

**First Presbyterian Church  
621 North Lincoln Avenue  
Hastings, Nebraska**

Jesus Christ, Head of the Church  
Members of the Congregation, Ministers  
Rev. Charles M. Webster, Transitional Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Berke Landrum, Interim Associate Pastor  
Lay Reader: Karen Doerr  
Organist: Ashley Ehrich  
Chancel Bells: Michael Hull  
May 17, 2015, 10:30 a.m.  
**Ascension Sunday**

*Forty days after Easter, the Church celebrates the Ascension of Jesus as described in Mark, Luke, and Acts. Today we mark this celebration. In many traditions, the Feast of the Ascension is one of the holiest and most celebrated moments in the liturgical year; it is also among the most ancient of Christian traditions. The Church holds that the day of Ascension is a day for celebration because all the work that Jesus came to do has been accomplished, and he returns to the right hand of God the Father. - CMW*

*\*Indicates those who are able, please stand.*

Voluntary *Praeludium in G BWV 568* J.S. BACH  
(The voluntary is an opportunity to worship God, a time of prayer, meditation, reflection and expectation.)

\*Call to Worship – *Psalm 47:1-2, 5-6* Rev. Charles M. Webster  
Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**  
Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with shouts of joy!  
**For God, the Most High, is awesome, Lord over all the earth.**  
God has gone up with a shout, ascending with the sound of a trumpet.  
**Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.**  
Let us worship God.

\*Hymn No. 263 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!* CORONATION

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*BCW*)

Rev. Dr. Berke Landrum

**Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life, and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him, or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the ways of the world, and failed to give him glory. Forgive us, and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body.**

*(Silence for personal confession)*

Kyrie No. 578

*O Lord, Have Mercy*

ORE PROIAJU VEREKO

***O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy, have mercy on us.***

***O Christ, have mercy; O Christ have mercy; O Christ, have mercy, have mercy on us.***

Declaration of Forgiveness – *Romans 8:34*

The Law – *Acts 3:22, 24-26*

\*Response of Praise – No. 591

HALLE, HALLE

***Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.***

***Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah.***

\*Welcome and Ritual of Friendship

Children's Moment

Jim Boeve

Prayer for Illumination

**Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven: as we are formed by your word, help us to seek and serve you, that we may join you at the Father's side, where you reign with the Spirit in glory, now and forever.  
Amen.**

First Reading – *Acts 1:1-11*

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The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading – *Ephesians 1:15-23*

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The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

*Whimsical Praise*

MICHAEL J. GLASGOW

Chancel Bell Choir, Michael Hull, Director

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

*Left Behind*

Rev. Charles M. Webster

\*Hymn No. 268

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

DIADEMATA

Baptism

Presentation

*Receiving the sacrament of baptism is Breckyn Lee Knaub, born February 26, 2015 and daughter of Sara Beth (Wissing) Knaub and Bryce Lee Knaub.*

\*Profession of Faith – Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell: the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Baptism

Welcome

Concerns and Celebrations

Moment for Mission – Pentecost Offering – Susan Hoff

Ordination/Installation of Ruling Elder – Traci Boeve

Prayers of the People

Offering

*(All loose coins in the offering plate will go to PCUSA Hunger Fund)*

Offertory Anthem

*Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

DAVID CHERWIEN

\*Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow:**

**Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host,**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, Alleluia,**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

\*The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who are 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*Hymn No. 295 (stanzas 1-3)

*Go to the World!*

SINE NOMINE

\*Charge and Mission – *Luke 4:18-19*

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captive; and the recovering of sight to the blind; to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.**

\*Blessing

\*Congregation Response – Hymn No. 295 (stanza 4)

**Go to the world! Go as the ones I send, for I am with you till the age shall end, when all the hosts of glory cry “Amen!” Alleluia. Alleluia.**

\*Postlude

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

DAVID CHERWIEN

## Announcements

**The radio broadcast** is provided by JoAnn and Les Seiler.

**Today's service may be seen on Channel 181** Tuesday, 1:00 p.m., or Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

**For those living at Good Samaritan Village** the service will be broadcast on Channel 3 on Sunday at 12:00 noon and on Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

**The flowers** today are in memory of Merle and Albert J. Theobald.

**Ushers:** Dennis Asmus (Captain), Dave Fisher, Neal Hoff, Susan Hoff, Ed Lockwood, Phil Odom, Rich Portwood

**Greeters:** Stacy and Neil Kerr, Carolyn and Dick McKenzie

**Recently hospitalized:** Mary Northrup (MLMH), Jeff Howard (Home), Bernie Tushaus (Home)

### **This Week - May 18-22**

Monday, May 18	7:00	Boy Scouts
Tuesday, May 19	1:00	Quilters
	5:30	Christian Education Search Committee
	6:45	Deacons
Wednesday, May 20	7:00 a.m.	Bible@Breakfast
	9:30	Circle 1 – Eleanor Jorgenson
		Circle 2 – Kathleen Nelson – meet in the library
	1:15	Circle 3 – Fellowship Hall
Thursday, May 21	7:00	Session

# THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Ascension Sunday: Luke, in his second volume concerning the mission of the Church, removes the ascension event from its Easter Day setting, stating, “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.” (Acts 1:3) The Church has followed the sequence of Acts rather than the last chapter of Luke, placing Ascension Day on Thursday – the fortieth day after the resurrection. Ascension Sunday is the following Sunday.

CMW

“The early Church’s belief in the Ascension can be read as its refusal to allow its Lord to be localized or spatially restricted. The Ascension in its simplest terms means that Jesus is mobile. He is not ba’al, but the Lord of all history.”

Harvey Cox

“In that John Calvin’s theology placed great importance on the ascended and regnant Christ, Ascension Day is in some ways *the* Presbyterian feast day. Christ is Lord of the world and head of the church, we proclaim. Christ’s ascension, therefore, concerns us not only with ecclesiastical matters but also with social and political ones. If Christ has ascended, then Christ’s word rules the world as well as the church. If Christ has ascended, then there are no other rulers – all others are merely pretenders. Christ reigns supreme.”

Office of Theology and Worship (PCUSA)

“That He will return is certain. That our gaze needs to be fixed on Him is equally sure. Only, we may not look upwards to the dome of the heavens. To know what it means that He is at the Father’s right hand we must go to Samaria and Judea and the ends of the earth to bear witness to Him. Sometimes we have to travel as far as down the block or into the next room.”

Gerard S. Sloyan

“As Easter is preceded by forty days of repentance (turning around) – Lent – it is followed by forty days of rejoicing leading up to the Feast of the Ascension. Christmas and Ascension mark the beginning and the end of the appearance of Christ on earth. The former is the mystery of the birth of God in human flesh, the latter is the mystery that Christ carries back into heaven the human body which he received from Mary.”

CMW