

Ascension Sunday

June 1st, 2025

Liturgy: Ascension

Organist: Lana Strike



WHILE HE BLESSED THEM,
HE PARTED FROM THEM AND WAS
carried up into heaven.



ST. JOHN'S

Lutheran Church & School

100 W. Market St.

P.O. Box 98

Okabena, MN 56161

Sam Rodebaugh, Pastor

(414) 534 - 7279

sam.rodebaugh@gmail.com

— www.okabenalutheran.org —

✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #213

"Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise"

The Invocation

P In the name of God the Father:

C Praise to our creating God!

P In the name of His Son, Jesus:

C Praise to our redeeming God!

P In the name of God the Spirit:

C Praise to our renewing God!

P Let us join our thankful voices,

C Amen! Amen! Praise the Lord!



Confession of Our Sins

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful & need His forgiveness.

P With the truth of Jesus' resurrection fresh in our hearts and minds, let us draw near confessing our sins and receiving the precious and firm gift of forgiveness.

C Eternal LORD God, by Your own Word You open the minds of those who hear to understand and believe that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have not set our minds on things that are above, preferring instead things on the earth. By Your Word You call us to repent of our sin and believe in Your Son Jesus Christ, and for His sake You forgive all sin. Oh LORD, we repent of all our sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

P *"Lifting up His hands, He blessed them."* (Luke 24:50)

And upon this your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my LORD Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen!

The Introit

Ps. 42; TLH #212

P Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples!

C Shout to God with the voice of triumph!

C ♪ *A Hymn of glory let us sing:
New hymns throughout the world shall ring: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ, by a road before untrod,
Ascends unto the throne of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

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.**

C ♪ *The holy apostolic band
Upon the Mount of Olives stand. Alleluia, alleluia!
And with his faithful foll'wers see
Their Lord ascend in majesty.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

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!**

C ♪ *To them the shining angels cry,
"Why stand and gaze upon the sky?" Alleluia, alleluia!
"This is the Savior," thus they say;
"This is His glorious triumph day!"
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

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.**

C ♪ *Be now our joy on earth, O Lord,
And be our future great reward. Alleluia, alleluia!
Then, throned with You forever, we
Shall praise Your name eternally.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Collect Prayer of the Day

A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.

P Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.



Luke 24:44-53

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." ⁵⁰ And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.



Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you

heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."



Confession of Faith

Col. 1:15-20

- ☐ **"Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation, for in Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, things seen and unseen, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and all things hold together in Him. He is also the head of the body, the Church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that in all things He might have the highest rank. For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself (whether things on earth or in heaven) by making peace through the blood of His cross." Amen.**

Hymn: WS #737

"Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels"

✠ The Sermon ✠



Ephesians 1:15-23

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love

toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Is Yours An “Ascension Faith”?

- I. A faith that knows God has done everything to save you.
- II. A faith that knows God can do anything else to serve you.

Response

TLH #223:1

**☐ ♪ We thank Thee, Jesus, dearest Friend,
That Thou didst into heav’n ascend.
O Blessed Savior, bid us live
And strength to soul and body give. Hallelujah!**

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Hymn: TLH #221

“Hark! Ten Thousand Harps and Voices”

✠ The General Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer ✠

The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing given by God for His people.

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

C Amen!

Hymn: TLH #216

“On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build”



Saint Gone Home – Last Sunday evening, our Brother-in-Christ Mark DeWall was called home to His Savior's side. A private, family funeral service will be held here at St. John's this afternoon. Praise the Lord for delivering one of His saints!

Mission Society will be meeting after the service this morning.

Lydia Strike Graduation Reception – After the worship service, the congregation is invited for refreshments in the fellowship hall as a thank you from Lydia and the Strikes for supporting her education at Immanuel the last four years.

The Special Voters Meeting for the purpose of calling part-time teaching help will resume after next week's service.

Ladies' Aid will meet Tuesday, June 10th, at 6:30 pm.

Summer Schedule began this morning and will continue through the summer. 9:30 am Worship | 10:30 am Family BC

The Victory Service for Sue Aden will be held on Friday, June 20th at 11 am with a visitation to begin at 9 am.

Ushers	6/1	Kendall B, Larry B.
	6/8	Phil S, Nathan V, Anthony F, Daniel R.
	6/15	Trevor B, Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R.
Cleaning	This Week – Fogelman, Ahrens (wk. 1)	
	Up Next – The Voits	

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

June 2nd – 7th, 2025

Mon John 14:1-14 He ascended to the Father, and we remember how He said, “If I go ... I will come again and take you to be with me” (v3). He will continue to work through His disciples (v14). Amen.

Tues Ephesians 4:14-16 As we await the return of our Savior, let us speak the truth in love and grow up into Christ, who is the head (v15). He causes the whole body to grow in love.

Wed Exodus 19:4-8 The Lord, who carried His people “on eagles’ wings” to Himself (v4), wants them to find blessing in following His word. The people answer: “Everything that the Lord has said, we will do” (v8).

Thurs Isaiah 55:1-5 The call goes out to all people, every nation! Here is rich food and drink for those without money. His covenant is everlasting (v3), and the mercies promised to His own are held out to all.

Fri Isaiah 55:6-13 The prophet responds to the Lord’s gracious call: “Seek the Lord while He may be found!” (v6) He is the source of mercy and forgiveness (v7). His word brings joy and peace (v12).

Sat Isaiah 32:14-20 What a difference it makes when the Spirit is poured out upon His people! It means justice, and righteousness, and peace. Rich blessings are promised in that day!

Service text and music reprinted and used by permission under OneLicense #A-7126690 and Concordia Publishing House, license #130002755. Scriptures quoted are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®) © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.