



Evangelische-Lutherische Kreuzkirche Bremerhaven



1 Three days ago we celebrated the holiday of Ascension Day. Today, on the Sunday afterward, we will hear the reading from the Book of Acts about Jesus' ascension presented as a pantomime. Luke, the author of the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts, tells us what happened in Jerusalem forty days after Easter. In this account, we also look ahead to Pentecost ten days later, when the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit.

1. قبل ثلاثة أيام كان عيد "صعود المسيح". واليوم، في الأحد الذي يلي هذا العيد، نستمع إلى قراءة من سفر أعمال الرسل عن صعود يسوع إلى السماء، وذلك بطريقة تمثيلية صامتة. لوقا، كاتب إنجيل لوقا وسفر أعمال الرسل، يروي لنا ما حدث في أورشليم بعد أربعين يومًا من عيد القيامة. وفي هذا الحدث يوجد أيضًا تلميح إلى عيد العنصرة بعد عشرة أيام، حين امتلأ التلاميذ بالروح القدس.

2 An angel points to the return of Jesus to the earth at the end of world history. We will then hear a reading from the Letter to the Ephesians. There too we are reminded of Jesus' ascension and that Jesus is Lord - in the world, in the church, and in the life of each Christian. Pastor Weber will explain in the sermon what this means for us as he preaches on this passage from Ephesians.

2. كما يشير أحد الملائكة إلى عودة يسوع إلى الأرض في نهاية العالم. وبعد ذلك نستمع إلى قراءة من رسالة أفسس، حيث يتم التذكير أيضًا بصعود المسيح وأن يسوع هو الرب — في العالم، وفي الكنيسة، وفي حياة كل مؤمن. وما معنى ذلك بالنسبة لنا، سأوضحه في العظة من خلال هذا المقطع من رسالة أفسس.

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.

1 الكلام الاول انشاته يا ثاوفيلس عن جميع ما ابتدا يسوع يفعله ويعلم به،
 2 الى اليوم الذي ارتفع فيه، بعدما اوصى بالروح القدس الرسل الذين اختارهم.
 3 الذين اراهم ايضا نفسه حيا ببراھين كثيرة بعدما تالم، وهو يظهر لهم اربعين يوما ويتكلم عن الامور المختصة بملكوت الله.

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.”

4 وفيما هو مجتمع معهم اوصاهم ان لا يبرحوا من اورشليم، بل ينتظروا موعد الاب الذي سمعتموه مني.

5 لان يوحنا عمد بالماء، واما انتم فستتعمدون بالروح القدس ليس بعد هذه الايام بكثير.

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.”

**6 اما هم المجتمعون فسالوه قائلين :
يا رب، هل في هذا الوقت ترد الملك
الى اسرائيل؟**

**7 فقال لهم: ليس لكم ان تعرفوا
الازمنة والاوقات التي جعلها الاب
في سلطانه.**

**8 لكنكم ستنالون قوة متى حل الروح
القدس عليكم، وتكونون لي شهودا
في اورشليم وفي كل اليهودية
والسامرة والى اقصى الارض.**

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.

9 ولما قال هذا ارتفع وهم ينظرون،
واخذته سحابة عن اعينهم.
10 وفيما كانوا يشخصون الى
السماء وهو منطلق، اذا رجلان قد
وقفوا بهم بلباس ابيض،

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.”

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away.

11 وقالوا: ايها الرجال الجليليون، ما بالكم واقفين تنظرون الى السماء؟ ان يسوع هذا الذي ارتفع عنكم الى السماء سيأتي هكذا كما رأيتموه منطلقا الى السماء.

12 حينئذ رجعوا الى اورشليم من الجبل الذي يدعى جبل الزيتون، الذي هو بالقرب من اورشليم، على سفر سبت.

18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that 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.

18 مستتيرة عيون اذهانكم،
 لتعلموا ما هو رجاء دعوته،
 وما هو غنى مجد ميراثه في
 القديسين،
19 وما هي عظمة قدرته
 الفائقة نحونا نحن المؤمنين،
 حسب عمل شدة قوته،

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.

20 الذي عمله في المسيح، اذ اقامه من الاموات واجلسه عن يمينه في السماويات،

21 فوق كل رياسة وسلطان وقوة وسيادة، وكل اسم يسمى، ليس في هذا الدهر فقط بل في المستقبل ايضا،

**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.**

**22 واخضع كل شيء تحت قدميه،
واياه جعل راسا فوق كل شيء
للكنيسة،
23 التي هي جسده، ملء الذي يملأ
الكل في الكل.**

Dear congregation,
1 “God raised Jesus from the dead and seated him at his right hand in heaven. There he reigns above all powers and authorities, forces and dominions.” (Ephesians 1:20b-21a)
Jesus reigns as King. That is the message of His Ascension and His enthronement at the right hand of God the Father. Jesus is Lord - what does that mean with regard to politics, for the church, and for each individual person?

