



THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
MAY 12, 2024

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4660 West 94th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

(708) 423-1040
Pastor John Moeller

www.stpauloaklawn.org
Director of Music Ruth Sievers

As We Gather

Maybe the most forgotten day of the Church Year is Ascension. Coming forty days after Easter, Ascension commemorates not only how our Lord went to the mountain top with His disciples and then disappeared into the clouds, but also the promise that He remains with them. He ascended with the glory that He earned by His life, death, and resurrection, and is present with us even now through His Word and the means of grace. Our Lord has not abandoned His people, but has gone to prepare the way for them so that they may be forever where He is, and He has promised His Spirit so that we will know the way.

Prelude

“Now Thank We All Our God”

G. Kaufmann

Opening Hymn

“Now Thank We All Our God”

#895

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Now thank we all our God
With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today. | And keep us in His grace
And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next! |
| 2 Oh, may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us | △ 3 All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore. |

Text: Public domain

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Before Jesus ascended into heaven He told His apostles, go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

C teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

P Jesus said, “Behold, I am with you always,

C to the end of the age.”

P Jesus said, “I will not leave you as orphans;

C I will come to you.”

Confession and Absolution

We pause to reflect and remember our sins before our Heavenly Father...

P Our ascended Lord is always with us, yet we question His presence, His love, and His provision for us. By our nature we are sinful from birth, and we forget that Jesus has promised to be with us always. We do not live our lives ready for His coming, and we neglect to share the Good News of Christ so that others may also know Him and be ready for His return in glory. In repentance, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Jesus Christ.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Jesus said, "It is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations." Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

Psalm for the Ascension of our Lord

Psalm 47

P Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

C For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.

P He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.

C He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom He loves.

P God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

C Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

P For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!

C God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne.

P The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.

C For the shields of the earth belong to God; He is highly exalted!

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

C as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray together.

C O ascended Lord Jesus, lift our hearts and minds to focus on Your continued presence among us. Empower us to be Your witnesses in our communities, state, nation, and throughout the world; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

First Reading

✠ The Promise of the Holy Spirit ✠

Acts 1:1-11

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." ⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

✠ The Christ candle is extinguished ✠

¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Praise

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

#821

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! Not as orphans
Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us;
Faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received Him
When the forty days were o’er,
Shall our hearts forget His promise:
“I am with you evermore”?

Text: Public domain

Epistle

✠ Thanksgiving and Prayer ✠

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far 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 one to come. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

✠ The Ascension ✠

Luke 24:44-53

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁴Then [Jesus] said to 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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” ⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple blessing God.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Confession of Faith

The Second Article

P During His time on earth, Jesus fulfilled all Scripture as God Incarnate, the Word made flesh. Forty days after His Resurrection victory over sin, death, and the devil, He ascended into heaven. Trusting in God's only Son as our Lord and Savior, we now confess our faith in our Risen and Ascended Lord with the words of the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed:

C I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

P What does this mean?

C I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Sermon Hymn

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"

#493 sts. 1-4, 6

1	A hymn of glory let us sing! New hymns throughout the world shall ring: Alleluia, alleluia! Christ, by a road before untrod, Ascends unto the throne of God. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!		Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
2	The holy apostolic band Upon the Mount of Olives stand. Alleluia, alleluia! And with His faithful foll'wers see Their Lord ascend in majesty. 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!
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!"	△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!

*Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship.
Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001400*

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offering—*may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. Offerings may also be dropped off at the office or mailed, and on-line giving is available to everyone on our website at stpauloklawn.org . For information about regular electronic giving, please call the church office.*

Offertory Meditation

A word about the Sacrament of the Altar...

We believe Jesus' own words that the bread and wine we receive in Holy Communion are indeed His true Body and Blood and not just a representation of them. We also acknowledge St. Paul's instruction to the Church at Corinth that it is harmful for anyone to receive the Sacrament without recognizing the real presence of His Body and Blood. Because of this, in Christian love we ask anyone who does not understand these truths to please refrain from receiving the Sacrament until you've spoken with the pastor. (*Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-30*)

✠ The Sacrament of the Altar ✠

Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
P It is truly good, right, and salutary...

