

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



THE RISEN AND ASCENDED SAVIOR
GIVES US POWER
Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. We are happy you are here. If you have any questions, just ask an usher or other volunteer. We would love to see just what kind of impact our worship services are making. Please fill out our Connect Card to let us know how we might continue to serve you.

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY



The Ascension of Jesus is often something that we might forget about even though we confess it every week in our creeds. What does it mean that Jesus ascended into heaven? What's the big deal? Couldn't he do all the same things by staying on this earth for thousands of years? Perhaps. But he didn't. It's significant that Jesus has gone to his rightful place of glory. Because, in doing so, he's given us the opportunity to trust him and he's promised that he will come back. Let us rejoice in our ascended Lord!

The liturgical color¹ for this Sunday is white, symbolizing the glory into which Jesus ascended and the glory that is ours through him.

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"Across the Lands You're the Word of God." Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend. Arranged by Brad Nix. © 2014 Thankyou Music - Shawnee Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission: CCLI#145043

¹ The liturgical color is found on the pastor's stole, the altar, and the pulpit.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Service of the Word draws the believer's attention to the proclamation of the Gospel in the Word of God.

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

*Crown Him with Many Crowns | CW 341
Verse 1-All; 2-Men; 3-Women; 4-All*

Please stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister (M): The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

This beginning exchange proclaims that we are worshipping the Triune God that Scripture clearly teaches.

Congregation (C): And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: 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 the strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C:

Shout to the Lord

4

My Je - sus my Sav - ior Lord, there is none like You;

8

— All of my days — I want to praise — the won - ders of Your might - y love.

13

My Com - fort, my Shel - ter, Tow - er of ref - uge and strength,

16

— Let ev - 'ry breath, all that I am, — nev - er cease to wor - ship You.

21

Shout to the Lord all the earth, — let us sing Pow - er and maj - es - ty praise — to the King!

25

Moun - tains bow down and the seas — will roar at the sound — of Your name. —

29

I sing for joy at the work — of Your hands, For - ev - er I'll love You, for ev - er I'll stand;

33

Noth - ing com - pares to the prom - ise I have in You!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

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.**

Be seated.

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Acts 1:1-11

We are the Lord's powerful witnesses.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM OF THE DAY

*Psalm 47 | The People's Psalter
All sing the refrain. Choir sings verses.*

All:

Refrain

Clap your hands, O faith - ful peo - ple!

Shout to God a song of praise!

Choir: Clap your hands, O faithful people! Shout to God a song of praise!

From the dust of conquered nations, God a realm of grace shall raise.

To God's name forever faithful, may we prosper all our days.

All: 🎵 Clap your hands, O faithful people! Shout to God a song of praise. 🎵

Choir: With a shout, and blast of trumpets, God shall mount a throne on high;
Let our praise, as finest incense, Rise to meet God in the sky.
Fill the world with glad rejoicing, Heav'n shall sing, and earth reply.

All: 🎵 Clap your hands, O faithful people! Shout to God a song of praise. 🎵

Choir: Let your hearts be filled with gladness, As the Lord your life shall bless;
Live as heirs of God's great justice, Wear the cloak of righteousness.
God will grant us earth's dominion, All things good, and nothing less.

All: 🎵 Clap your hands, O faithful people! Shout to God a song of praise. 🎵

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 4:7-16

The power of the ascended Lord works through many people in many ways.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

CHURCH CHOIR

An Ascension Hymn

Please stand.

GOSPEL

Before Jesus ascended, he gave power to the Church.

After the reading, the announcement is made:

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Luke 24:44-53

Luke wrote both Luke and Acts, so the end of Luke and the beginning of Acts overlap just a little bit. Yet, it's still interesting to hear the different details that are included in each.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The children are invited to come forward for a special message, or they may remain in the pews.

HYMN

*A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing | CW 171
Verse 1-Song Leaders; 4-All; 5-Pastors; 6-All*

Please stand.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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.

Be seated

THANK OFFERING

St. Paul's members offer their first and their best to their Savior in order to support the sharing of the Gospel through our church and our worldwide church body, the WELS. Our guests do not need to feel obligated to participate.

If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.



WELS CONNECTION VIDEO

Return to Worship

Please stand.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord Jesus, great champion of our salvation, we praise you for ascending to heaven after your stunning victory over sin, Satan, and the grave. We praise you for completing your Father's rescue plan and for receiving from him all authority in heaven and on earth.

C: Assure us each day that because you live and reign, our sins are forgiven, life is worth living, and death holds no terrors.

M: Lord Jesus, living head of the Church, we praise you for gathering us around your good news to be joined to you and united with one another. We praise you for the many dedicated servants of the Word who proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins to people from all nations, and also to us. Equip us to be instruments of your peace in our time and place.

C: Open our mouths to speak your good news, and change our lives so that we reflect the beauty of the teachings of God our Savior in everything we do.

