



www.holyword.net

Today's Focus

**“CELEBRATION OF
CHRIST’S ASCENSION”
MAY 12, 2024**

Welcome! Holy Word is a community of Christians experiencing life together in the grace and peace of Jesus. Here you will find a family culture, easy access to Bible teaching at all levels, community connection, personable staff, and the unity of our belief and mission. Whether you are a first time guest, a seeker, skeptic or lost soul, or a long time Christian, we invite you to get to know us. Come as you are!

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Connection Cards: Welcome to all our guests and members this morning. We’d like to get to know you better. To help us, please fill out the connection card inside your worship folder. Prayer requests and feedback are also welcome. Place the card in the offering plates or hand it to an usher after the service. God bless your week!

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Children in Worship: We love kids in church and we love families worshipping together. To enhance the children's worship experience, we have a kids sermon during the service. We encourage parents to work through the service folder with their children to help them follow along. We have orange busy bags in the nursery available for the children. If your child needs a break from the service, feel free to use the Nursery (in the church lobby), hallways or fellowship hall, all are equipped with sound from the service.

Welcome and Invocation

Hymn: Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise | Blue Hymnal 474



1 Hail the day that sees him rise to his
2 There the glo - rious tri - umph waits; lift your
4 See, he lifts his hands a - bove; see, he



throne a - bove the skies! Christ, the Lamb for
heads, e - ter - nal gates! He has con - quered
shows the prints of love. Hark! His gra - cious



sin - ners giv'n, re - as - cends his na - tive heav'n.
death and sin; take the King of glo - ry in!
lips be - stow bless - ings on his Church be - low.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, abr., alt.

Tune: adapt. Richard Redhead, 1820–1901; Pierre de Corbeille, d. 1221

Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Forgiveness

Leader: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Group: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

For sins of habit and sins of choice,

For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

You should cast me away from your presence forever.

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

Leader: God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit and united us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Every day God forgives your sins, removes your guilt, and strengthens you to defeat Satan's power. His promise is for you and your children, and he will never forsake you. Your sins are forgiven. You are clothed in Christ. You are at peace with God now and forever.

Group: Amen.

Hymn: I Am Content! My Jesus Lives Again | Blue Hymnal 464



1 I am con-tent! My Je-sus lives a-gain, in whom my
4 I am con-tent! Lord, set me ev-er free and wake me



heart is pleased. He has ful-filled the law of God for me,
from the dead that I may rise for-ev-er-more to be



God's wrath he has ap-peased. Since he in
with you, my liv-ing head. The chains that



death could per-ish nev-er, I al-so shall not
hold my bod-y, sev-er; then shall my soul re-



die for-ev-er. I am con-tent! I am con-tent!
joice for-ev-er. I am con-tent! I am con-tent!

Text: tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.; atr. Johann J. Möller, 1660–1733, abr

Tune: Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

Text and tune: Public domain

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵²Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Second Reading

Acts 1:1-11

¹In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ²until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁶Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹"Men of Galilee," they said, "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."

Children's Message

Young worshipers are invited to the front of the church for a Bible message just for them.

Hymn: On Christ's Ascension I Now Build | Blue Hymnal 476



- 1 On Christ's as - cen - sion I now build the hope of my as -
- 2 Since Christ re - turned to claim his throne, great gifts for me ob -
- 3 O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, re - call - ing your as -



cen - sion. This hope a - lone has al - ways stilled all doubt and ap - pre -
tain - ing, my heart will rest in him a - lone, no oth - er rest re -
cen - sion, that I may serve you faith - ful - ly, in thanks for my re -



hen - sion, for where the head is, there as well I know his
main - ing, for where my trea - sure went be - fore, there all my
demp - tion; and then, when all my days will cease, let me de -



mem - bers are to dwell when Christ shall come and call them.
thoughts will ev - er soar to still their deep - est yearn - ing.
part in joy and peace in an - swer to my plead - ing.

Text: tr. William M. Czamanske, 1873–1964, alt.; Josua Wegelin, 1604–1640

Tune: Etlich Cristlich liden, Wittenberg, 1524

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 735427

Tune: Public domain

Sermon | "Ascended, Not Abandoned" | Ephesians 4:7-16

Pastor Joel Hering

⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.
⁸This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high,
he took many captives
and gave gifts to his people.”

⁹(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)
¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Profession of Faith — Nicene 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 in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Prayer of the Church and Lord's Prayer

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.

