



Ascension of Our Lord Bold Women's Sunday May 12, 2024

Whenever you see an asterisk (*), you are invited to stand as you are able. You are invited to speak sans serif **Bolded type** with the congregation.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples are told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name if the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. A: Amen.

P: Let us pray: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

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

P: Let us confess our sin, in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**



(ELW 419

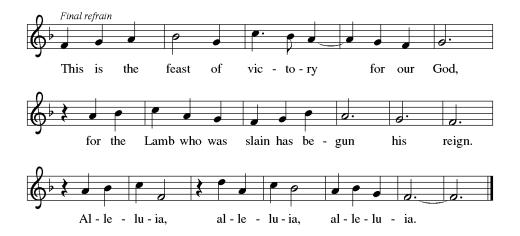


*GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **A: And also with you.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE





*PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you. A: And also with you.

L: Let us pray. Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **A: Amen**

ANTHEM: "Pass It On" (Kurt Kaiser)

WORD

FIRST READING: DANIEL 7:9-14

Like Revelation, Daniel is filled with visions whose imagery is powerful, but whose exact meanings are obscure. For Christians, the glorification of "one like a human being" seems clearly to refer to the Ascension of Jesus to the right hand of glory.

⁹ As I watched,

thrones were set in place,

and an Ancient One took his throne;

his clothing was white as snow,

and the hair of his head like pure wool;

his throne was fiery flames,

and its wheels were burning fire.

¹⁰ A stream of fire issued

and flowed out from his presence.

A thousand thousand served him,

and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.

The court sat in judgement, and the books were opened.

¹¹I watched then because of the noise of the arrogant words that the horn was speaking. And as I watched, the beast was put to death, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. ¹²As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. ¹³As I watched in the night visions,

I saw one like a human being

coming with the clouds of heaven.

And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him.

¹⁴ To him was given dominion and glory and kingship,

that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion

that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one

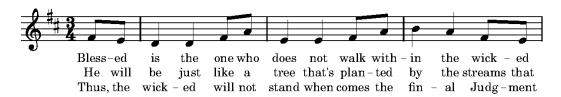
that shall never be destroyed.

L: The word of the Lord. A: Thanks be to God.

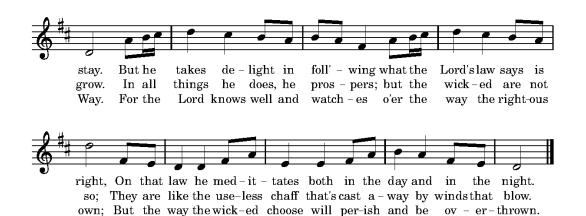
PSALM: 1

(Sung to the tune Nettleton[ELW 807])

In our observance of the Ascension of our Lord, we remember that in seeing Jesus ascend, the Apostles delighted in God's teaching and continued sharing in Jesus' witness, ministry, and martyrdom.







SECOND READING: LUKE 24:44-53 & ACTS 1:1-11

Both Luke and Acts are addressed to Theophilus ("God-lover"). Luke ends his Gospel with this story of the Ascension, slightly different from the version with which he begins Acts. But he is clearly laying the groundwork for the ministry of Jesus to continue in that second volume and beyond. The two men in dazzling white robes are also the figures the women met at the empty tomb who told them of the resurrection; they may be Moses and Elijah (the Law and the Prophets), who are dressed in this way at the Transfiguration.

[⁴⁴]esus said to the eleven and the people, men and women, with 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, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

[Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for

John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

L: The word of the Lord. A: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 25:31-40

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.

L: The gospel of the Lord. A: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON





take my mo-ments and my days; take my feet and let them be take my lips and let them be take my in - tel - lect, and use let them flow in cease-less praise. swift and beau - ti - ful for thee. filled with mes - sag - es from thee. ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt. Music: Patmos, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

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*NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God, begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

L: We pray for the church and all ministers of the gospel, that the Spirit will empower them to be your witnesses throughout the earth. Keep all teachers and missionaries under your care and guide them as they proclaim your word to the world. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: For the well-being of creation and for all your creatures: for zoos, nature preserves, and conservation organizations, for endangered species, and for those who work to protect all that you have made. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: For the nations and those who govern: for all countries, regions, and people in crisis or at war. Bring your peace on earth, in our homes, and in our hearts. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: For all in any need: for exiles, refugees, and those fleeing war and poverty, for those who suffer from individual and institutionalized racism. For those who grieve, and for those near death (*especially*). God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: For this congregation and for its concerns: for visitors, for those who are absent, for those in prison, for the homebound, and for those who travel. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: For all ministries of the church, especially Women of the ELCA. Through these organizations enliven our faith, equip leaders, and invigorate our mission of service and justice. God of grace, **A: hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: In thanksgiving for all the faithful departed who now rest in you especially all the women of our congregation who have gone before us. Also following the example of those like Ted Kemmerer and Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, the renewer of the church and hymnwriter

whom the greater church remembers today, and all those who have died in the faith, strengthen us to share your good news in the world. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

L: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

A: Amen.

*PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. A: And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING



Offerings can be made online at **stpaulpgm.org/give**, mailed to St. Paul Lutheran Church, PO Box 200, Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868, placed in the mail slot (outside door to Pastor Paul's office), or in the offering plate located in the lobby/narthex near the entrance of the sanctuary.

MUSICAL OFFERING

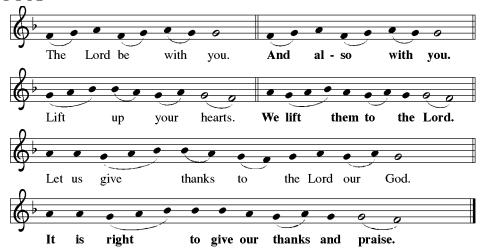


*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **A: Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

* DIALOGUE

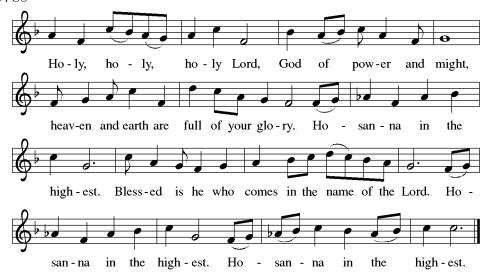


*PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ; who, enthroned forever at your right hand, intercedes for us as our great high priest.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS



*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: All praise to you, glorious God of grace.

Throughout the ages you have blessed us with foremothers of the faith.

With Sarah, we bless you for your gift of life.

With Ruth, we praise you for family and food.

With Miriam, we celebrate our escape from the foe.

Remembering Deborah, we honor the words of your prophets.

Remembering the woman at the well, we laud you for living water.

Remembering Junia, we thank you for those who minister among your people.

One with the daughter of Jairus, we wake to life in you.

With Mary, we magnify your name:

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Remembering Martha and Mary, we join Jesus at this meal.

Living, he healed the bleeding woman;

dying, he cared for his mother;

risen, he sent Mary Magdalene in mission.

On the night before he died, he took bread, and gave thanks,

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With the whole church, our spirits hunger for the day of his return **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

With Mary, again we magnify your name: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, **my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

Mighty God of mercy, as you heard the prayers of Hannah, so now hear us. Send your Spirit on this bread and wine, that sharing the body and blood of Christ we become his body in the world. Send your Spirit on this assembly, that like Phoebe, we serve one another with zeal.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Send your Spirit on the church, that like Anna, we tell others of your mercy.
Send your Spirit into our hearts, that like Dorcas, we care for the poor and needy.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

With Mary, once more we magnify your name: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, **my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

All praise to you, powerful God of peace. We adore you, our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you who mother and feed and comfort us, today, tomorrow, and forever.

