

Ascension of Our Lord

May 14, 2026

Ascension of Our Lord (Year A)

On this holy day we recall Jesus' rising into heaven following 40 days on earth after his having been raised from the dead. He gives his followers final instructions and promises to never leave them alone, even though he will be seated in that place of authority and power at God's right hand. The wonder and majesty of this festival day is characterized by trumpet blasts, angels, and a wondrous feast for the eyes.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Jesus Ascends into Heaven

St. Luke recounts Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit to the newly formed church. He commissioned the disciples to be witnesses to all that they have seen and heard while they were with him. As they stood speaking to him, he was taken up into the clouds. Two angels announced to the stunned followers that Jesus would return again in the same way he left. This would happen in God's time.

Psalm 47

God is King

The psalmist sings about God being King over the whole creation. This psalm fore-shadows the ascension of Jesus into heaven, "God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet." He reigns over the nations and is highly exalted.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

Jesus, The Head Over All Things

The name of Jesus is above all names in every age — past, present and future. Our hope is in his calling of us and in him who is given all power and authority. There is no hope that could be greater than in this One who presides over heaven and earth, and is seated at God's right hand. The church is filled by him who is the all in all.

Gospel Reading: Luke 24:44-53

Jesus Ascends into Heaven

Jesus gives final instructions to his closest followers and then blesses them as they watch him ascend into the heavens before their very eyes. The disciples respond to this scene with joyous worship and return to the temple praising God for what he has done through his Son, Jesus, the Christ.

Suggestions for the Day:

Liturgical Color: White

During the Season of Easter:

- Use the Kyrie.
- Use the Hymn of Praise
- Use the Nicene Creed.

There are some magnificent pieces of art that have been created over the years that depict Jesus' ascension. Consider creating a page of those images to show to children during worship so they can compare and contrast how various famous artists imagine the moment that Jesus ascended into heaven. Include Salvador Dali, Gustave Doré, and Catherine Andrews, and Brian Whelan (for something a bit different).

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:

	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending	27	---	336	435	---	---
Beautiful Savior	518	---	537	838	252	252
A Hymn of Glory	157	---	493	393	---	---
It is Well With My Soul	---	---	---	---	---	web
Shout to the Lord	---	---	---	821	24	24
Crown Him with Many Crowns	170	---	525	855	22	22
Blessed Assurance	---	699	---	638	190	190
Alleluia, Sing to Jesus	158	---	821	392	154	154
I Know that My Redeemer Lives	352	---	461	619	274	274
Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates	32	---	340	---	93	93

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

O Praise the Name (Anástasis)
(CCLI# 7037787)
You are My King (Amazing Love)
(CCLI# 2456623)
Only King Forever
(CCLI# 7011438)
The Lion and the Lamb
(CCLI# 7038281)
God of Wonders
(CCLI# 3118757)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.