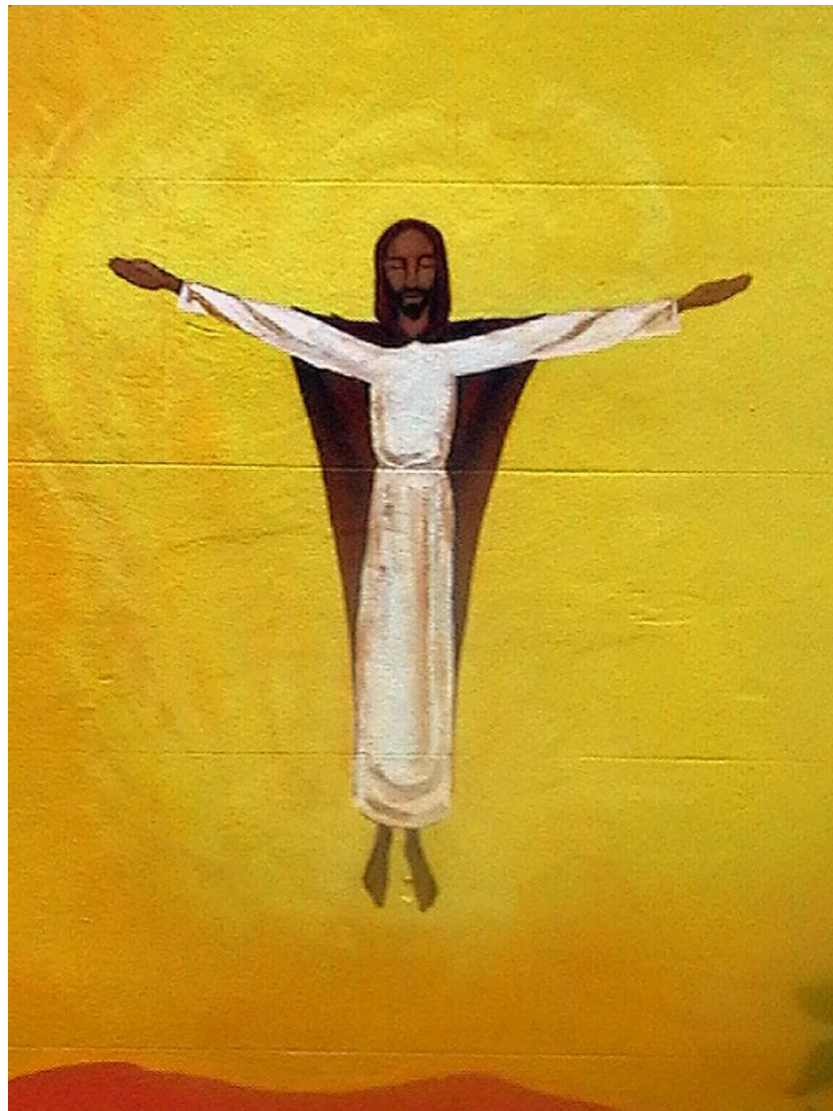

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Title: Ascension. Date: 2003.

Notes: Mural of Christ ascending to heaven on a graffiti wall in Bristol, England.

Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia. Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord;
I am with you always, to the end of the age. Alleluia. (Matt. 28:19, 20)*

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Congregational participation in bold font.
Please silence your cell phone.

PRELUDE & WELCOME

'Sweet Hour of Prayer'
Handbell Ensemble

Arr. Douglas Wagner

We rise in body and spirit as we are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Spoken 3 times) Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

We turn to face the baptismal font.

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!**



- 1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
 2 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - somed from the fall,
 3 Hail him, you heirs of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did call—
 4 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm-wood and the gall,



- bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
 hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
 the God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.
 go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.



- Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
 Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
 The God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.
 Go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

- 5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe 6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
 on this terrestrial ball we at his feet may fall!
 to him all majesty ascribe We'll join the everlasting song
 and crown him Lord of all. and crown him Lord of all.

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.

NOW THE FEAST

Refrain

Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy, to the God of life and love and free-dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

Cantor Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
Whose blood has freed and united us
to be one great people of God**Refrain**

Power and riches,
wisdom and might,
all honor and glory to Christ forever**Refrain**

For God has come to dwell with us,
to make us people of God;
to make all things new**Refrain**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We 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.**

Be seated.

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from Acts, the 1st chapter.

[Luke writes:] In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 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. 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; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 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." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 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, the 1st chapter.

[Saint Paul writes:] I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. 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, 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, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 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, 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. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

We rise in body and spirit as we are able.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:44-53

Congregation:

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!