M: Lord Jesus, mighty judge of the universe, we praise you for your promise that you will return to our world, not as a humble servant but in full majesty, to take us to live with you. We praise you for the certainty of your promises and the justice of your judgement. Prepare us for the day when you will come again; give us hearts that trust you more fully, hands eager to serve, ears open to the music of your gospel, and lips to speak the truth in love.

C: Keep us devoted to our common tasks in this life, yet keep our minds on things above, where our life is hidden with you, so that when you appear, we too will appear with you in glory.

Special prayer and intercession

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

Silent Prayer

M: Lord Jesus, hear us, for you have ascended to intercede before the Father for us.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Be seated.



"This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

ACTS 1:11. NRSV

HYMN

Across the Lands

The Song Leaders sing the verse. All sing the refrain.

Song Leaders: You're the Word of God the Father, from before the world began.
Ev'ry star and ev'ry planet has been fashioned by Your hand.
All creation holds together by the power of Your voice.
Let the skies declare Your glory, let the land and seas rejoice!

All:

You're the Au - thor of cre - a - tion, You're the Lord of ev - 'ry
man, and Your cry of love rings out a - cross the lands.

Song Leaders: Yet You left the gaze of angels, came to seek and save the lost,
and exchanged the joy of heaven for the anguish of a cross.
With a prayer You fed the hungry, with a word You calmed the sea.
Yet how silently You suffered that the guilty may go free.

All: ♪ You're the Author of creation, You're the Lord of ev'ry man;
and Your cry of love rings out across the lands. ♪

Song Leaders: With a shout You rose victorious,
wresting vict'ry from the grave,
and ascended into heaven
leading captives in Your way.
Now You stand before the Father
interceding for Your own.
From each tribe and tongue and nation
You are leading sinners home.

The third verse of this song, along with the chorus, is especially fitting for celebrating the Ascension. The chorus speaks to the truth that the gospel reaches all nations, just like Jesus said in Luke 24:47; the third verse reminds us of the work Jesus still does for his Church.

All: ♪ You're the Author of creation, You're the Lord of ev'ry man;
And Your cry of love rings out across the lands. ♪

All: ♪ You're the Author of creation, You're the Lord of ev'ry man;
And Your cry of love rings out across the lands. ♪

Please stand.

CLOSING PRAYER

M: Let us pray together.

C: **O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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. Amen. Amen. ♪**

Be seated.

Recall what Jesus did before he physically left his disciples—he blessed them. Before we physically depart from each other, we also receive the Lord's blessing.

CLOSING HYMN

*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus | CW 169
Verse 1-All; 2-Song Leaders; 3-All*



TAKE HOME QUESTIONS

1. Some gifts that Jesus gives were talked about in the sermon. But there are so many more throughout all the readings! Look at all three readings and highlight at least five more gifts that Jesus gives in those verses.
2. In Acts 1:11, the angels tell the disciples that “this same Jesus” will be the one who comes back on the Last Day. What are some of those “same” things we can expect from Jesus on the Last Day?
3. Ephesians 4 speaks about the unity of the Church, but then Paul talks about how Jesus has given different gifts to his Church. Discuss the balance between diversity and unity in the Church. Reading through 1 Corinthians 12 might be helpful.
4. Some pastors have referred to the ascension as “Jesus making himself invisible.” What are some potential pros and cons of speaking about the ascension in this way?

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



THIS SUNDAY'S BIBLE STUDY **Ephesians**

Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 AM
For the google meet link, contact a pastor.



PICK UP YOUR VOTERS' MEETING PACKET

May 18 | 6:30 PM

The quarterly voters' meeting is on Tuesday, May 18 at 6:30 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend. A packet of materials including the 2021-2022 Ministry Plan was placed in member mailslots. Please read over the materials and prayerfully consider how you can be a part of the ministry of our church.

UNDECORATING CHURCH

May 15 | 9:00 AM

The date for taking down the Easter decorations has been moved to Saturday, May 15 at 9:00 AM. Your help would be appreciated.

SIGN UP FOR CHURCH IN THE PARK

June 13 | 10:30 AM

Bring your family and friends to a fun outdoor worship experience at Church in the Park on June 13. Our 10:30 Worship service that day will be held at Robinson Park with a picnic immediately following the service. To help us gauge how many people to expect, we ask that you please sign up if you think you might attend. A sign-up sheet can be found at the Ministry Table in the Welcome Center. There you will also find a sign up for donations of items needed for the picnic.

CAN YOU PUSH A BUTTON?

We are blessed to be able to livestream and “run the tech” without too much of a hitch at the 8:00 service every week. However, we could use more help with the 10:30 Sunday and 6:30 Monday services. Just to be clear, all you would need to do for a normal service is push a button (or click a mouse) to advance the slides. There usually isn't much more to it than that. If there is something more, someone would teach you how to do what you need to do. If you are able to help, even just one Sunday a month, at either of those services, please contact Chris Williams (715-279-0167), Larry or Veronica Klish (715-421-3607), or Pastor Proeber (715-421-3634 ext.1121).

WILLING WORKERS MEETING TIME CHANGE

May 18 | 4:00 PM

The Willing Workers meeting on May 18 has been rescheduled from 6:30 PM to 4:00 PM to allow for those who also want to attend the voters' meeting that night. Willing Workers will follow their meeting with a pizza supper for members who are interested.

