

May 14, 2023

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The Sunday before 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

James Albrecht, Pastor – 507-351-8584

Benjamin Hansen, Upper Grades – 715-491-3837

Lana Strike, Lower Grades – 507-360-9491

Ruth Eigenberg, Kindergarten / Preschool – 507-360-7725

Church/School Phone – 507-853-4550

www.okabenalutheran.org



WELCOME To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world.

If you are looking for a church home or would like to know more about our beliefs and practices, please see the pastor. He will be glad to visit with you at your convenience. Be sure to join us again.

Prelude Lana Strike

Hymn 213 *Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise*

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Responsory Psalm 47

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. (spoken)

Prayer

C: Amen. (spoken)

Scripture Lessons

Profession of Faith

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

Sermon 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 apostles 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.”

The Ascension Answers a Lot of Questions...

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!

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Choir *“Children of the Heavenly Father”*

Hymn 737 *Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels*

Prayer + The Lord’s Prayer + The Benediction

Closing Hymn 738 *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

8th Grade Graduation

Rachel Kazemba

CDS Students *“Shine, Jesus, Shine.”*

MOTHER'S DAY The floral arrangements on the altar were given in honor of all mothers. We should rightly thank the Lord for the rich blessings given to us through them. If your mother is on this earth, be sure to show her that you appreciate all that she did for you. Moms will also receive a carnation at the end of the service.

WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT If anyone is interested in planning future Ladies Days Out/Nights Out, please see Mary Albrecht for more information. She will no longer be able to help plan these events due to the upcoming arrival of their second baby. Thank you!

MUSICAL The St. John's students will perform the funny farmyard musical, E-I-E-I-Oops! at the Okabena high school cafeteria on Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. Free admission and all are invited. Favorite songs and refreshments will follow.

SUBSCRIPTIONS The Lutheran Spokesman, Daily Bread, Meditations (these three are submitted as a group subscription), and The Branches are renewed at the beginning of June.

The Branches is a Christian Women's magazine which is published quarterly by women of the CLC. The cost is \$15.00 for 4 issues per year. Checks are payable to, "The Branches," and should be sent to: Sandy Hulke, Subscription Manager, 29985 Norway Ave, Lindstrom, MN 55045. Online payments are also available via PayPal - you may contact Sandy Hulke at the-branchesmagazine@gmail.com.

CLC NEWS Pastor Matthew Hanel, Dallas, is considering the call to be the third pastor at Messiah, Eau Claire. Graduation at ILC will be held on Saturday morning at 10:00.

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USHERS 05/14 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.
05/21 Kendall B., Kraig B., Larry B. Jonathen L.
05/28 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.

CLEANING (Wk. 2) D. Ling, C. Rovere, S. Sumeay
The Albrechts