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

✠ Distribution of the Sacrament ✠

“Beautiful Savior”

#537

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee,
Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown. | 3 Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky. |
| 2 Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing. | 4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine! |

Text: Public domain

“O Christ, Our Hope, Our Hearts' Desire”

#553

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' desire,
Creation's mighty Lord,
Redeemer of the fallen world,
By holy love outpoured: | 4 O let Your mighty love prevail
To purge us of our pride
That we may stand before Your throne
By mercy purified. |
| 2 How vast Your mercy to accept
The burden of our sin
And bow Your head in cruel death
To make us clean within. | 5 Christ Jesus, be our present joy,
Our future great reward;
Our only glory, may it be
To glory in the Lord! |
| 3 But now the bonds of death are burst,
The ransom has been paid;
You now ascend the Father's throne
In robes of light arrayed. | △ 6 All praise to You, ascended Lord;
All glory ever be
To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
Through all eternity! |

Text: Public domain

“On Christ's Ascension I Now Build”

#492

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 On Christ's ascension I now build
The hope of my ascension;
This hope alone has always stilled
All doubt and apprehension;
For where the Head is, there as well
I know His members are to dwell
When Christ will come and call them. | 2 Since Christ returned to claim His throne,
Great gifts for me obtaining,
My heart will rest in Him alone,
No other rest remaining;
For where my treasure went before,
There all my thoughts will ever soar
To still their deepest yearning. |
|--|---|

3 O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me,
Recalling Your ascension,
That I may serve You faithfully
In thanks for my redemption;

And then, when all my days will cease,
Let me depart in joy and peace
In answer to my pleading.

*Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by
permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001400*

Communion Blessing

P The true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

Closing Prayer

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

P With the strength He has provided through His life-giving Spirit, in His love and forgiveness, and as His witnesses from here and to the ends of the earth, go in peace as you serve our risen and ascended Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

Closing Hymn

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

#525

1 Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav’nly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king
Through all eternity.

Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die.

4 Crown Him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o’er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,

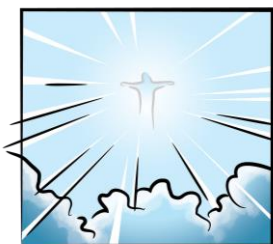
5 Crown Him the Lord of heav’n,
Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv’n
The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns
As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,
For He is king of all.

Text: Public domain

Postlude

“Postlude in D Major”

J. Dandrieu





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANKS

Organist: Ruth Sievers

Vocalist: Bill Leise

Lector: Ruth Diver

Altar Care: Ruth Diver

Elders on Duty: Bill Leise, David Witkowski, John Lilja. **Wednesday:** David Witkosky

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2. Copyright © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.



Announcements & Notes

The next Voters' Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21st at 7pm.

ALL St. Paul women are invited to attend the POTLUCK SUPPER and evening meeting of the Ladies Guild on Tuesday, May 28, at 6 pm in the Timothy Room. **There is a signup sheet outside the church office. Please sign up for attendance and to let us know what food dish you'll bring to share.** The meeting will honor both Pastor and Martha Moeller, who will be retiring in July.

The Timothy Room will be a busy place for the next couple of weeks, thanks to the Postal Worker's annual food drive, which helps many, including our St. Paul food pantry and those they serve. Please contact Debbie or Mike Will if you can help with sorting, marking, and shelving some items they received over the next couple of weeks.

Because the Timothy Room is tied up, Sunday and Friday Bible classes will be in the 6th grade room until things are back to normal. Friday Evening Bible Study is watching and discussing season 4 of "The Chosen!" Sunday morning Adult Bible Study continues with "How We Got the Bible." Please join us!

The Southwest Lutheran Chorus will present their spring concert here at St. Paul on Sunday, June 2, at 3:00 pm. With a new director starting this fall, this will be the final concert directed by Ruth Sievers.

The 50th Reunion of the Luther South High School Class of 1974 will be held on June 9, 2024, from 4 to 8 pm at Gulliver's Pizza and Pub at 17W517 Roosevelt Rd. in Oak Brook Terrace. More information is available on Luther South's Facebook page or call Nancy (Stanek) Born at 708-277-3101.

