



# Ascension Day

**June 1, 2025**



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
38801 Blacow Road  
Fremont, CA 94536  
Church: (510) 793-6285

June 1, 2025  
9:30 AM – Ascension of Our Lord  
Ministers: The People of HTLC  
Web Site: [holytrinityfremont.org](http://holytrinityfremont.org)

---

If you're looking for a community that seeks to follow God's vision, there is a place for you here. Trust that the mystery of God has brought you this far on your journey and will guide your future steps. All of who you are is welcome here.

Our worship services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel and our website. If you do not wish to be filmed, please do not sit in the first four pews or the last pew. Children's Time and communion distribution are not filmed.

All invitations to stand or kneel are for those who are able.

---

*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.*

---

**GATHERING . . . WORD . . . MEAL . . . SENDING**

---

## **SINGING BOWL**

During the ringing of the bowl, you are encouraged to center your thoughts on God the Creator, Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

## **PRELUDE: “Oh, Worship the King”**

– HTLC Bell Choir:

## **WELCOME**

Please Stand

## **CALL TO WORSHIP FOR ASCENSION DAY**

– *by Rev. Mindi*

L: A new day has begun.

**All: Hope wins!**

L: A fresh start is granted.

**All: Faith wins!**

L: Today you have the opportunity to do something new.

**All: Hope wins!**

L: Christ is entering your life in a new way.

**All: Faith wins!**

L: Come, let us worship God, who is inviting us into life in a new way, a way that transcends death, a way of hope and faith.

**All: Love wins! Let us worship Christ, who overcame death to give us new life!**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

*P: With souls purified by God’s redeeming love,*

**All: let us offer to one another genuine, mutual love, a love planted in the peace of Christ, a love that fills our hearts with peace and joy.**

*P: The peace of the risen Christ is with you.*

**All: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION FOR ASCENSION**

– *by Rev. Mindi*

All may make the sign of the cross,  
the sign that is marked at baptism.

*P: Almighty God, we confess that we have our eyes set in the clouds instead of on the earth You have given us.*

**All: We desire heavenly treasure but we keep believing that worldly means will help us attain it.**

*P: Forgive us for our short sightedness.*

**All: Draw us away from the temptations to seek worldly power and measures of success,**

*P: and call us to the down-to-earth message of Your love, to care for the needs of those around us,*

**All: especially the oppressed and marginalized.**

*P: You have called us through scripture to care for the widows and orphans among us;*

**All: help us to see all those who are left out by society and are in need.**

*P: Help us to break down the dividing walls that we have placed, so that we may truly be one,*

**All: as You and Christ are one. For it is in Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

*P: We were made by God, brought forth from the earth, the earth that was called good when God created it.*

**All: Our very being is good.**

*P: Go, know that you are forgiven and loved by the God who made the earth, and made you.*

**All: We will share the Good News. Amen.**

## **GREETING**

*P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!*

**All: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**



## OPENING HYMN: “Come, Ye Thankful People Come”

– vs. 1,2 ELW #693



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.  
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un-to his praise to yield;



All be safe-ly gath-ered in ere the win-ter storms be-gin.  
wheat and tares to-geth-er sown, un-to joy or sor-row grown.



God, our mak-er, doth pro-vide for our wants to be sup-plied.  
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap-pear.



Come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.  
Lord of har-vest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be.

## INVOCATION

*P: Worship our Creator in the beauty of holiness. Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. The God who created the world and fills it with life is with you all.*

**All: And also with you.**

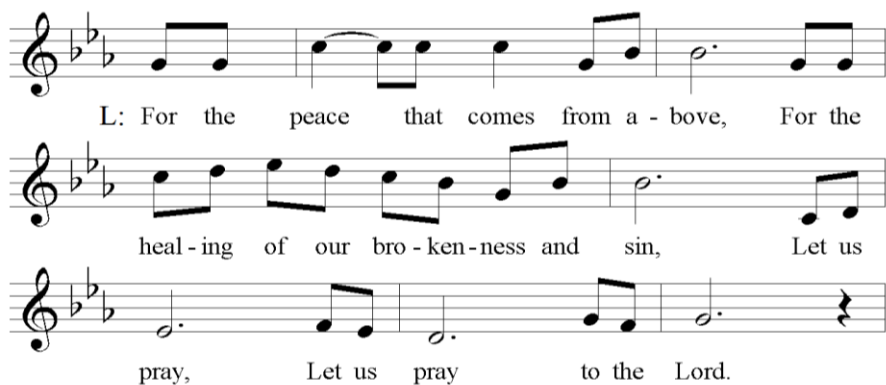
## KYRIE



L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



**All: Lord, oh Lord have mer-cy.**



L: For the peace that comes from a - bove, For the  
 heal - ing of our bro - ken - ness and sin, Let us  
 pray, Let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, oh Lord have mer - cy.**