أحبائي في الجماعة المؤمنة / أيها
الإخوة والأخوات الأعزاء!
1. أقام الله يسوع من بين الأموات،
وأجلسه عن يمينه في السماء، فوق
كل قوة وسلطان. هذه هي رسالة
الصعود: يسوع هو الملك والرب
على الجميع.

2 Politics is a profound and difficult matter. In democracies it is complicated. Decisions are only reached after long negotiations. Direct successes are rarely visible. In dictatorships, unlike democracies, the focus is not on the good of the people, but on the welfare of the ruling clique, its power, and its wealth. “Jesus reigns high above powers and authorities” (Ephesians 1:21a).

**2. السياسة أمر معقد ومليء
بالتحديات. ففي الديمقراطيات تحتاج
القرارات إلى مفاوضات طويلة، أما
في الديكتاتوريات فالحكام يهتمون
بمصالحهم وسلطتهم أكثر من
اهتمامهم بالشعب.**

3 But where is He, ask Iranians who still suffer under the Revolutionary Guard. Where is Jesus, ask Ukrainians when Russian drones kill and injure their fellow citizens? Where is He, ask Kurdish and Christian Syrians and Afghan women under the terror of the Taliban? Jesus is Lord - but His reign is still hidden. Even now Jesus often allows the dictators of this world to continue - even though their power is only temporary.

3. ومع ذلك يتساءل كثيرون: أين يسوع وسط الظلم والحروب؟ يسأله الإيرانيون تحت قمع الحرس الثوري، والأوكرانيون تحت القصف، والسوريون والأفغان تحت الإرهاب والخوف.

4 But Jesus is there and says to those who suffer under the rule of evil masters: “I am the Lord. I am more powerful than those who oppress you. Trust in me in the trenches at the front, in the prisons for opponents of the regime, in the slums.

4. يسوع هو الرب، لكن ملكوته ما زال خفيًا إلى حدّ ما. فهو يسمح أحيانًا للطغاة بالاستمرار مؤقتًا، رغم أن سلطانهم لن يدوم.

5 I am there for you. With me you can resist the power that evil rulers seek to hold over your soul. I love you and I will lead you out of this misery. Trust me: the dictators of this world will end up on the garbage heap of history, but I sit at the right hand of God for all eternity.”

5. لكن يسوع يقول للمتألمين: أنا الرب، وأنا أقوى من الذين يضطهدونكم. ثقوا بي في الحروب، وفي السجون، وفي أماكن البؤس والمعاناة.

6 For me, living in Germany in relative safety, it gives me courage in regard to politics that Jesus is Lord. Many dark clouds can be seen on the political horizon. But Jesus holds everything in His hands and will bring it to a good end - through many difficulties along the way.

6. هو يمنح الإنسان قوة ليقاوم الشر ويحفظ نفسه من الانكسار الداخلي، ويعد بأن الظالمين لن يبقوا إلى الأبد، أما هو فملكه أبدي.

7 “God placed all things under Jesus’ feet and appointed him head over the whole church. It is his body.” (Ephesians 1:22–23a) The church, the fellowship of Christians, is something wonderful: the body of Christ, and Jesus is the head of this body. Church is many things - a place where one meets people from one’s own country and is not alone. Church also means structures such as church districts and regional churches.

7. هذا الإيمان يعطي المؤمن شجاعة ورجاء حتى في الأوقات السياسية الصعبة، لأن يسوع يمسك العالم بيده وسيقود كل شيء إلى النهاية الصالحة.

8 Church also consists of traditions and cultural expressions of faith that give people security. But above all, church is Jesus, who calls us and unites us into a congregation, who sends us out and blesses us. The church lives because it trusts in Jesus - He is its head, its Lord, its shepherd. When I worry about the future of the Kreuzkirche and when I become annoyed with others in the church, it encourages me that Jesus is the Lord of the church.

**8. ويقول الكتاب أيضًا إن الله جعل
يسوع رأسًا للكنيسة كلها، والكنيسة
هي جسده الحي.**

9 In the end, Jesus shows the way - and I trust Him regarding the future of our Kreuzkirche congregation. Jesus is Lord. This is also true for my own life. Jesus is my Lord. Some people have fears and concerns about this word “Lord”. They say: “For so long others have controlled me. Now I want to be free and determine my own path.”

9. الكنيسة ليست فقط مباني أو مؤسسات أو تقاليد، بل هي جماعة المؤمنين الذين يجمعهم يسوع ويقودهم ويباركهم.

