

The Sunday after Ascension

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

P.O. Box 98, Okabena, MN 56161

A member congregation of the
Church of the Lutheran Confession

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WELCOME To all of you who are tuning in to our livestream this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name.

Prelude Mrs. Kathy Lueck

Hymn 216 *On Christ's Ascension I Now Build*

Invocation and Response ... Psalm 47

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

C: Amen.

P: Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples!

C: Shout to God with the voice of triumph!

P: For the Lord Most High *is* awesome;

C: *He is* a great King over all the earth.

P: He will subdue the peoples under us,

C: And the nations under our feet.

P: He will choose our inheritance for us,

C: The excellence 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 understanding.

P: God reigns over the nations;

C: God sits on His holy throne.

P: The princes of the people have gathered together,

C: The people of the God of Abraham.

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

C: He is greatly exalted.

Confession and Absolution

P: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

A Hymn of glory let us sing:

New songs throughout the world shall ring: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ, by a road before untrod,

Ascendeth to the throne of God. Alleluia!

Oh, grant us thitherward to tend

And with unwearied hearts ascend Alleluia! Alleluia!

Unto Thy kingdom's throne, where Thou,

As is our faith, art seated now. Alleluia!

Prayer

Epistle Lesson Acts 1:1-11 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apos-

bles whom He had chosen, 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.

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; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 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.”

Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 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.”

Gospel Lesson Mark 16:14-20 Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with *them* and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

Be Thou our Joy and strong Defense
Who art our future Recompense: Alleluia! Alleluia!
So shall the light that springs from Thee
Be ours through all eternity. Alleluia!

O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All praise to Thee let earth accord, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Who art, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit One. Alleluia!

Profession of Faith

Hymn 222 *Look, Ye Saints, the Sight is Glorious*

Sermon Colossians 3:1-4 Therefore, because you were raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. [EHV]

Focus Higher...

Hymn 215 *Draw Us to Thee*

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer + The Benediction

Closing Hymn 738 *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

REOPENING As restrictions on worship services are gradually relaxed, we encourage those who come to church to please practice social distancing by spreading out in the sanctuary, and using common sense precautions out of concern for others. We also encourage those who are sick, or those whose health is compromised, to please continue watching the service online.

COOKBOOKS The Anniversary cookbooks arrived last week and are available for purchase at the cost of \$10 each. There is a sheet to sign. Please indicate how many copies you take and whether they have been paid for.

CLC NEWS Pastor Paul Tiefel, Eau Claire, has the call to Bowdle/Ipswich, SD. Pastor Michael Gurath, Phoenix, has returned the call to Lemmon, SD. Teacher Dan Barthels, Saginaw, MI has returned the call to Cheyenne. Teacher Neil Bernthal, Winter Haven, FL has returned the call to Immanuel High School in Mankato. Seminary Graduate Cory Drehle will be installed/ordained as pastor of Berea, Sioux Falls, SD on June 14.