

# The Feast of the Ascension

## May 29, 2022

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The Ascension did not take Jesus away... It brought heaven near... In the realm in which He now reigns time and space have no meaning... There is no up and down, no near and far, no darkness, and no distance in the world of faith... He is as near as yesterday's prayer, today's joy, tomorrow's sorrow... His homecoming has made heaven a home for us who still walk far from home... Wherefore stand we gazing into heaven?... Our momentary task is here, but through the slow dimming of the years we see the evening lamps of home tended by the pierced hands of Him who has gone to prepare a place for us... Is there a better way to live - or die? ... All that we have to do now is believe and follow.

–**O.P. Kretzman**, *The Pilgrim* (1944)

Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God,  
and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving,  
for the Ascension of Christ your Son is our exaltation,  
and, where the Head has gone before in glory,  
the Body is called to follow in hope.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

–**Roman Catholic Prayer for the Feast of Ascension**

The nuns taught us there are two ways through life – the way of nature and the way of grace – you have to choose which one you'll follow. Grace doesn't try to please itself; it accepts being slighted, forgotten, disliked, it accepts insults and injuries. Nature only wants to please itself, to get others to please it too, to lord it over them. To have its own way. It finds reasons to be unhappy when all the world is shining around it. And love is smiling through all things. They taught us that no one who ever loves the way of grace ever comes to a bad end.

– **Mrs. O'Brien**, from the film *The Tree of Life*

## **Welcome to St. Paul!**

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We are glad that you are with us today! If you are new to our church, you may not be familiar with Lutheran liturgy. No worries. This bulletin is designed to help guide you through the worship service. We encourage you to participate in as much or as little of the service as you feel comfortable. Thank you for being a part of our worship. We hope that the Lord blesses you through our time together!

## **Restrooms, Changing Stations, and Nursing Room**

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Restrooms are located in the lobby (narthex) of the sanctuary. Both the men's and women's rooms have diaper changing tables for the little ones. We also have a nursing room for mothers and babies that is located across the breezeway, straight out of the doors on the east side of the lobby.

## **Children in the Liturgy**

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We pray that all children would know that God made them, He loves them, and He goes with them everywhere. We are glad to have little ones with us in the service. We know that they sometimes can squirm, squawk, and squeal. Please don't feel embarrassed by it! All kids are always welcome here at St. Paul. We encourage you to help them follow along and engage with them in the action of the liturgy – observe the movement of the procession, hear the music, sing the songs, smell the fire of the candles, respond with a loud *Amen*, make the sign of the cross, touch the water in the baptismal font, and wonder at the images and symbols that are all around. What Jesus does here is sure to engage us all.

## **A Note on Holy Communion**

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In this service we celebrate a sacred ritual of the Christian Church called the Eucharist, or the Lord's Supper. In this rite we recall the last meal that Jesus had with his disciples. In this blessed meal we have our eyes opened and we recognize Him in the breaking of the bread. Though our faith is grounded in history, this liturgy is not merely a nostalgic looking back at the past – it is a celebration and a deep recognition that in this meal our Lord Jesus Christ is truly and really present with us in the bread and the wine. We cling to the hope of resurrection that will be ours when all things will be fully redeemed and restored in Him. All baptized Christians who have a sincere sorrow for their sin and see in this holy mystery the true body and blood of Christ are invited to receive Holy Communion.

## **Service Notes for the Feast of the Ascension**

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In His resurrection, the Lord presented Himself alive to the apostles, “appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God”. Then He ascended to the right hand of the Father, not orphaning His Church, but filling all things in heaven and on earth, and giving gifts to His disciples. So today, He continues to preach “repentance for the forgiveness of sins” through “the apostles whom he had chosen”, even “to the end of the earth”. Jesus comes among us today by His Word and Spirit, whom He pours out upon “the church, which is his body” (Eph. 1:22–23). In His Church, He blesses us with forgiveness, lifts us up in His hands and seats us with Himself “in the heavenly places”.

## Greeting and Welcome

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The congregation stands and faces the back of the sanctuary. We begin with a procession with the cross leading the way, representing our life in Christ-our journey from death to life. Some bow as the cross passes, honoring the mystery of salvation.

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### A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing (493)

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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!

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!

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!

