



St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church
Ascension Sunday
May 17, 2026

Pastor: David Reim - 549-5250

Organist: Julie Reim

Usher: Willy and Roman Frank

Preparation for Worship: Psalm 8 – pg. 124

Opening Prayer: Most merciful God, we come into your presence to praise and glorify you as we celebrate our Saviour's

ascension into heaven. May you send your Holy Spirit to fill us with joy and peace in knowing that Jesus our Saviour has accomplished all for our salvation and that now He rules over all for His Church. May Your Spirit also empower us to serve You all our days in genuine love and faith. Let Your Word be a light for our path that neither the pleasures nor the honours nor the pains of this life may turn away our hearts from You. Direct us by Your Spirit that we may daily grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Savior until He comes again and we shall stand before Him in the joy of everlasting glory; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Invocation:

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



C: A - men.

Opening Hymn: 221:1-4 Hark! Ten Thousand Harps and Voices

1. Hark! ten thousand harps and voices
Sound the note of praise above;
Jesus reigns, and heaven rejoices,--

Jesus reigns, the God of Love.
See, He sits on yonder throne;
Jesus rules the world alone.

2. Come, ye saints, unite your praises
With the angels round His throne;
Soon, we hope, our God will raise us
To the place where He is gone.
Meet it is that we should sing,
"Glory, glory, to our King!"

3. Sing how Jesus came from heaven,
How He bore the cross below,
How all power to Him is given,
How He reigns in glory now;
'Tis a great and endless theme,
Oh, 'tis sweet to sing of Him!

4. Jesus, hail! Thy glory brightens
All above and gives it worth;
Lord of Life, Thy smile enlightens,
Cheers, and charms Thy saints on earth.
When we think of love like Thine,
Lord, we own it love divine.

OPENING RESPONSES:

Pastor: "God has gone up with a shout,

Cong: the Lord with the sound of a trumpet." (Psalm 47:5)

Pastor: "Go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" (John 20:17)

Cong: "I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father." (John 16:28)

Pastor: "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,

Cong: and he gave gifts to men." (Ephesians 4:8)

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: One of His greatest gifts is the complete forgiveness of sins, therefore let us confess our sins to our gracious God.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Rejoice, dear repentant sinners! Jesus' ascension into heaven and sitting down at the Father's right hand proves that His redemptive work is finished. God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.



Pastor: “I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

Cong: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”
(Rev 5:11-12)

Pastor: Let us join that great multitude in singing praise to the Lamb who was slain for us and now rules over all.

Liturgical Hymn: "This is the Feast" WS 799

Refrain

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 3*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

P Let us pray: Almighty God, our Merciful Lord, Grant that just as our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven, so may we ascend in heart and

mind and continually dwell with Him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Scripture Reading: Acts 1:1-11

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, 3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. 4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 "for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." 9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

Responsive Reading from Psalm 47

P Clap your hands, all peoples!

C: Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

P: For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared,

C: a great king over all the earth.

P: He subdued peoples under us,

C: and nations under our feet.

P: He chose our heritage for us,

C: the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

P: God has gone up with a shout,

C: the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

P: Sing praises to God, sing praises!

C: Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

P: For God is the King of all the earth;

C: sing praises with a psalm!

P: God reigns over the nations;

C: God sits on his holy throne.

P: The princes of the peoples gather

C: as the people of the God of Abraham.

P: For the shields of the earth belong to God;

C: he is highly exalted!

Epistle Reading Ephesians 1:16-23

16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,
17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having 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, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked 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 one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

P: Blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it.

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Confession of Faith: The 2nd Article of the Apostolic Creed

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.

Luther's Explanation:

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..

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.

He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His Kingdom and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.

This is most certainly true!

Hymn: 738 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

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 every 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 angels
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,
Never shall we lose His promise:
"I am with you evermore!"