A· Amen

*LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus has taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,

thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

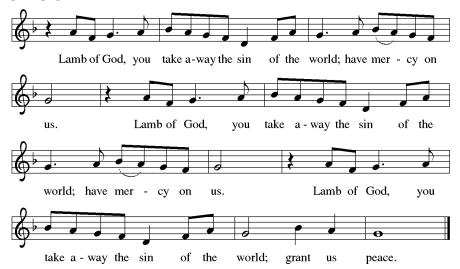
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

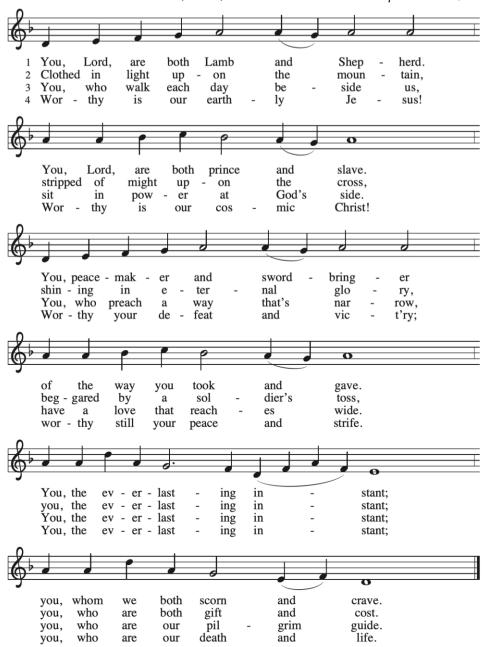
*LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION

L: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **A: Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN: "You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd" (ELW (954)



Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

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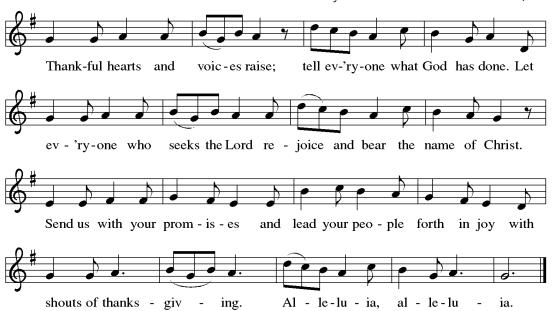
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*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

L: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in grace.

A: Amen

*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE – Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise (ELW 207)



*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **A: Amen.**

SENDING

*SENDING OF COMMUNION

L: Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may be seated.

*CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE

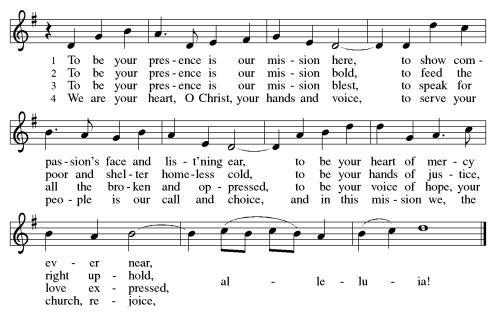
L: Jesus is sending to us what God has promised; you will be clothed with power from on high.

*BLESSING

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

SENDING HYMN- "To Be Your Presence"

(ELW 546)



Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924

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*DISMISSAL

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen. **A: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

L: Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. A: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE



DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, May 12

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1 (6)

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

Monday, May 13

Exodus 28:29-38

Philippians 1:3-11

Psalm 115

Tuesday, May 14

Numbers 8:5-22

Titus 1:1-9

Psalm 115

Wednesday, May 15

Ezra 9:5-15

John 16:16-24

Psalm 115

Thursday, May 16

Genesis 2:4b-7

1 Corinthians 15:42b-49

Psalm 33:12-22

Friday, May 17

Job 37:1-13

1 Corinthians 15:50-57

Psalm 33:12-22

Saturday, May 18

Exodus 15:6-11

John 7:37-39

Psalm 33:12-22



SERVING TODAY

Worship Leader	Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister	Morgen Hummel
Musician	Jim Rearick
Sacristan	Karen Magnuson
Reader	Anne Reede

ABOUT ST. PAUL

<u>Purpose</u>

We are a beacon, boldly sharing the light of Jesus' grace and love.

MISSION

Guided by Jesus, we strengthen faith, deepen compassion, extend generosity, and serve community.

CORE VALUES

Faith • Compassion • Generosity • Community

OUR BIBLE VERSES

As Paul was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. [lesus said,] 'Paul is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before the nations.'- Acts 9:3,15

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

St. Paul is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Susquehannock people, where we gather for worship this morning. We also acknowledge the Seneca, Cayuga, Lenne Lenape, as well as all of our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place – this land – and call it their home.

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