L: For the peace of all God's cre - a - tion, For the  
 u - ni - ty of all God's peo - ple, Let us  
 pray, Let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, oh Lord have mer - cy.**



L: For this ho - ly house of God, For all who  
 of - fer here their wor - ship and praise, Let us  
 pray, Let us pray to the Lord.



All: Lord, oh Lord have mer - cy.



L: Help, save, com-fort and de-fend us gra-cious Lord.



All: A - men.



All: Cre - a - ted for a life to - geth - er, we  
With sun and moon and stars of hea - ven we



come a - live in you. Now, in your fel-low-ship you  
name you as our light; In mor-ning star and pas-chal



birth us, and give us life a - new. To - day we  
can - dle You make our darkness bright. In wind or



come to sing your prais - es; Our hearts made one in  
calm, in storm or sun - shine the earth sings forth your



song to Fath - er, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit in  
praise; With trees and fields and flow - ing ri - ver we



whom we all be - long. We  
owe you all our days. We



sing to the God of sun-rise, of kindled hearts and emp-ty  
 sing to our God who knows us in joy or sor-row, pain or  
 tomb. We sing to the God of sha-dows, of shat-tered  
 pleasure. We sing to our God now with us, Im-man-u-  
 dreams and bar-ren womb; We sing to our God of  
 el, our price-less treasure; We sing to our God of  
 1. Love! With sun and  
 2. Love! We sing to our God of Love!

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

**L:** Creator of life, we do not know the face of the future,  
any more than your disciples did.

**All:** **Like them, we have many questions: how to live;  
how to bear witness.**

**L:** Like them, we thirst for the spring waters of the Spirit  
to inspire us in our living;

**All:** **to give us a heart language in our testimony.**

**L:** You have been raised in glory

**All:** **that we might rise with dignity.**

**L:** You live in power that we might live in peace

**All: You are present everywhere that we might be fully present in our own lives**

**L: This we believe.**

**All: This we step out on.**

Be Seated

**ANTHEM:** *“Crown Him with Many Crowns”* – HTLC Choir

---

GATHERING . . . **WORD** . . . MEAL . . . SENDING

---

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD**

**R:** God of light and love,

**All: open our hearts to your message of unity.**

**R:** Open our minds to the light of your wisdom.

**All: Open our lives to the call of your Spirit.**

**R:** Reveal to us your holy presence,

**All: as we listen and learn this day. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.**

**R:** The first reading is from Acts, chapter one, beginning with the first verse.

## **READING:** *Acts 1:1-11*

In my earlier account, Theophilus, I dealt with everything that Jesus had done and taught, from the beginning until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After the Passion, Jesus appeared alive to the apostles—confirmed through many convincing proofs—over the course of forty days, and spoke to them about the reign of God.

On one occasion, Jesus told them not to leave Jerusalem. “Wait, rather, for what God has promised, of which you have heard me speak,” Jesus said. “John baptized with water, but within a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

While meeting together they asked, “Has the time come, Rabbi? Are you going to restore sovereignty to Israel?”

Jesus replied, “It’s not for you to know times or dates that Abba God has decided. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; then you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth.”

Having said this, Jesus was lifted up in a cloud before their eyes and taken from their sight. They were still gazing up into the heavens when two messengers dressed in white stood beside them. “You Galileans—why are you standing here looking up at the skies?” they asked. “Jesus, who has been taken from you—this same Jesus will return, in the same way you watched him go into heaven.”