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 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, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. 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.” Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Be seated.

CHILDREN’S TIME

SERMON

The Rev. David T. Drysdale II

REFLECTION SONG

NICENE CREED

We profess our faith saying:

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 \ddagger resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition concludes with the following:

God of grace, hear our prayer.

A LITANY FOR MOTHER'S DAY

ADAPTED FROM MESSYMIDDLE.COM - AMY L. YOUNG

Gracious God, you reveal yourself to us through the love and care of the many kinds of mothers with whom you have blessed us and who enrich our lives. On this Mother's Day, we strive – imperfectly for sure – to acknowledge them before you.

For those who gave birth this year to their first child:

We pray for you and we celebrate with you.

For those who lost a child this year: **We pray for you and we mourn with you.**

For those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains:

We pray for you and we appreciate you.

For those who experienced loss through miscarriage, still-birth, failed adoptions, or running away: **We pray for you and we mourn with you.**

For those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment: **We pray for you and we walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it is.**

For those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms:
We pray for you and we need you.

For those who have warm and close relationships with their children:
We pray for you and we celebrate with you.

For those who have disappointment, heartache, and distance with their children:
We pray for you and we sit with you.

For those who lost their mothers: **We pray for you and we grieve with you.**

For those who experienced abuse or neglect at the hands of their own mother:
We pray for you and we acknowledge your experience.

For those who lived through driving tests, medical tests, and the overall testing of motherhood:
We pray for you and we are better for having you in our midst.

For those who have aborted children:
We pray for you and we remember them and you on this day.

For those who are single and long to be married and mothering their own children:
We pray for you and we mourn that life has not turned out the way you longed for it to be.

For those who step-parent: **We pray for you and we walk with you on these complex paths.**

For those who envisioned lavishing love on grandchildren - yet that dream is not to be:
We pray for you and we grieve with you.

For those who have or will have emptier nests in the upcoming year:
We pray for you and we grieve and rejoice with you.

For those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising:
We pray for you and we anticipate with you.

On this Mother's Day, we walk with you all. Mothering is not for the faint of heart and we are blessed to have real warriors in our very midst. **We pray for you. We remember you. We cherish you. We give thanks to God for you. Amen.**

PEACE & OFFERING

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying "Peace be with you." Thank you for supporting Zion's ministry of sharing God's love with our neighbor, our community and the world. Financial gifts can be received either by scanning the QR code provided, giving online at zionhickory.org, or by placing your offering in the offering plate as you leave worship.



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow;

Praise God, all crea - tures here be - low;

Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host;

Praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

We pray: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

The musical score is written on five staves. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The first staff is in 6/8 time. The second staff changes to 3/8 time. The third staff is in 6/8 time. The fourth and fifth staves are in 6/8 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover
from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

...ever one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us, saying: **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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND LAMB OF GOD

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.**

1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha - tred and fear;
 3. Lamb of God, you are the way of jus - tice and peace: } have
 4. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer - cy and love: }

mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us. *repeat 4 times*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: grant us peace,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

Be seated. All are welcome to receive Communion at Christ's table. For good order, musicians will commune first. Usbers will invite you to the altar to receive communion. You may kneel or stand at the rail as is best for you. After communing, you may return to your seat or remain at the rail for private prayer.

COMMUNION SONG

'Christ Is Alive'
Handbell Ensemble

Arr. Lloyd Larson

We rise in body and spirit as we are able.

COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

May the precious and true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

We pray: 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.**

BLESSING

May God bless and keep us. May God's face shine on us and be gracious.
May God look on us with favor and ☩ give us peace.

— give us peace. A - men.

SENDING SONG

'You Servants of God'

ELW 825

1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, and pub - lish a -
2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save, yet still he is
3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -
4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all glo - ry and

broad his won - der - ful name; the name, all - vic - to - rious, of
nigh, his pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion his
loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the
pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless - ing, with

Je - sus ex - tol; his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all!
tri - umph shall sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king!
an - gels pro - claim, fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fin - ite love!

DISMISSAL ☩ POSTLUDE

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. **We will! Thanks be to God!**

PARTICIPANTS

If anyone is interested in reading scriptures, please contact the Church Office.

Presiding Minister.....Rev. David T. Drysdale II
Director of Music.....Spence Robertson
Assisting Minister.....Nancy Yoder
Altar Guild.....Nancy Yoder, Dottie Crowder
Ushers.....Milton Wrike, Roger Bass, Jeb Bass
Tellers.....Kay Dodd, Misty Foster, Greg Walters