DIME & DOLLAR MOVING ON MAY 20

May 20 | 9:00 AM

If you are able to donate your physical time, truck, trailer, cleaning talents, etc., we need you! The thrift store in Stevens Point is moving to Wisconsin Rapids beginning on May 20. We will begin at 9:00 AM with loading trucks and trailers in Stevens Point. Help will be needed on both ends (Rapids and Point), so let Jan Peronto know if you can help either by emailing or calling her at jkp111310@gmail.com or 715-340-2809. Even if you are not available during daytime hours, we might still be in need that evening or over the weekend. Donations will be accepted at the new location in Wisconsin Rapids (1351 8th St. S.) on Wednesday, May 26 from 12:00 noon until 6:00 PM. This is our first donation date and there will be more to follow.

CHRISTIAN COLLEGES ARE NOT JUST FOR CALLED WORKERS

If you are considering a degree in business, medicine, science, arts, law, education and more, Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC) may meet your needs. This Christian college is located in Milwaukee, and they offer full-time freshmen students a renewable \$1,000 scholarship just for being a member of our congregation. For more information on programs, visit wlc.edu. Be sure to mention the Warrior Network Scholarship when contacting WLC.

CAMP BIRD FOR LUTHERANS - REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

This camp is for children currently in grades 5-8 and is located near Crivitz in Marinette County on Sand Lake. At a weeklong camp, your child will enjoy swimming, canoeing, boating, games, challenge course, kickball, volleyball, archery, arts & crafts, campfires, Bible study, games, camp songs, and many other activities. For more information, please visit www.campbird.org.

SOFTBALL EQUIPMENT NEEDED

The school is in need of gloves and softball bats for physical education class. Your donations are appreciated. You can drop them off in the office.

SUPPORTING THE WORK OF OUR SYNOD

A portion of your regular giving to St. Paul's is passed on to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). The synod uses these gifts to support missions, train called workers, and do other work that we as a congregation could not do on our own. In the first quarter of 2021, our giving to WELS totaled \$6,097.74. To learn more about the work of our synod, visit their website, wels.net.

WELS BOOK OF REPORTS AND MEMORIALS AVAILABLE ONLINE

This book summarizes the activities of each area of the synod's ministry over the last year and contains the proposed ministry financial plan for the next biennium. The information in the Book of Reports and Memorials will help guide the delegates of WELS' 66th biennial convention. To view the online version of the Book of Reports and Memorials and learn more about the convention, visit wels.net/2021synodconvention.

ST. PAUL'S SCRIP UPDATE

Our scrip program continues to provide support for our Lutheran grade school. In March and April, the program raised \$1437.81 for the general school budget and to cover tuition for families that use the program.

WELS NIGHT AT WITTER FIELD

July 11 | 5:05 PM

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church invites you to join them for an evening at the ballpark on Sunday, July 11. The Wisconsin Rapids Rafters are playing the Green Bay Booyah at Witter Field. The first pitch is at 5:05 PM. Your ticket includes admission, a Rafter hat, one hog dog, and one fountain drink for \$14. To order tickets, pick up an order form/flyer at the Ministry Table in the Welcome Center. The form must be returned to the Rafters office by June 27.

TASTE OF MISSIONS

July 11-17

Join Christians from around the world for an online mission experience. Get to know our home and world missionaries and take a closer look at their mission work through short video updates, live Q&A sessions, recipes, family activities, daily devotions, and a live worship service. Learn more at tasteofmissions.com. Register today to receive the latest updates on Taste of Missions as they are released.

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|------------------|-----------------|---|
| SUNDAY | 8:00 AM | Worship |
| | 9:15 AM | Sunday Bible Study in the cafeteria |
| | 9:15 AM | Catechism Class in the Resource Center |
| | 10:30 AM | Worship |
| MONDAY | 6:30 PM | Worship |
| TUESDAY | 6:45 AM | Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop |
| | 9:45 AM | Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center |
| | 5:00 PM | Choir in the balcony |
| WEDNESDAY | 8:55 AM | Chapel Service |
| | 5:30 PM | Confirmation Banquet |
| | 6:30 PM | Bible Book Group in the Resource Center |
| THURSDAY | 7:00 AM | Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop |
| SATURDAY | 9:00 AM | Taking down Easter decorations |
| SUNDAY | 8:00 AM | Worship |
| | 9:15 AM | Sunday Bible Study in the cafeteria |
| | 9:15 AM | Catechism Class in the Resource Center |
| | 10:30 AM | Worship - Confirmation |



ATTENDANCE & OFFERING REPORT

Last Week's Attendance: 179
 From July 1, 2020 to May 6, 2021
 Actual ministry income: \$ 912,898
 Actual cost of ministry: \$ 976,976
 Mortgage balance: \$1,269,547

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 18 Voters' Meeting
 May 20 Dime & Dollar Moving
 May 28 Last Day of School
 June 13 Church in the Park
 July 11 WELS Night at Witter Field



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