



# The Ascension of Our Lord

Thursday, May 13, 2021



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**St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a  
Congregation in the Wisconsin  
Evangelical Lutheran Synod.**



### WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We want to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending this worship service! Especially to you who are guests and visitors, WELCOME!

We at St. Paul's Lutheran share a common belief in **Jesus** as **our Savior** from sin and as the Lord of our lives. Our faith is based on God's Word, revealed in the Bible. We want to share God's Word with as many people as possible because we know that Jesus lived, died and rose from death to save us and all people. We're happy to have the opportunity to share the saving truths of the Bible with you!

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**Worship during these times:** All pews in the sanctuary are open for seating. Face coverings are optional -- up to the individual. Bibles and hymnals have been put back in the racks for use as desired. Hand sanitizer is available in the narthex. All responses and songs are printed in your bulletin, which may be taken with you or discarded after worship. Offerings may be placed in the designated boxes in the narthex.

**Communion** is offered in worship each month on the 2nd and 4th weekends. Members who are not yet comfortable returning to worship during the pandemic may schedule a communion appointment with a pastor.

**DVDs:** DVDs of our worship services can be made per request. Please contact the office to make arrangements. In order to ensure cleanliness, you do not need to return a DVD. Please consider a small monetary donation (\$2) to cover the cost of the DVD if you request one.

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (The WELS) and was founded in 1862. We have our Lutheran elementary school (pre K-grade 8) on site and are part of a federation of churches to support our own high school, Manitowoc Lutheran High School.**



## SERVICE OF THE WORD

**Today's' Worship Focus:** *For 40 days after he rose from the dead, Jesus appeared to his disciples and spoke to them about God's kingdom before he ascended into heaven. If you had been with Jesus during his ministry and seen him after Easter, you might be disappointed, as though he were leaving you. You still might feel that way, wondering where Jesus is now and what he is doing. Luke tells us that Jesus was taken into heaven while he was blessing them. And that is what Jesus is still doing! He is preparing a place for us, ruling over all things for our good, giving gifts for building up his church, and interceding for us at God's right hand. This is all for us. Jesus ascended in blessing.*

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### WELCOME

### OPENING HYMN

*A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing | 171*

- 1 A hymn of glory let us sing! New songs throughout the world shall ring:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ, by a road before untrod, Ascends unto the throne of God.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 2 The holy apostolic band Upon the Mount of Olives stand,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
And with his followers they see Their Lord ascend in majesty.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 3 To them the shining angels cry, "Why stand and gaze upon the sky?"  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
"This is the Savior," thus they say. "This is his glorious triumph day."  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 4 "You see him now, ascending high Up to the portals of the sky."  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
"Hereafter Jesus you shall see Returning in great majesty."  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

- 5 Be now our joy on earth, O Lord, And be our future great reward.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Then, throned with you forever, we Shall praise your name eternally.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 6 O risen Christ, ascended Lord, All praise to you let earth accord.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
You are, while endless ages run, With Father and with Spirit one.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Please stand.*

### INVOCATION AND RESPONSES (from Psalm 47)

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

M: Clap your hands, all you nations;

**C: Shout to God with cries of joy.**

M: How awesome is the LORD Most High,

**C: The great King over all the earth!**

M: God reigns over the nations;

**C: God is seated on his holy throne.**

M: God has ascended amid shouts of joy,

**C: The LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: 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.

**C: 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.**

M: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. hear the word of Christ through his called servant:  
I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

## SONG OF PRAISE

*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus | 169*

- 1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:  
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation Has redeemed us by his blood."
- 2 Alleluia! Bread of heaven, Here on earth our food, our stay;  
Alleluia! Here the sinful Flee to you from day to day.  
Intercessor, Friend of sinners, Earth's Redeemer, hear our plea  
Where the songs of all the sinless Sweep across the crystal sea.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. O King of glory, on this day you ascended in triumph far above all heavens. We ask your Spirit's abiding presence here on earth, within our hearts. Empower us truly to be your disciples in this life and to be your companions at the heavenly feast for all eternity. This we ask for your love's sake.

C: Amen.

*Be seated.*

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

*Deuteronomy 33:26-29*

*You are blessed with the LORD, your Savior and Shield, who rides on the heavens to help you.*

- 26 "There is no one like the God of Jeshurun,  
who rides across the heavens to help you  
and on the clouds in his majesty.
- 27 The eternal God is your refuge,

and underneath are the everlasting arms.  
He will drive out your enemies before you,  
saying, 'Destroy them!'

28 So Israel will live in safety;  
Jacob will dwell secure  
in a land of grain and new wine,  
where the heavens drop dew.

29 Blessed are you, Israel!  
Who is like you,  
a people saved by the Lord?  
He is your shield and helper  
and your glorious sword.  
Your enemies will cower before you,  
and you will tread on their heights."

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: (responds by singing)



Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.



Let all the peo - ple praise you.

## SECOND LESSON

## *Ephesians 4:7-16*

*When Jesus ascended on high he gave gifts of called workers  
to build up his people in faith and knowledge.*

<sup>7</sup>But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

<sup>8</sup>This is why it says:

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

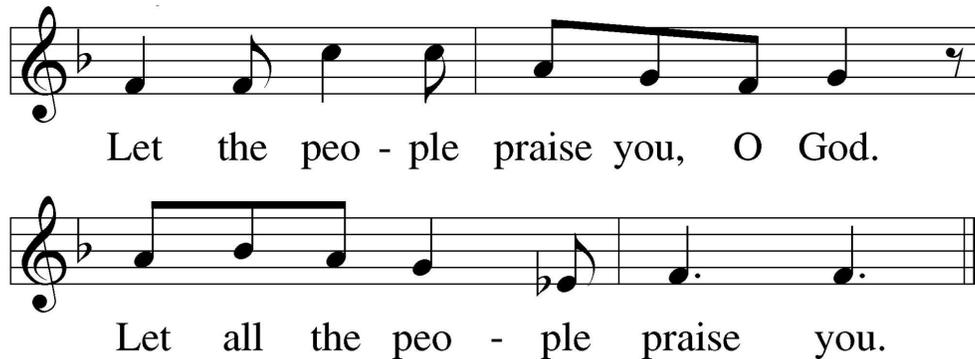
<sup>9</sup>(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? <sup>10</sup>He who descended is the very one who ascended

higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)<sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,<sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up<sup>13</sup> until 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.

