

May 9, 2024  
Ascension



the *Ascension* of Jesus

Luke 24: 44-53

## Welcome to St. James!

We welcome you to worship at St. James Lutheran Church! We pray that the message of God's Word comforts your soul and strengthens your faith in the forgiving grace of God that is yours through God's Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

### ***For Everyone***

We ask all worshippers—both members and guests—to help us to be a friendly church by signing the Worship Register kept near the center aisle in each pew. The registers are usually signed while the offering is gathered. After you sign it, please pass it to the others in your pew for them to sign.

**Assistive Listening Devices** are available to those who may experience hearing deficiencies. Speak with an usher and they will get you a sound enhancer for the service.

**Restrooms** are located down the hallway toward the office end of the building. As you exit the church sanctuary, turn to your left, and walk down the hallway to access the restrooms.

### ***For Families***

We love having children be a part of our worship services! The first Sunday of each month has a children's devotion and an alternate order of service. If you need a place to take a fussy child during the worship service, the Gathering Place is located right next to the church sanctuary. As you exit the sanctuary, turn left and you will find the Gathering Place. There is a speaker system as well so you can follow along with the service.

### ***Holy Communion—The Lord's Supper***

St. James practices *member communion*. We welcome those who are members of St. James, or one of our sister churches in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) to join us for the Lord's Supper. If you are not yet a member of St. James or another WELS or ELS church, please speak with Pastor Marquardt.

St. James has gluten-free communion wafers available for any members who need them. For more information, please speak with Pastor Marquardt.

### ***Offerings***

God tells us that when we give, we should do so thoughtfully (see 1 Corinthians 16:2), cheerfully (see 2 Corinthians 9:6-8), and generously (see Luke 6:38). St. James members, as a regular part of their worship, give offerings in support of the ministry of their congregation. Visitors are asked to simply pass the basket if they do not wish to make such an offering. While the offering is being gathered, please be sure to sign the Worship Register and pass it down your row. Thank you.

***Christian Marquardt, pastor***

***262-672-7190***

***[pastor@saintjames-mke.org](mailto:pastor@saintjames-mke.org)***

## *The Festival of the Ascension*

The ascension marks the completion of Jesus' earthly mission, but it does not signify the end of his work. Christ ascended to exercise his limitless authority for the Church as we carry out our mission to be Christ's ambassadors of grace to the world. Therefore, the Festival of the Ascension is one of the oldest and most joyful celebrations in the Christian Church. It will be observed by Christians until Christ returns to take us to be with him.

*Presiding Minister* – Pastor Christian Marquardt, St. James

*Lector* – Pastor Keith Amborn, Abiding Word

**Choir Anthem** – *“Fairest Lord Jesus (You Are Beautiful To Me)”*

*STAND*

**Minister:** In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation:** Amen.

**ASCENSION DIALOGUE**

*Verses from the Psalms*

**M:** Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.

**C:** **Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.**

**M:** How majestic is the Lord's name in all the earth!

**C:** **He has set his glory above the heavens.**

**M:** For the Lord is the Most High over all the earth.

**C:** **He is exalted far above all gods.**

**M:** God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.

**C:** **God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.**

**M:** The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble.

**C:** **He sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.**

**M:** The throne of our God will last forever and ever.

**C:** **A scepter of justice will be the scepter of his kingdom.**

**M:** Praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted.

**C:** **His splendor is above the earth and the heavens.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M:** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, King of glory and Lamb of God, on this day you ascended far above the heavens and at God's right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that at your command and by your power we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

**Hymn** – #474 *“Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise”*

## SCRIPTURE READING

### **The Ascension of Our Lord**

*A harmony of Matthew, Mark, and Luke  
and the Acts of the Apostles*

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.

Soon after the resurrection, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

On one occasion, Jesus said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

On another 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. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with 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."

When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. And he sat at the right hand of God. 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."

Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

**Choir Anthem** - *"No Night There"*

## **Our Ascended Lord Prepares a Home for Us**

*John 14:1-3 - Pastor Brady Coleman, Siloah*

**14** "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

**Hymn** - #476 *"On Christ's Ascension I Now Build"*

## **Our Ascended Lord Advocates for Us**

*1 John 2:1-2 – Pastor Jon Balge, St. Matthew*

**2** My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. <sup>2</sup> He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

**Hymn** – #472 *“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”*

## **Our Ascended Lord Saves Us**

*Acts 5:29-32 – Pastor Christopher Doerr, Garden Homes*

<sup>29</sup> Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than men! <sup>30</sup> The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead—whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup> God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. <sup>32</sup> We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

## **Confession of Faith**

*The explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed from Luther's Small Catechism*

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity,  
and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.  
He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature,  
purchased and won me from all sin, from death,  
and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver  
but with his holy, precious blood, and with his innocent suffering and death.  
All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom,  
and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,  
just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.  
This is most certainly true.**

*BE SEATED*

**OFFERING**

*STAND*

**M:** Let us pray. Blessed Jesus, you ascended to the right hand of your Father's majesty, power, and glory and now reign as eternal King of kings and Lord of lords.

**C:** **We praise you for your victory over sin, death, Satan, and hell.**

**M:** O ascended Prophet, equip your Church to proclaim the precious gospel message of God's love for all the world.

**C:** **Give courage to our hearts, power to our words, and success to our efforts.**

**M:** O ascended High Priest, represent us before the Father as his own dear children and heirs. Defend us against Satan's every accusation. Ask for the Father's rich blessings in our everyday lives.

**C:** **Plead for his mercy and grace on our behalf.**

**M:** O ascended King, direct the affairs of governments and nations that they may serve the best interest of your Church.

**C:** **You are our Lord, Master, and King.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

**M:** As the disciples lifted their eyes to watch your ascension, so lift our eyes daily to look for your coming again in glory.

**C:** **Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen.**

**C:** **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

**M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

**C:** **Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

**Choir Anthem** - "O Word of God Incarnate" (Congregation joins on final verse)

**Closing Hymn** - #385 "Christ Begins"

## Looking Ahead

- Friday, May 10: Shining Star No Classes
- Saturday, May 11: 7:30 a.m. Men's Morning Ministry  
6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Plugged In Youth Group
- Sunday, May 12: Mother's Day  
**9:00 a.m. Service/Communion**  
10:30 a.m. Bible Study  
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
- Monday, May 13: Shining Star No Classes  
7:00 p.m. Knitted Together
- Tuesday, May 14: 12:00 p.m. Youth Catechism  
5:30 p.m. Handbell's Fellowship Dinner



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