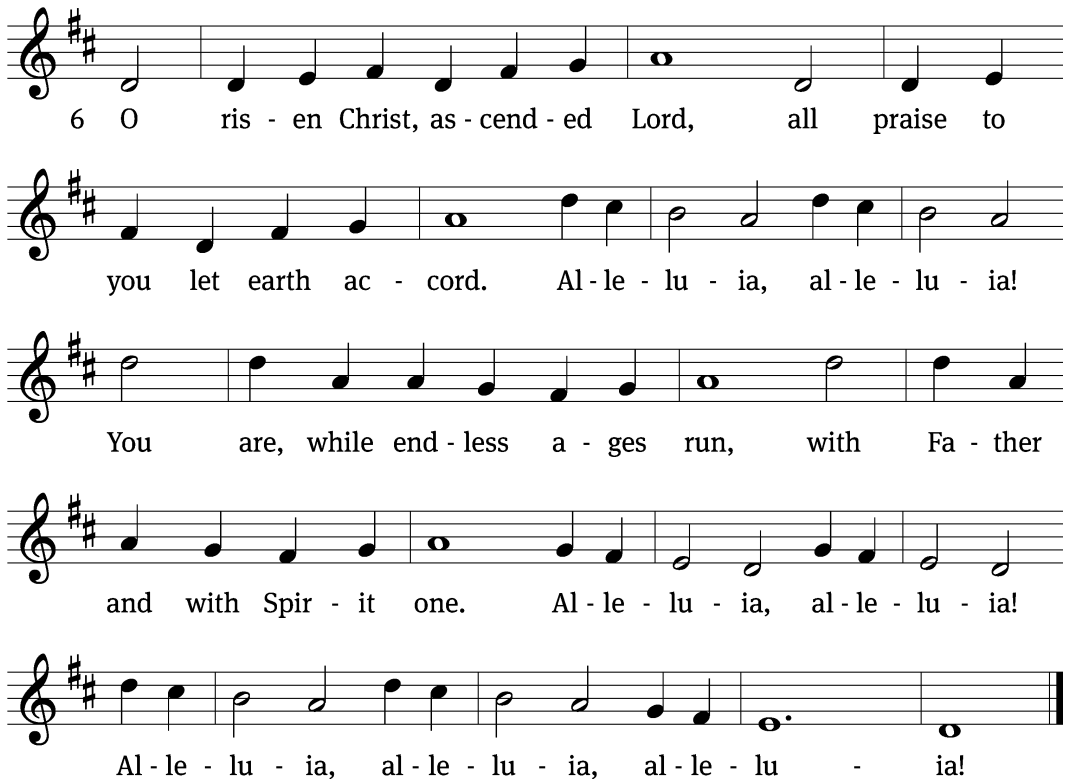
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Communion Liturgy

Leader: Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption. We bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth. We proclaim his death until he returns. We are brought into unity with God.

Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise God's holy name and join their glorious song.

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing



6 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to
you let earth ac - cord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
You are, while end - less a - ges run, with Fa - ther
and with Spir - it one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: tr. composite; The Venerable Bede, 673–735, abr.
Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Köln, 1623
Text and tune: Public domain

Words of Institution

The power of forgiveness in the Lord's Supper is in the promises of God's word. Therefore, the worship leader speaks the words that Jesus did when he first instituted the Lord's Supper.

Leader: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Group: Amen.

Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, who on the cross did suf - fer,
ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, your-self to scorn did of - fer.
All sin you car - ried for us, else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941; Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546

Tune: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546

Text and tune: Public domain

The Sacrament

In Holy Communion, we receive the forgiveness of our sins by eating and drinking the body and blood of Jesus Christ that has a holy union with the bread and wine.

By participating in Holy Communion, we also give a statement that we share a common faith with everyone at the Lord's table with us. For this reason, if you are not a member of Holy Word Lutheran Church or another WELS church or an ELS church, we ask that you would speak with one of our pastors or staff minister before you join with us in the sacrament. Please see our Scriptural explanation of our practice of Holy Communion on the page 23 for more information.

Distribution

Please come forward at the direction of the ushers.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Our Gift of Thanks

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)

During this time we collect financial offerings as gifts for the work of God at Holy Word. We will pass around the offering plates at this time. Anyone may also give online at www.holyword.net.

For your convenience, you may also scan the image printed here with your phone. This QR code will take you directly to the church offering website.



Blessing

Hymn: Christ High-Ascended | Blue Hymnal 747



1 Christ high - as - cend - ed, now in glo - ry seat - ed, throned
2 Christ, from the Fa - ther ev - 'ry pow'r pos - sess - ing, who
3 Christ, who in dy - ing won for us sal - va - tion, lives



and ex - alt - ed, vic - to - ry com - plet - ed, death's dread do -
on his cho - sen lift - ed hands in bless - ing, sends forth his
now the first - born of the new cre - a - tion; to win dis -



min - ion fi - nal - ly de - feat - ed, we are his wit - ness - es.
ser - vants, still in faith con - fess - ing, we are his wit - ness - es.
ci - ples out of ev - 'ry na - tion, we are his wit - ness - es.

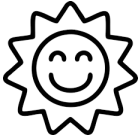
Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Tune: Antiphoner, Paris, 1681

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Tune: Public domain

Holy Word Happenings



Annual End of School Splash: Mark your calendars! Following the worship service next Sunday, May 19 from 11-1:30pm, our church will be hosting an end of the year outdoor party for our members and our families from our Holy Word Christian Academy! With a church picnic feel, we encourage everyone to bring their favorite yard games, lawn chairs and swimsuits as we will have a water slide and foam machine again this year. Hotdogs, hamburgers, chips, veggies, watermelon, popsicles and drinks will be provided for all to enjoy! This is a fun-filled event for our church and center families to get to know each other better and build relationships. We hope you can join us in this end of the school year celebration!

