



**THE FESTIVAL OF
THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD**

MAY 13, 2021 AT 6:30PM

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1010 Adams Ave. North Fond du Lac WI
www.stpaulslutherannfdl.com
920-922-1080

*Summer Worship Schedule Begins This Week.
Thursday & Saturday at 6:30pm and Sunday at 9:00am*

The Festival of the Ascension of Our Lord

OPENING HYMN

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing! #171

The Venerable Bede, 673-735, abr.

arranged: Joey Loescher

A hymn of glory let us sing! New songs throughout the world shall sing.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ, by a road before untrod, Ascends unto the throne of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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!

Junior Choir

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!

"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!

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!

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!

Instrumentalists: Becky Miller, piano; Bevyn Haase, alto saxophone; Jack Paolasini alto saxophone; Samantha Miller, tenor saxophone

OPENING SENTENCES FOR ASCENSION

M: Alleluia! Christ is arisen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

M: God has ascended amid shouts of joy!

Psalm 47:5

C: Let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

Psalm 95:1-2

M: Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Acts 1:11

C: We believe and are sure that he is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

John 6:69

M: God raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church.

Ephesians 1:20

C: At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:10

M: Since you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Colossians 3:1

C: Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

Philippians 3:20

M: When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Colossians 3:4

C: Never again will we hunger; never again will we thirst. The sun will not beat upon us, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be our shepherd; he will lead us to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from our eyes.

Revelation 7:16-17

CONFESSION & 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 is risen and ascended. 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day you ascended far above the heavens and at God's right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that at your command and by your power we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.** (*spoken*)

LESSON

Acts 1:1-11

¹ In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." ⁶ So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,

and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

ANTHEM

"Bonse Aba"

text and tune: traditional African spiritual
arranged: Joey Loescher

English translation: *"All people who receive his authority are his children, are children in the power of God."* John 1:12

Instrumentalists: Becky Miller, piano; Cooper Ahrens, cajon; Macy Christensen, shakere

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 1:16-23

¹⁶I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.¹⁸ I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength,²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 28:20b

Using the tune of A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing (171)

Christ is a-ris-en, let us sing! Indeed He's risen! Let it ring!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sure-ly I'll be with you al-ways, Even unto the end of days

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Allelu - - ia!

Stand

⁴⁴ 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.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ 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.” ⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

HYMN OF THE DAY**Alleluia! Sing to Jesus #169**

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, abr., alt.

Organist Trevor Kuphal accompanied by Josh Hinz on trumpet

- 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.*
- 3 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”?*

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.*please be seated*

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

The offering, collected in the baskets in the back of the church is brought forward and presented at the altar of God while the **congregation stands and sings our offering hymn**. Should you still wish to give, anything you place in the baskets on your way out will also be collected. *On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made (1 Cor. 16:2).*

OFFERING HYMN

tune of #175 Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise

*As we watch our Lord ascend, In our thanks our lives will spend.
Use our treasures, talents, time As You do Your work divine.
May Your Means of Grace then Lord Be by us al - ways adored
And in them may we see You Loving, guarding, keeping true.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Confident of our Lord's return, let us approach our Father's throne of mercy on behalf of the Church and of all people.

Gracious Lord God, amid shouts of joy we celebrate your Son's ascension into heaven where he is now seated in majesty at your right hand. Grant your Church steadfastness in these gray and latter days that she may hold to the truth and boldly confess the saving name of Jesus.

C: As the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh seek to silence our witness to the truth, grant us courage to believe in our hearts and confess with our lips that Jesus is Lord.

M: Even as your beloved Son intercedes on behalf of his Church, so has he commanded us, his kingdom of priests, to pray for others.

C: Hear us, O Lord, as we implore you to show mercy to those in need:

M: to the sick, the lonely, and the depressed grant relief;

to the dying and those who mourn bring comfort;

to the hungry, the homeless, and the unemployed send your help;

to the elderly, give joy for living life to the full;

to the young send patience to wait for the fuller life to come;

to the married and the single, as the raise families and work within our societies, grant wisdom and strength.

C: Pour out your blessings to all who depend on your power and grace.

M: Almighty Father, you are the good Giver of all that we have. In your mercy continue to grant us daily bread, supplying us with what we need before we even ask.

C: Teach us to be thankful and content, whether we have plenty or are in need.

M: O Lord, heavenly Father, we here remember the sufferings and death of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Praising his victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from his ascension before you, where he ever stands for us as our own high priest. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in his kingdom, which has no end.

C: Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer followed by any special prayers.

M: To you alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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. *Be seated*

HYMN

Crown Him with Many Crowns #341

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-94, st. 1-2, 4, abr., alt.;
Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 3.

- 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.*
- 2 Crown him the Lord of love-Behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his wond'ring eye At mysteries so bright.*
- 3 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.*
- 4 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.*

CLOSING PRAYER

P: Almighty God, by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you turn us from the old life of sin and set our minds on things above. Grant that we who are reborn to new life in him may live in righteousness and holiness all our days, proclaiming his love to those who do not know him by faith, and longing for him to reappear in glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen. (*spoken*)

BLESSING

P: 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.

CLOSING HYMN

On Christ's Ascension I Now Build #173

Text: Josua Wegelin, 1604-40;

tr. William M. Czamanske, 1873-1964, alt.

Organist Trevor Kuphal accompanied by Josh Hinz on trumpet

- 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 shall come and call them.*
- 2 *Since Christ returned to claim his throne,
Great gifts for me obtaining,
My heart shall rest in him alone, No other rest remaining,
For where my treasure went before,
There all my thoughts shall ever soar
To still their deepest yearning.*
- 3 *Oh, grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Recalling your ascension,
That I may serve you faithfully, Adorning your redemption;
And then, when all my days will cease,
Let me depart in joy and peace
In answer to my pleading.*

A Note Concerning the Use of the Paschal Candle

The Paschal Candle is the large candle located by the lectern in our chancel. The Paschal Candle is lighted every Easter morning to symbolize that Christ is alive and lives among His people. It is then lighted for every service during the 40-day period that follows Easter as we celebrate the resurrection. By doing so we remember the reality that "*if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins*" (1 Corinthians 15:17) and we rejoice to know that "*Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep!*" (1 Corinthians 15:20).

At the Festival of the Ascension, the Paschal Candle is extinguished after the reading of the account of Ascension to symbolize that Jesus did not remain with His Church in bodily form but returned to His heavenly Father's right hand in glory. The extinguishing of the Paschal Candle does NOT imply that Jesus is no longer present among us, for He promised, "*Where two or three come together in my name, there am I among them*" (Matt. 18:20). Wherever His Word and Sacraments are, there Jesus is truly present. The extinguished Paschal candle helps us remember that Jesus has appointed us to "*go and make disciples of all nations*" (Matthew 28:20).