"You see Him now, ascending high Up to the portals of the sky."  
Alleluia, alleluia! "Hereafter Jesus you shall see  
Returning in great majesty." Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O risen Christ, ascended Lord, All praise to You let earth accord:  
Alleluia, alleluia! You are, while endless ages run,  
With Father and with Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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### Invocation

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En el nombre del Padre, y del Hijo, y del Espíritu Santo.

**All Amen.**

### Confession and Forgiveness

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If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us

**All But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Señor, ten piedad de nosotros.

**All Señor, ten piedad de nosotros.**

Cristo, ten piedad de nosotros.

**All Cristo, ten piedad de nosotros.**

Señor, ten piedad de nosotros

**All Señor, ten piedad de nosotros**

*Silence is Kept*

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:

**All Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. Amen.**

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

## The Prayer of the Day

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The Lord be with you

**All And also with you**

Let us pray

**All Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven: help us to seek and serve you, that we may join you at the Father's side, where you reign with the Spirit in glory, now and forever. Amen.**

## The Scripture Readings

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### Acts 1:1-11

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with [b] the Holy Spirit." Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### Ephesians 1:15-23

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed

him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God**

## **Gospel Procession**

### **Hail Thee, Festival Day (489)**

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**Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever;  
Day when our risen Lord Rose in the heavens to reign.**

**Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever;  
Day when our risen Lord Rose in the heavens to reign.**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**All Glory to You, O Lord.**

**Luke 24:46-53**

Jesus said to His disciples, "Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. 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." Then he led them out as far as Bethany, raised his hands, and blessed them. As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven. They worshiped him and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Hail Thee, Festival Day (489)**

---

**Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever;  
Day when our risen Lord Rose in the heavens to reign.**

**Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever;  
Day when our risen Lord Rose in the heavens to reign.**

## **Children's Sermon**

## **Be Unto Your Name**

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**We are a moment. You are forever. Lord of the ages, God before time.**

**We are a vapor. You are eternal. Love everlasting, reigning on high**

**Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.**

**Highest praises, honor and glory be unto Your name...Be unto Your name.**

**We are the broken. You are the healer. Jesus Redeemer, mighty to save.**

**You are the love song we'll sing forever.**

**Bowing before you, blessing Your name.**

**Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.**

**Highest praises, honor and glory be unto Your name...**

**Be unto Your name.**

## **The Creed**

**All I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection ☩ of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

## **Sermon**

**The Rite of Confirmation (Pg. 272 in LSB)**

# The Prayer of the Church

After the pastor says Lord in Your Mercy, all respond with **Hear our Prayer.**

**For a blessed Ascension – that we may worship Jesus and live in joy!  
For blessing in our outreach; CDC; LINC, Presa Community Center.  
Pastors Philip, Roy, Naresh, Matt and all church planters.  
For peace, for the well-being of the Church, and for the unity of all.  
For U.S. Leaders: President Joe, Governor Greg, Mayor Ron.  
Church Leaders; LCMS President Matt, District President Mike.  
For those in Military: Jarred, Alissa, Mark, Tom, Thomas, Ricky, Julian.  
For the strength and divine energy to turn toward our enemies in love.**

*For Comfort, Health, and Recovery:*

**The people of Ukraine**

**The people of Uvalde**

**Abby, Neena, Mike, Jeremy, Nathan** (Youth getting confirmed today)

**Bruce Simon**

**Tillie Cropper**

**Sue Burgdorfer**

**Diane Beasley**

**Diana Landgraf**

**Teresa Medellin** (neighbor of Alicia Guerrero)

**Rosa Figueroa** (friend of Alva-Alicia)

**Jo Ann Mallow**

**Mildred Westphal**

**Joyce Bauer**

**Daniel Stubbs**

**Robert Farris** (brother-in-law of Susan Pennington)

**Jenna, Sarah, Samuel** (friends of Michael Cruz)

**Earline Willeford**

**Albert Pedroza** (neighbor of Thomas Robledo)

**Norma Ann** (sister of Patricia Perez)

**Rev. Bill Johnson**

**Beatrice** (sister of America Alderete)

**Michael Dean** (nephew of Melissa and Jim Hild)

**Cayley** (granddaughter of Robert and Linda Chetwood)

**Delia Flores**

**Everett and Keith Mason**

**Yesenia** (daughter of Anna Marquez)

**Vicky Dean** (sister of Melissa Hild)

**Austin Hernden**

**Robin Beasley Jr**

### Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow (805)

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Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### The Service of the Sacrament

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The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ the King of glory. Born of a woman, he came to the rescue of our human race. Dying for us, he trampled death and conquered sin. By the glory of his resurrection, he opened the way to life eternal and by his ascension, gave us the sure hope that where he is we may also be. Therefore, the universe resounds with Easter joy and with choirs of angels we speak forever of your praise:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen!**

### The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and dearth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy, we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us to faithfully eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us to in His own testament. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate, with all the faithful, the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone be all glory, honor, and worship, now and forever.

**All Amen!**

# The Consecration

## The Acclamation and The Invitation

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As often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

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

Behold the Lamb of God, behold Jesus, who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

La paz del Señor sea con ustedes.

**All Y también contigo**

## Sharing of the Peace

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Please greet one another in the name of the Lord by saying 'Peace be with you' as a sign of forgiveness and reconciliation in preparation for reception of the Holy Supper.

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## The Lamb of God

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

**Distribution**

**Eucharistic Dismissal**

## Thank The Lord

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Thank the Lord and sing His praise; Tell everyone what He has done.  
Let everyone who seeks the Lord, Rejoice, and proudly bear His name.  
He recalls His promises, and leads His people forth in joy  
With shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

## Post-Communion Prayer

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We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You, that of Your mercy, You would strengthen us in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Announcements

## Blessing

### Alleluia Sing to Jesus (821)

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Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;

Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:

"Jesus out of ev'ry nation Has redeemed us by His blood."

Alleluia! Not as orphans Are we left in sorrow now;

Alleluia! He is near us; Faith believes, nor questions how.

Though the cloud from sight received Him When the forty days were o'er,

Shall our hearts forget His promise: "I am with you evermore"?

Alleluia! Bread of heaven, Here on earth our food, our stay;

Alleluia! Here the sinful Flee to You from day to day.

Intercessor, Friend of sinners, Earth's Redeemer, hear our plea

Where the songs of all the sinless Sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;

Alleluia! Born of Mary, Earth Your footstool, heav'n Your throne.

As within the veil You entered, Robed in flesh, our great High Priest,

Here on earth both priest and victim In the eucharistic feast.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;

Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:

"Jesus out of ev'ry nation Has redeemed us by His blood."

# Serving Today @ St. Paul

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<b>Music</b>	Jim Wollmann, Judy Foerster, Ronnie Biediger	
<b>Duty Elders</b>	George Fernandez, Rick Garza, Paul Mallow	
<b>Altar Server</b>	Zachary Robledo, Moriah Windhorst	
<b>Lector</b>	Paul Mallow	
<b>Cantor/Liturgist</b>	Rev. Carlos Boerger	(carlosb@stpaulsa.org)
<b>Preacher/Celebrant</b>	Rev. Dave Murillo	(davem@stpaulsa.org)
<b>CDC Director</b>	Deborah Stephenson	(deborahs@stpaulsa.org)
<b>Deaconess</b>	Claire Jackson	

## Announcements

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### Bible Study Opportunities This Week

We have ongoing online zoom classes throughout the week – all are invited!

**(Meeting ID #2105327341 No Password required)**

Tuesday @ 6:30 (Pastor Dave – Exodus Bible Study)

Thursday @ 6:30 (Pastor Carlos – Acts Bible Study)

### Laundry Love

Join us this coming Wednesday as we gather at the EZ wash (3503 S. Presa) to serve and worship with our community. Laundry Love is a monthly ministry to help and support those in our community with laundry assistance. We conclude the evening with a brief prayer service as we, together with our neighbors, lift up our hearts to give thanks to the Lord.

### Congrats to our Confirmands

We rejoice and give thanks to God for his love that endures forever! We are especially thankful for His love shown today at the Confirmation of **Michael, Neena, Abby, Jeremy, and Nathan** as they affirm their baptismal faith. Join us after the service for cake and lemonade as we celebrate with them!

### Pentecost Outdoor Worship and Block Party

**Next week, Sunday June the 5<sup>th</sup>, is the Feast of Pentecost.** We will celebrate with a special outdoor worship service and block party. We will gather at our usual time at 10:30 for an outdoor liturgy for the Feast of Pentecost. Then we will continue the celebration with a block party for the whole community with food, games, music, face painting, inflatables, and more. Miss Neesie and the Earfood Orchestra will serve as the worship band for the service and then they will stick around for the rest of the afternoon to play more tunes. We need help to setup and tear down for those able to help. We will also not be having Sunday school/Bible class that day as we prepare. Please spread the word and tell your friends and family to join us as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit!