

May 5, 2024

Vol. XXVI No. 18

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

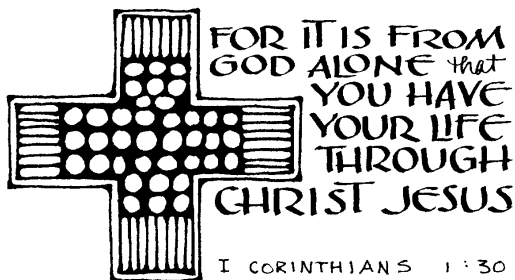
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WELCOME To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of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

Hymn 213 *Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise*

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)

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 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.”

Gospel Lesson Luke 24:44-53 Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God.

The Apostolic Creed

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

Sermon Ephesians 1:15-23 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

The Ascension Perspective...

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

Hymn 221 *Hark! Ten Thousand Harps and Voices*

Prayer + The Lord's Prayer + The Benediction

Closing Hymn 738 *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

CDS CARNIVAL Our CDS students invite all of you to attend their end of the year carnival on May 14, at 6 p.m. The carnival will feature skits, songs, games, and supper.

CLC NEWS Teacher Ross Kok, Phoenix, is considering the call to Fond du lac, WI. Teacher Neil Bernthal, Winter Haven, FL has the call to Eau Claire. Teacher Matthew Kranz, Mankato has the call to Inver Grove Heights. Pastor David Ude, Appleton, WI has the call to Sleepy Eye.

The following teachers are retiring this year: Dan Barthels (Saginaw, MI), Ann Sprengeler (Markesan, WI), and Quinn Sprengeler (Lynnwood, WA). Retirement parties have been planned by the congregations where each currently serves. See the bulletin board in the basement for more specific information.

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USHERS 05/05 Trevor B., Tim Z., Joshua E., Christian K., David R.
05/12 Kendall B., Larry B.
05/19 Phil S., Nathan V., Anthony F., Daniel R.

CLEANING (Wk. 1) The Strikes

D. Ling, C. Rovere, S. Sumeay