<sup>14</sup> Then 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.<sup>15</sup> Instead, 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.<sup>16</sup> From 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.

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: (responds by singing)**



Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.

Let all the peo - ple praise you.

*Please stand.*

## GOSPEL LESSON

*Luke 24:44-53*

*While Jesus was lifting his hands and blessing his disciples, he was taken up into heaven.*

<sup>44</sup> He 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."

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.  
<sup>46</sup> He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,<sup>47</sup> and repentance for the forgiveness of sins

will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> I 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."

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

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (responds by singing)



Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.



Let all the peo - ple praise you.

*Be seated.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*See, the Conqueror Mounts in Triumph* | 174

**1 See, the conqu'ror mounts in triumph;  
See the King in royal state,  
Riding on the clouds, his chariot,  
To his heav'nly palace gate.  
Hark! The choirs of angel voices  
Joyful alleluias sing,  
And the portals high are lifted  
To receive their heav'nly King.**

- 2 Who is this that comes in glory  
With the trump of jubilee?  
Lord of battles, God of armies,  
He has gained the victory.  
He who on the cross did suffer,  
He who from the grave arose,  
He has vanquished sin and Satan;  
He by death has crushed his foes.
- 3 While he lifts his hands in blessing,  
He is parted from his friends;  
While their eager eyes behold him,  
He upon the clouds ascends.  
He who walked with God and pleased him,  
Preaching truth and doom to come,  
He, our Enoch, is translated  
To his everlasting home.
- 4 He has raised our human nature  
On the clouds to God's right hand;  
There we sit in heav'nly places,  
There with him in glory stand.  
Jesus reigns, adored by angels;  
Man with God is on the throne.  
By our mighty Lord's ascension  
We by faith behold our own.

SERMON

*Ephesians 4*

*Ascension Puts God's Gifts in Their Proper Place*

The ark \* The Christ \* The Christian

**OFFERINGS BROUGHT FORWARD**

*Online giving options available*

In thanks to our gracious Lord and his gift of forgiveness in Jesus, we bring to him a generous portion of all we have received from him. Offerings for the Lord's work may be placed in one of the designated



boxes in the narthex today. They may also be mailed in, dropped off in the office, or given online.

## **ANTHEM**

Sung by Small Group

## *Look Away to the Skies*

Look away to the skies, see the Savior arise and ascend to his glory above. On this festival day come exulting away. Bring a gift of devotion and love. "Hallelujah!" we sing to our heavenly King.

We give thanks for the grace that prepares us a place in that kingdom so far and bright. Lord, we wait for the day when you carry us away to dwell in a mansion of light. "Hallelujah!" we sing to our heavenly King.

Now with glorious song let our music be strong and our lives be an anthem of praise. And with jubilant noise let us sing and rejoice, shouting glory for all of our days. "Hallelujah!" we sing to our heavenly King.

Let the sky and the earth proclaim. To the Lamb that was slain, hallelujah again, and with one voice we praise his holy name. "Hallelujah!" we sing to our heavenly King of kings!

*Please stand.*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & LORD'S PRAYER**

**M:** Blessed Jesus, you ascended to the right hand of your Father's majesty, power, and glory and now reign as eternal King of kings and Lord of lords.

**C:** **We praise you for your victory over sin, death, Satan, and hell.**

**M:** O ascended Prophet, equip your Church to proclaim the precious gospel message of God's love for all the world.

**C:** **Give courage to our hearts, power to our words, and success to our efforts.**

**M:** O ascended High Priest, represent us before the Father as his own dear children and heirs. Defend us against Satan's every accusation. Ask for the Father's rich blessings in our everyday lives.

**C:** **Plead for his mercy and grace on our behalf.**

M: O ascended King, direct the affairs of governments and nations that they may serve the best interest of your Church.

**C: You are our Lord, Master, and King.**

M: As the disciples lifted their eyes to watch your ascension, so lift our eyes daily to look for your coming again in glory.

**C: Lord Jesus, come quickly.**

**C: 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.**

## **BLESSING**

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

*Be seated.*

## **CLOSING HYMN**

*Draw Us to Thee | 170*

**1 Draw us to thee, For then shall we  
Walk in thy steps forever  
And hasten on Where thou art gone  
To be with thee, dear Savior.**

**2 Draw us to thee, Lord, lovingly;  
Let us depart with gladness  
That we may be Forever free  
From sorrow, grief, and sadness.**

- 3 Draw us to thee; Oh, grant that we  
May walk the road to heaven!  
Direct our way Lest we should stray  
And from thy paths be driven.**
- 4 Draw us to thee That also we  
Thy heav'nly bliss inherit  
And ever dwell Where sin and hell  
No more can vex our spirit.**
- 5 Draw us to thee Unceasingly;  
Into thy kingdom take us.  
Let us fore'er Thy glory share;  
Thy saints and joint heirs make us.**

*SPECIAL MUSIC COPYRIGHT INFORMATION*

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*SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE:*

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