Sermon Text: Luke 24:44-53

*"44 He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to 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 to understand the Scriptures. 46 He said to them, "This is what is written and so it must be: 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 from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 Look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

50 He led them out as far as the vicinity of Bethany. He lifted up his hands and blessed them. 51 And while he was blessing them, he parted from them and was taken up into heaven. 52 So they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. 53 They were continually in the temple courts, praising and blessing God. Amen.” EHV

Theme:

Keep the Image of Jesus' Ascension in Your Heart Forever.

1. See His Hands Raised in Blessing.
2. See Him Rising to His Throne Above.
3. See His Word Confirmed Forever.

Response to the Word:

P: If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Cong: When Christ who is [our] life appears, then [we] also will appear with him in glory. (Colossians 3:1-4)

Hymn: 213. Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise

1 Hail the day that sees him rise,
to his throne beyond the skies.
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given,
Reascends His native heaven.

2 There the glorious triumph waits;
lift your heads, eternal gates.
He has conquered death and sin;
take the King of glory in.

3 See, the heaven its Lord receives;
yet he loves the earth he leaves.
Though returning to his throne,
still he calls mankind his own.

4 See, He lifts His hands above;
See, He shows the prints of love.
Hark! His gracious lips bestow
Blessings on His Church below.

5 Still for us he intercedes;
his prevailing death he pleads,
Near himself prepares our place,
Harbinger of human race.

6 There we shall with you remain,
Partners of your endless reign,
There Your face unclouded see,
Find our heaven of heavens in Thee.

Offering of Thankful Hearts:

Sing - while offering is brought forward Hymn 788 st. 1&3
Lord, You love the cheerful giver Who with open heart and hand
 Blesses freely, as a river that refreshes all the land.
Grant us, then, the grace of giving with a spirit large and true
 That our life and all our living we may consecrate to You.

Blessed by You with gifts and graces, may we heed Your Spirit's call
 Gladly in all times and places Give to You who gives us all.
You have bought us; now no longer can we claim to be our own;
 Ever free and ever stronger We shall serve You, Lord, alone.

Prayers of the Church:

The 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.

P: The peace of God which surpasses all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

OFFERTORY



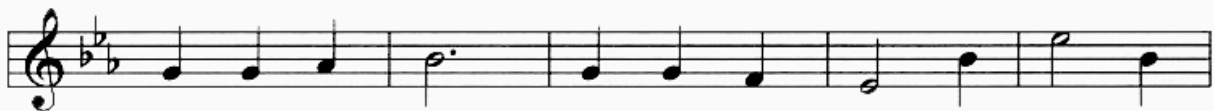
C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me



not a - way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly



Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of



Your sal - va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

Benediction:

P Receive the blessing our Lord gave to Moses and Aaron to place upon the people.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



Closing Hymn: 221:5-6 Hark! Ten Thousand Harps and Voices

5. King of Glory, reign forever;

Thine an everlasting crown.

Nothing from Thy love shall sever

Those whom Thou hast made Thine own,

Happy objects of Thy grace,

Destined to behold Thy face.

6. Savior, hasten Thine appearing;

Bring, oh, bring, the glorious day

When, the awe-full summons hearing,

Heaven and earth shall pass away;

Then with golden harps we'll sing,

"Glory, glory, to our King!"



Scripture Treasure to Remember:

Ephesians 4:8

*“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men.”*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today - Bible Study after the service, on the book of Jude.

Wednesday - Skype Bible Study at 9:30.

Midweek Bible Study at Orchard Valley at 2:00

Friday - Shut-in visit with George at 1:30

Catechism Class at 4:00 pm.

Next Sunday - Pentecost Service at 10:00 am.

Fellowship Dinner after the service.

Pentecost Celebration

Pentecost is the Third Great Festival of the Church Year. We celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit who brings all of God's blessings to us by faith. Invite your friends and acquaintances to come and see what blessings God has prepared for us.

We will have a dinner after the service. Check the list to see what you could bring for the dinner.

CLC Convention

The CLC Convention is scheduled for June 25 - 28th. We will be reviewing the prospectus for the convention on Sunday May 31st during our Bible study time.

