



THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
MAY 29, 2022

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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As We Gather

Where is the hope? We live in a world where people are hungering for hope amid climate disasters, viruses, and failures of institutions and trusted leaders. There is a void in the marketplace for hope, which many try to fill with the latest fad, a get-rich-quick scheme, or by trusting in human institutions run by fallen humanity. Ascension gives us real hope. It reminds us that God loves us so much He sent His one and only Son to redeem us through His crucifixion and resurrection. Following the resurrection, Jesus walked the earth for forty days before ascending to heaven while promising us that He is with us always—in His Word, His Sacraments, and among His people. That is our eternal, certain hope!

Prelude

“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”

J. Bender

Opening Hymn

“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”

#493

- | | |
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| <p>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!</p> <p>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!</p> | <p>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!</p> <p>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!</p> |
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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 doubt 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 Ascension

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. 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.

Anthem of Praise Solo

“Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise”

#680

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

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 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.

The Apostles' Creed

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. I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Sermon Hymn

“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”?
- 3 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,
- 4 Alleluia! King eternal,
Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! Born of Mary,
Earth Your footstool, heav’n Your throne.
As within the veil You entered,
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest,
Here on earth both priest and victim
In the eucharistic feast.
- 5 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.”

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt.

Text: Public domain

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offering—*may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. Those worshipping at home may continue to mail or drop off offerings at the church office, and on-line giving is available to everyone on our website at www.stpauloaklawn.org. For information about regular electronic giving, please contact the church office.*

Offertory Meditation

✠ SERVICE of the SACRAMENT ✠

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.**

Proper Preface

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

- C** **Our Father who art in heaven...**

Pax Domini

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

✠ DISTRIBUTION of the SACRAMENT ✠

Hymn

"Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared"

#622 sts. 1-2 & 4

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared
This feast for our salvation;
It is Your body and Your blood,
And at Your invitation
As weary souls, with sin oppressed,
We come to You for needed rest,
For comfort, and for pardon.
- 2 Although You did to heav'n ascend,
Where angel hosts are dwelling,
And in Your presence they behold
Your glory, all excelling,
And though Your people shall not see

Your glory and Your majesty
Till dawns the judgment morning,

- 4 We eat this bread and drink this cup,
Your precious Word believing
That Your true body and Your blood
Our lips are here receiving.
This Word remains forever true;
All things are possible with You,
For You are Lord Almighty.

*Text: Samuel Kinner, 1603–68; tr. Emanuel Cronenwett,
1841–1931, alt.*

Text: Public domain

Hymn**“Crown Him with Many Crowns”**

#525

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>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.</p> <p>2 Crown Him the virgin's Son,
The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won
Which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic rose,
Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows,
The babe of Bethlehem.</p> | <p>3 Crown Him the Lord of love.
Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes
At mysteries so bright.</p> <p>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,
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die.</p> |
|---|---|

*Text (sts. 1–3): Matthew Bridges, 1800–94, alt.; (st. 4):
Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903
Text: Public domain*

Communion Blessing

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

Closing Prayer

- P** Let us pray. O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh to be our Savior, we thank You for the pardon and peace we receive in this sacred Meal, which points us toward our glorious inheritance with all the saints. Give us Your spirit of wisdom and keep us firm in the hope that Jesus will return in the same way that His disciples saw Him go into heaven; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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.

Closing Hymn**“Beautiful Savior”**

#537

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee,</p> | <p>Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.</p> |
|--|--|

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.

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.

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: Münsterisch Gesangbuch, 1677,
Münster; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
Text: Public domain*

Postlude

“Beautiful Savior”

T. Stelzer

Steward Notes...

Acts 1:11 – “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.” Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ is ascended, and Christ will come again. We live our lives in this world in the sure confidence of the world to come. We live as people who know our Lord Jesus and who know that He is coming back. This makes all the difference in how we approach our stewardship and how we prioritize our lives.

