

May 21, 2023

Vol. XXV No. 21

## 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 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** Kathy Lueck

**Hymn** 9 *O Day of Rest and Gladness*

**Order of Service** Page 5 in The Lutheran Hymnal

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, To His feet your tribute bring;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, Evermore His praises sing:  
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favor To His people in distress;  
Praise Him still the same as ever, Slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
Alleluia, alleluia! Glorious is His faithfulness.

+ WS 742:1-2 +

**Epistle Lesson** 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

**Gospel Lesson** John 8:12-20 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

The Pharisees therefore said to Him, "You bear witness of Yourself; Your witness is not true."

Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going. You judge

according to the flesh; I judge no one. And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I *am* with the Father who sent Me. It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true. I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me.”

Then they said to Him, “Where is Your Father?”

Jesus answered, “You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also.”

These words Jesus spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one laid hands on Him, for His hour had not yet come.

**Hymn** 221 *Hark! Ten Thousand Harps and Voices*

**Sermon** Isaiah 55:1-3

“Ho! Everyone who thirsts,  
Come to the waters;  
And you who have no money,  
Come, buy and eat.  
Yes, come, buy wine and milk  
Without money and without price.  
Why do you spend money for what is not bread,  
And your wages for what does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good,  
And let your soul delight itself in abundance.  
Incline your ear, and come to Me.  
Hear, and your soul shall live;  
And I will make an everlasting covenant with you—  
The sure mercies of David.

## **GOD’S OFFER OF SALVATION (NO PURCHASE REQUIRED)**

**CLC Ministry by Mail  
Professor Paul Naumann**

**Offertory**

**Offering of Thankful Hearts**

**Hymn** 373:1-4 *By Grace I'm Saved, Grace Free and Boundless*

**Prayer + The Lord's Prayer**

**The Benediction**

**Hymn** 50 *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*

**THANK YOU** A special thanks to Dr. Sumey for conducting today's service. We appreciate the fine work that he does.

The pastor and Jolene are in Eau Claire for graduation.

**SUMMER SCHEDULE** Please note that we begin our summer schedule next Sunday, with the worship service at 9:30 and Family Bible Class to follow.

**VOTERS** The Board of Education has asked for a special voters meeting to determine staffing for the 2023-2024 school year. Due to enrollment numbers and the breakdown of grades being taught, the Board recommends that we go with two fulltime teachers. All voting members are encouraged to attend.

**INVITATION** All are invited to a coffee and muffins gathering after the service next Sunday. This is an expression of thanks for your support and encouragement of graduates: Jonah Albrecht and Luke Strike.

**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!

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**USHERS** 05/21 Kendall B., Kraig B., Larry B. Jonathen L.  
05/28 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.  
06/04 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.

**CLEANING** (Wk. 3) The Albrechts  
The Eigenbergs, R. Gustaf