternal Light;**

**The Joy of all who dwell above,
The Joy of all below,
To whom He manifests His love
And grants His name to know.**

**To them the cross, with all its shame,
With all its grace, is giv'n;
Their name an everlasting name,
Their joy the joy of heav'n.**

**They suffer with their Lord below,
They reign with Him above,
Their profit and their joy to know
The mystery of His love.**

**The cross He bore is life and health,
Though shame and death to Him:
His people's hope, His people's wealth,
Their everlasting theme.
Amen.**

THE SERMON: Acts 1:1-11

(EHV) I wrote my first book, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began doing and teaching (2) until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. (3) After he had suffered, he presented himself alive to the apostles with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and told them things about the kingdom of God. (4) Once, when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for what the Father promised, which you heard from me. (5) For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." (6) So when they were together with him, they asked, "Lord, is this the time when you are going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" (7) He said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. (8) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (9) After he said these things, he was taken up while they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight. (10) They were looking intently into the sky as he went away. Suddenly, two men in white clothes stood beside them. (11) They said, "Men of Galilee, why are

you standing here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Keep Christ in Christianity

OFFERTORY

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence.
Take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation.
Uphold with Your Spirit free.**

OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS

GENERAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN: #216

The Lord’s My Shepherd

**On Christ’s ascension I now build
The hope of mine ascension;
This hope alone has ever stilled
All doubt and apprehension;
For where the Head is, there full well
I know His members are to dwell
Wher Christ shall come and call them.**

**Since He returned to claim His throne,
Great gifts for man obtaining,
My heart shall rest in Him alone,
No other rest remaining;
For where my Treasure went before,
There all my thoughts shall ever soar**

To still their deepest yearning.
Oh, grant, dear Lord, this grace to me,
Recalling Thine ascension,
That I may ever walk with Thee,
Adorning Thy redemption;
And then, when all my days shall cease,
Let me depart in joy and peace
In answer to my pleading.
Amen.

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Cong: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Cong: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who after His resurrection appeared openly to all His disciples and in their sight was taken up into heaven that He might make us partakers of His divine nature. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we give glory to Your name, evermore praising You and singing:

Cong:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord
God of heavenly hosts adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim
Shout the glory of Your name.
Sing Hosanna in the highest,
Sing Hosanna to the Lord.
Truly blest is He who comes
In the name of the Lord.**

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, "Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood which is shed for you for the remission of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Cong: Amen.

Cong:

**O Lamb of God, O Christ, our Lord,
Whose blood, once shed, true life restored,
Impart Your joy, our faith increase,
Sustain with Your mercy,
And grant us Your peace.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

HYMN:

O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

**O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace:
A Light to lead the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The Glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.**

**All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit –
Forever Three-in-One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.**

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.

Cong:

**My Shepherd fed me from His table,
With gifts no mortal eye can see.
By His forgiveness I am able
To dwell with Him eternally.
Lord, may Your body and Your blood
Be for my soul the highest good.**

THE BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Cong: Amen. Amen. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER