Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry
May 12, 2024 – Ascension (Observed)

Connecting people to people • people to faith • faith to life

69 Mill Street • Athens, OH • (740) 593-3144
info@clcathens.org • www.clcathens.org

(PLEASE POWER OFF OR AIRPLANE MODE YOUR DEVICES)

Here in Athens, in SE Ohio, we are occupying the traditional homeland of the Shawnee people. Before the Shawnee, this land was occupied by the Osage people, and by the Adena, Hopewell and Fort Ancient cultures.

SERVING TODAY: *Presider/Preacher: Chad Huebner; Organist: George Weckman; Choir Director: Christian Yoder; Pianist: Patricia Cambridge; Choir Accompanist: Donnalee Yoder; Asst/Lector: Mike Cleland; Live Stream: Marilyn Shealy; Time with Children: Cheryl Huebner; Ushers: Wanda Weinberg, Linda Batey; Greeter: Jeanne Haseley; Acolyte: Rachel; Tray Server: Doug Debrick; Children's Church: Chris Snoddy, Brooks Kohli*

In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples are told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

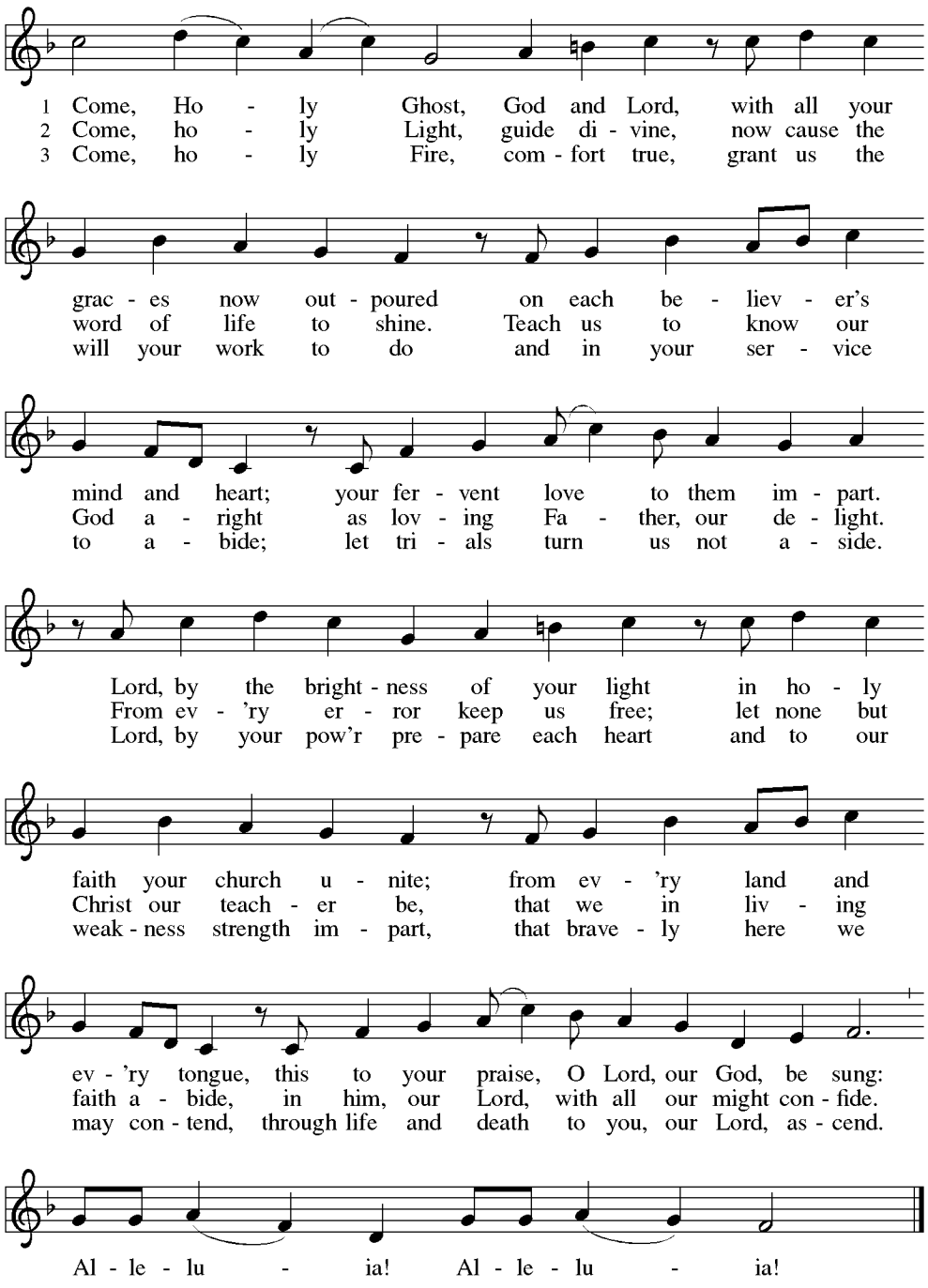
WELCOME

PRELUDE *O Power of Love* **CLC Choir** **Christian Yoder, Director**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.
Amen.
Look, here is water!
Here is our water of life! Alleluia!
Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.
Look, here is water!
Here is our water of life! Alleluia!
At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.
We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.
Look, here is water!
Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

GATHERING SONG ***Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord*** **(ELW 395)**



Text: German hymn, 15th cent., st. 1; Martin Luther, 1483–1546, sts. 2–3; tr. composite
Music: KOMM, HEILIGER GEIST, HERRE GOTT, *Enchiridion*, Erfurt, 1524

GREETING
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
Let us pray.
Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11
A reading from Acts.
[Luke writes:] [1]In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning [2]until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. [3]After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. [4]While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have 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 had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" [7]He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods 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]When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. [10]While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. [11]They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23
A reading from Ephesians.
[15]I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason [16]I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. [17]I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, [18]so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance

among the saints, [19]and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. [20]God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, [21]far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. [22]And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, [23]which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[44][Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."[45]Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, [46]and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, [47]and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. [48]You are witnesses of these things. [49]And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

[50]Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. [51]While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. [52]And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; [53]and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN ***O Word of God Incarnate*** **(ELW 514)**

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.
Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, on this day set aside to honor and remember mothers,
we give you thanks for our mothers.

We pray for moms whose children are grown.
Grant them joy and satisfaction for a job well done.
We pray for moms experiencing changes they could not predict.
Grant them rest and peace as they trust you for the future.
We pray for pregnant women who will soon be moms.
Grant them patience and good counsel in the coming months.
We pray for moms who face the demands of single parenthood.
Grant them strength and wisdom.
We pray for moms who enjoy financial abundance.
Grant them time to share with their families.
We pray for moms who are raising their children in poverty.
Grant them relief and justice.
We pray for step-moms.
Grant them patience, understanding and love.
We pray for moms who are separated from their children.
Grant them faith and hope.
We pray for moms in marriages that are in crisis.
Grant them support and insight.
We pray for moms who gave up their children for adoption.
Grant them peace and confidence as they trust in your providence.
We pray for adoptive mothers.

Grant them joy and gratitude for the gift you have provided.
We pray for women who think about becoming mothers.
Grant them wisdom and discernment.
We pray for women who desperately want, or wanted, to be mothers.
Grant them grace to accept your timing.
We pray for women who have assumed the mother's role in a child's life.
Grant them joy and the appreciation of others.
We pray for persons who are grieving the loss of their mother.
Grant them comfort and hope in Christ's resurrection.

Lord, we thank you for the gift of motherhood.
We thank you for the many examples of faithful mothers in scripture,
like Sarah, Leah, Rachel, Hannah, Elizabeth, Priscilla, Lydia, Eunice and Lois.
We are mindful this day of all these women,
and especially Mary the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who had the courage in faith to say "yes" to your calling.
May these women gathered here today emulate these examples of faith.
And may they model for all the rest of us what it means to be your disciple.
Bless them on this special day; in the name of Jesus Christ. **AMEN**

PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING – THANK YOU! YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES OUR MINISTRY POSSIBLE.
Giving is easy online through our website at https://www.clcathens.org/give
There you will also find instructions for how you can text to give or by downloading our church app!

OFFERTORY *A Mother's Prayer* **CLC Choir** **Christian Yoder, Director**

Verse 1: Guard my children, Lord when they are sleeping; And protect them daily with Your Grace; Help me trust the Hand of God to hold them in safe keeping, When darkness and sadness take place.
Chorus: Let me show love when little hands reach out to me With tender words and patient smiling eyes; Lord, let my tears and prayers be filled with mercy, And let my arms bring comfort to their cries.
Verse 2: Every morning when I wake, help me get ready For the details being a mother does require. Motherhood's much harder than I ever thought it would be, But nurturing remains my heart's desire. (***Chorus***)
Verse 3: Grant them courage, Lord, and aspiration, When their doubts and fears attempt release; Help them walk untrodden roads accepting expectation, Will lead them to gladness and peace. **(Chorus)**

OFFERTORY HYMN ***Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful***

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God,
in this meal you offer your very self.
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.
In the breaking of this bread
reveal to us the Risen One.
In the pouring of this wine
pour us out in service to the world;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

DIALOGUE

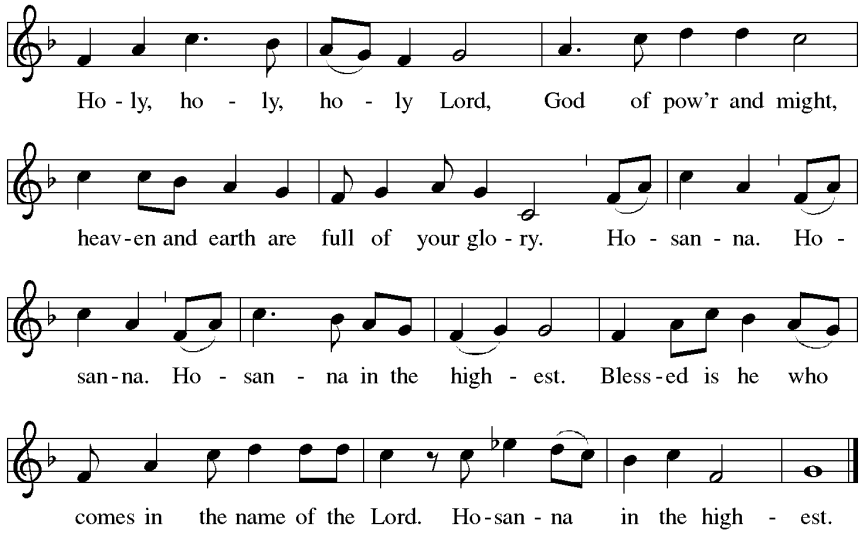
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;

who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, living, and loving God,
we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.
We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,
for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,
and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.
We give you thanks for Jesus
who, living among us,
healed the sick,
fed the hungry,
and with a love stronger than death,
gave his life for others.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.
Remembering, therefore,
his life-giving death and glorious resurrection,
we await your promised life for all this dying world.
Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup:
carry us in your arms from death to life,
that we may live as your chosen ones,
clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.
Amen

LORD'S PRAYER
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
The risen Christ is made known to us
in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.
Thanks be to God!

COMMUNION
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Shepherding God,
you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love.

Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING
Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
☩ bless you now and always.
Amen.

SENDING SONG *Let There Be Peace on Earth* **CLC Choir** **Christian Yoder, Director**

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our Creator, we are family.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace be-gin with me, let this be the moment now;
With ev'ry step I take, may this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment with peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
And let it begin with me.

DISMISSAL
Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!