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**R:** The Holy One is with us this day,

**All:** **offering us God’s love and light.**

**R:** The risen Christ is among us,

**All:** **inviting us to share what we have seen and heard.**

**R:** The Holy Spirit guides our way,

**All:** **teaching us to take care of our neighbors,**

**R:** and making sure that all are welcomed and loved.

**All:** **Praise be to God!**

Please Stand

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

4

All: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.*

**All: Glory to you, O God.**

### **GOSPEL:** *Luke 24:44-53*

Then Jesus said to them, “Remember the words I spoke when I was still with you: everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the psalms had to be fulfilled.”

Then Jesus opened their minds to the understanding of the scriptures, saying, “That is why the scriptures say that the Messiah must suffer and rise from the dead on the third day. In the Messiah’s name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of all this.

“Take note: I am sending forth what Abba God has promised to you. Remain here in the city until you are clothed with the power from on high.”

Then Jesus took them to the outskirts of Bethany, and with upraised hands blessed the disciples. While blessing them, the savior left them and was carried up to heaven. The disciples worshiped the risen Christ and returned to Jerusalem full of joy. They were found in the Temple constantly, speaking the praises of God.

*P: The Gospel of the risen Savior.*

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Be Seated

**CHILDREN’S TIME** – Pastor Tim

Please Stand

**AN ASCENSION DAY LITANY** – *by Christine Sine*

P: Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God, a new world has broken into ours—

**All: a world in which justice does come for the poor, freedom comes for the prisoners, and healing for the sick.**

P: Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God, a new community has been formed—

**All: a community that loves and cares for all members, a family that welcomes all who are abandoned and rejected, a place where all find a place of belonging.**

P: Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God, a new creation has begun—

**All: all that was distorted is being restored, all that is corrupted is being renewed, all that was broken is being made whole.**

P: Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God,

**All: God’s new world has begun.**

# HYMN OF THE DAY: “Lord, You Give the Great Commission”

— vs. 1,2 ELW #579



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis-sion: “Heal the sick and  
2 Lord, you call us to your ser-vice: “In my name bap -



preach the word.” Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,  
tize and teach.” That the world may trust your prom-ise,



and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness  
life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new



to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:  
fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:

*Refrain*



With the Spir-it's gifts em-pow'r us for the work of min - is - ty.

Be Seated

**MESSAGE** – Pastor Tim

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

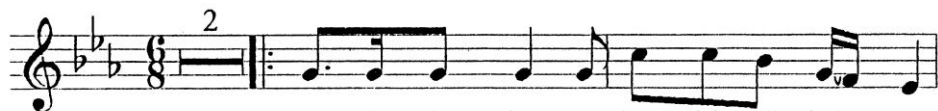
**L:** God is our chosen portion, the cup of our salvation, the bread of life.

**All:** Let us share our gratitude for God's gift of everlasting presence as we share a portion of God's many abundant gifts with a world in need of the Easter miracle.

## THANKFUL OFFERING

Please Stand

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE



**All:** Now is the time to ban - ish all dark - ness;  
Here we are made to shine in God's glo - ry.



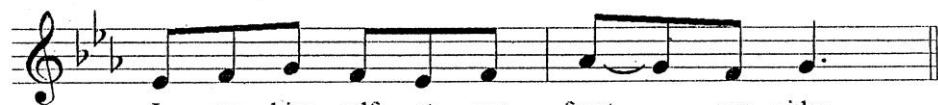
Christ is our way, our truth and light.  
Here we're made whole as the bo - dy of Christ.



Come to the Lord's fes - tive ta - ble  
Here we be - come a liv - ing of - fer - ing—



clothed in the ho - li - ness of God.  
ho - ly com - mun - ion in Christ.



Je - sus him - self at our feast pre - sides.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Abundant God, we are grateful for all your blessings, especially for the presence of the risen Christ.

**All: Bless these gifts, that they may help bring your love and light into our community and our world. Amen.**

## THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need. God of empowerment, you have blessed the church with art, poetry, and music. Inspire leaders and congregations to seek more ways to be your creative hands and feet on earth. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

L: God of abundance, your love can be seen in each plant, each creature, and every landscape. Nurture crops as they develop. Protect new animal life. Restore habitats destroyed by natural disaster or human neglect. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

L: God of compassion, you console all who are hurting. Help us recognize the deep hurts of grief, loneliness, broken relationships, and trauma in our midst. Guide us in caring for one another. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

L: God of change, you promised to be with your disciples as they faced an unknown future. Amid graduations and other transitions, sustain your people with your presence and love. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

L: God of all, hear the prayers of our heart said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered



L: Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

L: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God,  
trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus  
Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



L: The Lord be with you.