10 I believe that Jesus does not want to oppress me or force me into something I do not want. He helps me to truly be myself and to become free from other problematic influences such as: “How do I appear in the eyes of others?” Jesus’ lordship does not stand against my freedom, self-determination, or personal responsibility. Jesus helps me find my own path and do what lies within my responsibility.

**10. الكنيسة تعيش لأنها تثق
بيسوع، فهو راعيها وربها الحقيقي،
حتى عندما تظهر فيها مشاكل بشرية
أو خلافات.**

11 Jesus is a gentle Lord. He is my shepherd who cares for me and shows me the way. He is my best friend who always stands at my side, to whom I can entrust everything, who gives me good advice. Jesus is my Lord. He gives me security. I know to whom I belong. I know who helps me when I am in need. I know where I am at home. I know who gives me protection and warmth.

11. لذلك عندما يشعر الإنسان بالقلق على مستقبل الكنيسة أو ينزعج من تصرفات بعض الناس فيها، يتذكر أن يسوع ما زال يقودها.

12 This security in Jesus calms me in this life and reaches far beyond this life: “You should recognize the riches of the glorious inheritance he has for his saints.” (Ephesians 1:18c)
The security we have in Jesus will never end and one day it will be even more beautiful than it is today.

12. ويسوع هو الرب أيضًا في الحياة الشخصية. بعض الناس يخافون من كلمة “الرب” لأنهم لا يريدون أن يتحكم أحد بحياتهم.

13 Jesus is my Lord. He gives me security. And He gives me hope. “You should know the hope connected with your calling.” (Ephesians 1:18b) Christians are people of hope. With this Lord, I always have hope. For He opens paths that I cannot yet see, He goes ahead of me and prepares the way for me.

13. لكن يسوع لا يقمع الإنسان ولا يسلبه حرّيته، بل يساعده ليكون نفسه الحقيقي ويتحرر من الضغوط والتأثيرات السلبية.

**14 He is stronger than all darkness, and with Him I walk hopefully through the dark valley toward the light. Jesus is my Lord. He gives me security. He gives me hope. And through Him I receive strength. "You should understand the immeasurably great power he exercises in us who believe. It corresponds to the mighty strength with which he accomplishes his work."
(Ephesians 1:19)**

**14. يسوع ربّ لطيف وراع صالح،
يهتم بالإنسان ويرشده، وهو أيضاً
الصديق الأمين الذي يبقى بجانبه
دائمًا.**

15 We often lack strength. We often feel powerless and weak. But Jesus is there - also with His power and energy. With this strength He fills us and gives us courage. This does not turn us into Superman or Superwoman. But Jesus, with His strength, is with us. Through Him we receive the strength we need.

15. مع يسوع يشعر الإنسان بالأمان والانتماء، ويعرف إلى من يلجأ وقت الضيق، ومن يمنحه الحماية والدفاع الروحي.

16 Jesus is my Lord. In Him I am secure. With Him I am hopeful. Through Him I find strength. And: Jesus reorients my will. I do not simply want to gain advantages for myself and only have fun in life. I enjoy my life secure in Jesus, and I want to serve Him and other people.

16. وهذه الطمأنينة لا تنتهي بالموت، بل تمتد إلى الحياة الأبدية، حيث ينتظر المؤمن مجد أعظم وأجمل.

17 That gives me joy, even when it comes with challenges. I also do not want to carry around all my old mistakes and bad habits forever. With Jesus I want to examine and renew my patterns of behavior and habits and bring them onto a good path.

**17. يسوع يمنح أيضًا الرجاء.
فالمسيحي إنسان يعيش على الرجاء
لأن يسوع يفتح طرقًا جديدة حتى
عندما تبدو الأمور مظلمة.**

18 Ascension Day. Jesus is Lord. The powerful people of this earth do not have the final word. Above them is Jesus. He helps us when we suffer under the rule of these powerful people. Even in church and congregation, things are often all too human.

**18. كما يمنح القوة في الضعف.
فحتى عندما يشعر الإنسان بالعجز،
يعطيه يسوع القوة التي يحتاجها
ليكمل طريقه ويثبت.**

19 But in all this human weakness, Jesus is Lord and, as the good shepherd, leads His flock on a good path. Jesus is my Lord; I am free and secure, I have hope and strength and the will to change many things. Jesus is Lord - this is good news for our lives! Amen!

19. وفي النهاية، يسوع يغيّر قلب الإنسان وإرادته، فيدفعه إلى خدمة الآخرين وترك العادات السيئة والسير في طريق الخير. لذلك فصعود المسيح يعني أن يسوع هو الرب الحقيقي، وهذه بشارة مفرحة لكل إنسان.