Remembering our homebound friends is a caring ministry of St. Paul meant to help us stay in touch with our members who aren't able to be with us for worship. Please remember them in your prayers. You may also like to send a note or a card. This week our homebound friend is Ken Grining, 1130 N. Westfield Street, Oshkosh, WI 54902.

**Please pray for these
members of our St.
Paul family**

Sandy Barry
Jennifer Garcia
June Hagberg
Dave Purdy
Judy Anderson
Carl Hoppe
Amanda Greene
Janice Janiszewski
Dorothy Pavella
Vic & Marty Both
George Oberg
Rich & Jan Przybycien
Bill Volk
Arthur Gerth
Ingrid Lesko
Jan Briede
Roy Hodgeman
Katherine Hice
Kurt Seehofer
Flora Jones
Graham Jackson
Kevin Hickey
Gloria Meyer
Elaine Lebron
Melva Smith
Delores Stegemann
Carol Small
Mike Degidio
Norma Silinski
Beverly Sellers
Betty Beegle
Warren Miller
Delphine Cherry
Ron Klingensmith
Louis Frank

Betty Kruckow
Herta Iversen
Loretta Frank.
Barbara Prendergast
Nancy Bundley
Rosa Richardson
Sarah Weber

**Please pray for these
friends and family of
our members:**

Roberta & Carlos Owens
Dorothy Kroll
Emily Feehan
LeRoy Bitner
Georgiana Easton
Jackie Plichta
Patricia Paulsen
Ken Kruckow
Janet Trierweiler
Vicki Warren
Rhonda Scott
Michelle Mitchell
Al Silinski
Pam Palhegyi
Carol Milazzo
Rich Huscher
The Lamberth Family
Jerry Gross
Louise Hrynkow
Gloria Folsom
Mary Beth Pasqua
Shirley Fairchild
Simeon Hoppe
Ron Lunt
Christopher Kosary
Sandy Plath
Iris McCoy

Shirley Demyres
Raquel Rameriz
Nick & Bridget DeAngelo
Henry Bonder
Kim & Shawn Skelton, Sr.
Kyle Hughes
Elaine Hoffstetter
Fred Raddatz
Allyson Seehofer
Selma Carmichael
Bernadette & Rich Trusk
Dana Kahn
Donald Hakanson
Guillermo Ramirez
Paul Noffke
Vern Howe
Shawn Harland
Ann Herold
Barb Potter
Wayne Volk
Lance Barrientos
Linda Shuman
Doris Potts
Doreen Holford
Judy Collins
Luke Pajowski
Phyllis Hicks
Jimmy Kennedy, Jr.
Cathy Becker
Ken Matz
Jean & Al Zirbel
Carol Loecherbach
Charley Heitz
Sophia Salus
Justin & Ashley Fasel
Frank Coglinase
Gene Wawrzynikowski
Kimberly Rooney

Evelyn & Ron Konieski
Audrey Metes
Richard DeSaga
Ken Wentz
Margaret Lundgreen
Julie King
Sharon Bryant
Anika Seger
Monica Kato
Herb Kleeman
Debra Kleeman
Sarah Skelton
Barbara Apt
Bob & Gloria Freeman
Carrie Aspan
Lisa Anglin
Devon Apt
Tristan Ferry
Hillary Pittelko
Sue Berg
Carol Jean & Tim McPhillips
Evelyn & Ron Konieczki
Katherine Zeleny
Elmo Schultz
Jose Urena
Mike Feyerer
Edward Cyga
Jessica Nigrelli
Elaine & Paul Horan
Ted Gross
Avery Kenny
Ray Jackson
The DeAngelis Family
Lauren Rossetti
George Dodaro, Sr.
Daniel Musser
Rudy DeAngelis
David Frazone

We pray for those who grieve

For Linda, Alan, and Gary Bruhn on the death of their mother, Jean Bruhn, on Tuesday, May 7. A private graveside service will be held at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.

We give thanks to God for the blessings of our Mothers

Please let the church office know when your need for our congregational prayers is over.

(708) 423-1040