All: And al - so with you.



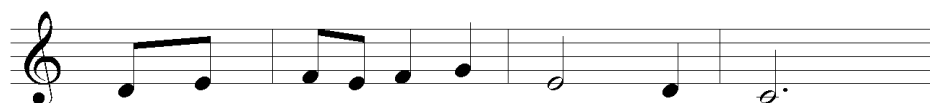
L: Lift up your hearts.



All: We lift them up to the Lord.



L: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

*P: Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.*

*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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."*

*Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life. Send your Spirit upon this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son. As we remember his life, his service, his death, his resurrection, his ascension, we speak of the mystery of faith:*

**All: Christ died to reveal salvation to us; Christ arose to reveal resurrection life to us; Christ ascended and will return to reveal glory to us.**

*P: Then, when we gather at your feast in glory, seated with our siblings from all time, we will clap our hands, shouting our joy to you,*

**All: God in Community, Holy in One, now and forevermore. Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language or translation of our hearts.*

**All: 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

*P: Come to the table of grace.*

**All: For all are welcome here.**

*P: Come to this place of love.*

**All: For here we find forgiveness and hope.**

*P: Come to the One who heals.*

**All: For in Christ we are made well and whole.**

Be Seated

The ushers will invite you forward to communion  
after the Lamb of God is sung.

## LAMB OF GOD

3  
All: Oh Christ, the Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
1.  
sin of the world, Have mer - cy on us. Oh  
2.  
mer - cy on us. Oh grant us peace,  
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Holy Communion is open to all.

Wine is red, grape juice is yellow, water is in the center of the tray.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Let an usher know if you need communion brought to you.

### **For communion at the altar rail:**

When directed by the ushers, you may come up the center aisle to the altar rail, stand or kneel, and hold out your hand for the pastor to drop the host into. Eat. Then take a cup of wine (red), grape juice (light yellow), or water (clear) from the assistant. Drink. Then place your empty cup in the tray that follows. Rise and return to your seat via the side aisles.

**ANTHEM** – Tongan Wesleyan Choir

COMMUNION HYMN: “Here Is Bread” – ELW #496

1. Here is bread, here is wine: } Christ is with us:  
2. Here is grace, here is peace: }  
3. Here we are, joined in one: }

He is with us. { Break the bread; taste the wine:  
Know his grace; find his peace:  
We'll pro-claim till he comes

1 2, 3 Refrain

Christ is with us here. here. In this bread  
Feast on Je - sus here.  
Je - sus cru - ci - fied.

there is heal - ing; in this cup there's life for - ev - er.

In this mo-ment by the Spir-it Christ is with us here.

SINGING BOWL

Please Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

*P: We have tasted your goodness, O God, in your gifts of word and sacrament.*

**All: May our hearts burn within us, that we may proclaim your mighty acts and joyfully live as your chosen people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

## COMMUNION PRAYER

**L:** Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people.

**All:** **Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. Amen.**

Be Seated

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Stand

---

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . MEAL . . . **SENDING**

---

## BENEDICTION

*P: In Jesus' name, all things are possible.*

**All: In Christ's name, we will do the works of God.**

*P: In Jesus' name, miracles bless our world in unexpected ways.*

**All: In Christ's name, we will offer miracles of hope to others.**

*P: In Jesus' name, the Spirit makes all things new.*

**All: In Christ's name, we will live and love abundantly each day. Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN: “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” vs 1,2

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,  
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,  
 the peo - ple of our God from this dwell - ing take leave,  
 the tasks of our God ev - 'ry - day life we take will face—  
 The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed  
 our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,  
 the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.  
 em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.  
 The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls  
 With your feast you feed us, with your light now  
 reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.  
 lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.  
 Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us  
 Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing  
 to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.  
 give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

## DISMISSAL

L: Go in Ascension peace and joy!

All: Thanks be to God!

## POSTLUDE

---

*Life Together* setting used by permission of Dennis Lintvedt and Glenn Petersen.

Hymns - Augsburg Fortress license #2450827

Gospel from Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation. Sheed & Ward.  
Kindle Edition