CLC CALL NEWS

Pastor Chad Seybt serving the quad parish in Fairchild, Onalaska, Melrose, and Millston, WI, has received the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church in Appleton, WI. **Pastor Chad Seybt** has also received the call to St. Luke's in Lemmon, SD.

Ms. Riley Naumann an ILC Education Graduate, has accepted the call to teach grades 3-4 at Messiah School in Eau Claire, WI.

Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity in West Columbia, SC, has received the call to Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, WI.

Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has received the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran in Madison Heights, MI.

World Mission Prayers

Myanmar (South Asia) – Pastor Kham is asking for urgent prayers for one of the orphan girls he and his wife care for with the help of Kinship sponsors. Last week Khawlvung was taken to the hospital for severe abdominal pain. Emergency surgery in Kalaymyo was performed to remove a large ovarian cyst. A week later pathology reports found advanced cancer. Because of the on-going civil war, all advanced hospitals in the rural areas of Myanmar are either non-functioning or not accepting patients. The only place for treatment is in Yangon on the other side of the country. Again, because of the war, cross-country travel by bus is impossible. Fortunately, the medical team in Kalay was able to help them secure an emergency flight on May 23. Please pray for Khawlvung and for those who are and will be caring for her. Pray that the Lord will bless the treatments and rid her body of the cancer that she may live to serve Him and others! ... There is also some good news to report from our brothers and sisters of the CLC-Myanmar (CLCM). Pastor Kham decided to make an emergency visit to Chin State to testify on behalf of a CLCM evangelist who was arrested and falsely accused of spying for a rebel militia when in fact he was simply visiting members in area villages to bring them God's word. Praise and thank the Lord that Pastor Kham's testimony was heard and the evangelist was released! Pastor Kham decided to spend a couple of weeks in this dangerous war zone visiting several CLCM village congregations. During the visit he conducted several baptisms and held worship services. Thank the Lord for His blessings and protection for Pastor Kham and his team as they traveled through some of the worst war-torn areas of Myanmar to bring the Good News of Jesus to those who are suffering, and for the gift of Baptism through which many received the "washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit." ... And ask our Savior to gift comfort, strength, courage, hope and fervent faith during the difficult and desperate times they are facing.

India (Sout Asia) – Both the CLCI and the BELC have recently conducted VBS. Thousands of children heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ through these events that are supported by the MDF offerings of God's people. The CLCI seminary graduation is scheduled for June 15th. Seventeen men will graduate

from the program and be ordained as CLCI pastors. Some will continue to serve their current congregations; others will be assigned to new congregations that have been started through their evangelism efforts while studying in the seminary. ... Ask the Lord for His continued blessings on the graduates and those they are called to serve and to provide all that is necessary for them to carry out the work He has called them to.

Nigeria (West Africa) – President Wilke, his wife Gloria, and CLC Board of Missions Chairman, Mr. Joel Krafft, joined Missionary Ohlmann on a visit to Nigeria at the end of April to help the NCLC celebrate their 50th Anniversary. Their visit was blessed by the Lord in many ways and appreciated by our brothers and sisters in Christ in Nigeria. ... Thank the Lord for safe travels and for God's grace, mercy, blessings, and love bestowed upon the NCLC for the past 50 years!

Democratic Republic of the Congo (Central Africa) – Missionaries Peter Evensen and Todd Ohlmann recently concluded a visit to our brothers and sisters in Christ in Kinshasa and the Lubumbashi areas of the DRC. They had the privilege of conducting Bible Training Seminars in both locations. They were also present for the graduation and ordination of three seminary graduates of the CCL-Congo in Lubumbashi. Two of them will serve a newly established and growing congregation on the outskirts of Lubumbashi. The congregation in Kinshasa has had to move locations a few times over the past few years since losing their worship facility. ... Pray that the Lord will provide the resources to purchase land and build a permanent church. Clashes between the militia and DRC military in the area has caused security concerns. Pray for peace and stability so that the training of men for the ministry may resume at the seminary. Thank the Lord for providing three new faithful preachers and teachers of God's saving word and ask Him to bless them and those they are called to serve.