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Martin Luther College Wind Symphony Concert: You are invited to join us at Holy Word for the 2024 Martin Lutheran College Wind Symphony Concert on Wednesday, May 22, at 7pm. The 60 minute “Something Old, Something New” concert is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be taken. For additional information please go to www.holyword.net/events.





HWCA Happenings: Enjoy some Holy Word Christian Academy updates by checking out our weekly newsletter by scanning this QR code.



April 29 - May 3

HWCA PreSchool Graduation: It's graduation season, and our HWCA preschoolers are graduating to move on to Kindergarten! Thursday, May 23, at 6:30pm, you are all invited to join us as we celebrate the growth and success of these little ones during their time at HWCA! The graduation will take place in the Holy Word sanctuary. We look forward to giving our preschoolers the sweetest farewell and reminding them that Jesus will be with them no matter where they go. We would love for our Holy Word family to share in the celebration!

Connect Groups

Youth in Christ Freshman Night: All in-coming (Fall 2024) high school freshmen are invited to come see what Holy Word's Youth in Christ is all about. Wednesday, May 15, 7pm at Chad & Cindy White's house . For more information contact Cindy White at youth@holyword.net.

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Women's Book Club: Our next meeting will be this Friday, May 17 at 7pm to discuss the book *Surviving Savannah* by Patti Callahan Henry. We'll be meeting at Pat Moore's house. New members are always welcome. Contact the church office at hello@holyword.net for additional information.



Kids in Christ: All K through 4th graders are invited to come join the fun and fellowship at our next KIC get-together at the Holy Word End of School Splash next Sunday, May 19 from 11-1:30pm. Please email Yessie Contreras at yessie@holyword.net for more information.

Teen & Youth 2024 Summer Camps: Hey Holy Word teens & youth! Take a week away from screens and schedules to enjoy a week long Sabbath rest in Scripture surrounded by Christians your own age at the Camp Shiloh Summer Camps in east Texas.

Dates:

Teen Camp (entering 9th grade - entering 12th grade) - June 16-21

Youth Camp (entering 4th grade - entering 8th grade) - June 23-28

Registration is now open: www.campshilohretreat.org/about



Camp Shiloh

Holy Word Connect Groups: For information about all our Connect Groups please scan the QR code or go to www.holyword.net/connect-groups.



Connect Groups



Mother's Day Prayer

Gracious Lord, on this Mother's Day we come to you with a prayer of thanksgiving for moms everywhere. In your divine wisdom Lord, you gave them to be a gift and a blessing in our lives. Thank you for giving them a calm and nurturing spirit to guide our children and our homes, and for the many times and ways that they unselfishly sacrificed for us. We ask that you forgive them when they fall short of your plans. Fill them with your love so that they will always find their true identity and value in you. Help us to honor them, praise them and love them today and always. Amen.

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SCAN ME



HOLY WORD ANNIVERSARY:

Tom and Denise Hebson

05/17/97



HOLY WORD BIRTHDAYS:

Dawn Moss

05/12

Braxton Perry

05/12

Connie Froelich

05/12

Glen Ragan

05/15

Tammi Besch

05/17

Jonathan Baumler

05/18

THIS WEEK AT HOLY WORD

TUESDAY

- 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study (Gebert)
- 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study (Rorstrom)

WEDNESDAY

- 6:30 am Men's Bible Breakfast (Jim's Restaurant)
- 10:00 am Women's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00 pm Hymn Sing (Sanctuary)
- 7:00 pm Youth in Christ (White's house)

FRIDAY

- 10:30 am Friday South Austin Bible Study (Siirila's house)
- 7:00 pm Women's Book Club (Pat Moore's house)

SATURDAY

- 11:00 am Youth in the Middle (Typhoon Texas)

SUNDAY

- 9:30 am Worship
- 11:00 am End of School Splash & Picnic (Holy Word)
Kids in Christ (Holy Word)
- 4:00 pm Hope & Healing Families (Online)

About the Lord's Supper: Whenever we receive the Lord's Supper, we want to remember three important Scriptural truths:



- 1) **The body and blood of Christ are really present** with the bread and wine. This is not a mere representation but the actual body and blood of Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:27)
- 2) In the Lord's Supper Jesus gives each of us the **forgiveness** of all our sins. The supper is not merely a symbol of forgiveness but in the supper, Jesus actually gives his forgiveness to us. (Matthew 26:28)
- 3) When we take the Lord's Supper **we are united** in a special way to everyone else taking it because we all partake of the one body and blood of Christ together. (1 Corinthians 10:17)

These three teachings are very dear to us. We know that not all Christians believe these truths about the Lord's Supper. If you are a member of another Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS) or an Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) church, we assume that you believe these truths. If you are a member of another Christian church body, please talk to our pastors about your faith regarding these truths **before** you take the Sacrament.

Also, if you do not yet have faith in Jesus as your Savior, our Lord wants you to come to faith in him before taking his Sacrament.

We are careful about the Lord's Supper because we want to humbly accept his gift in the way God intended. Thank you for patiently respecting our Scriptural practice.

Acknowledgments

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