Announcements & Notes:

Luther South Alumni and Friends: *Our friends at Walther Christian Academy, (formerly Walther High School) have provided a space on their campus for a collection of Luther South Memorabilia to be permanently displayed. All of the alumni and friends of Luther South are invited to its dedication on June 11th at 2:00 PM. Please spread the word and come if you can. See you there!*



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS

Vocalist: Sue Marcinkowski

Lector: Bill Leise

Altar Care: Sue Lilja

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

Betty Kruckow	Cathy Gleason
Dawn McNicholas	Janet Varnagis
Janice Przybycien	Kevin Hickey
Mary Ann Colander	Art Hornburg
Melva Smith	Roy Hodgeman
Carol Small	Mike Degidio
Norma Silinski	Beverly Sellers
Lenore Curran	Betty Beegle
Delphine Cherry	Ron Klingensmith
Louis Frank	Deb Skopec
Herta Iversen	Loretta Frank
The Giacobbe Children	Marge Rochlitz
Ron Hickey	Julie & Larry Gurga
Ingrid Lesko	Katherine Hice
Gloria Meyer	Jan Briede
Delores Stegemann	Connie Braun
Kurt Seehofer	The Polezoes Family
Lincoln & Parker Alex	Patricia Murdoch
Gloria Crook	Lois Kaminske
Warren Miller	Denise Murray

We pray for all the family and friends of Kaitlyn Richardson, the fiancé of John & Sue's nephew and friend of the family, called unexpectedly from this life. Services have been held.

We pray also for the family and loved ones of Laverne Abraham, called from this life on Friday, May 27. Visitation will be Wednesday, June 8 at Kosary Funeral Home, service Thursday, June 9, also at Kosary.

We pray for the families and loved ones of all who have lost their lives to the unnecessary violence on our nation's streets and even in our schools as we witnessed again this week...

We ask for God's wisdom to reign in the hearts of our nation's leaders and all citizens, to bring an end to the needless divisions that have formed among us.

We also ask God to bring an end to the devastation of the nation of Ukraine, that peace would reign in the hearts of all.

We pray for Linda Kosary as she celebrates her birthday and for all celebrating birthdays and anniversaries and other times of joy.

On this Memorial Day weekend, we give thanks to God for His blessings to our nation through those who have given so much of themselves in her defense

Please pray for these friends and family of our members:

Andrew Mrochen	Vern Howe
Eugene Marcinkowski	Roberta & Carlos Owens
Denise DeLaurentis	Dorothy Kroll
Eric Kessler	Barb & Emily Feehan
Bob Hessert	Georgiana Easton
Jackie Plichta	Patricia Paulsen
Ken Kruckow	Janet Trierweiler
Alan Hecke	Kim Lamberth
Matt Favero	Sandra Wilson
Michelle Mitchell	Al Silinski
Pam Palhegyi	Carol Milazzo
Rich Huscher	The Lamberth Family
Jerry Gross	Brenda Gurgel
Gloria Folsom	Autumn Kessler
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	Sue Sortino
Pam Brown	Lisa Sanders
Shawn Harland	Ann Herold
Barb Potter	Wayne Volk
Charley Heitz	Sharon Bryant
Doris Potts	Brad Benfield
Doreen Holford	Janice Hernandez
Judy Collins	Phyllis Hicks
Maryann Krieg (Wilke)	Jenny Bond
Jimmy Kennedy, Jr.	Monica Iversen
Cathy Becker	Ken Matz
Jean & Al Zirbel	Heather & Josh Turro
Mary Ann Rafidi	Pastor Mark Willig
Joe Thomas	Patrick Pasqua Sr.
Debbie Guarascio	Sophia Salus
Justin & Ashley Fasel	Frank Coglinase
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Kimberly Rooney	Rhonda Scott
Robert Gonzalez	Theresa Kosteci
Pam Kirk	Vicki Warren
Paul Moeller	