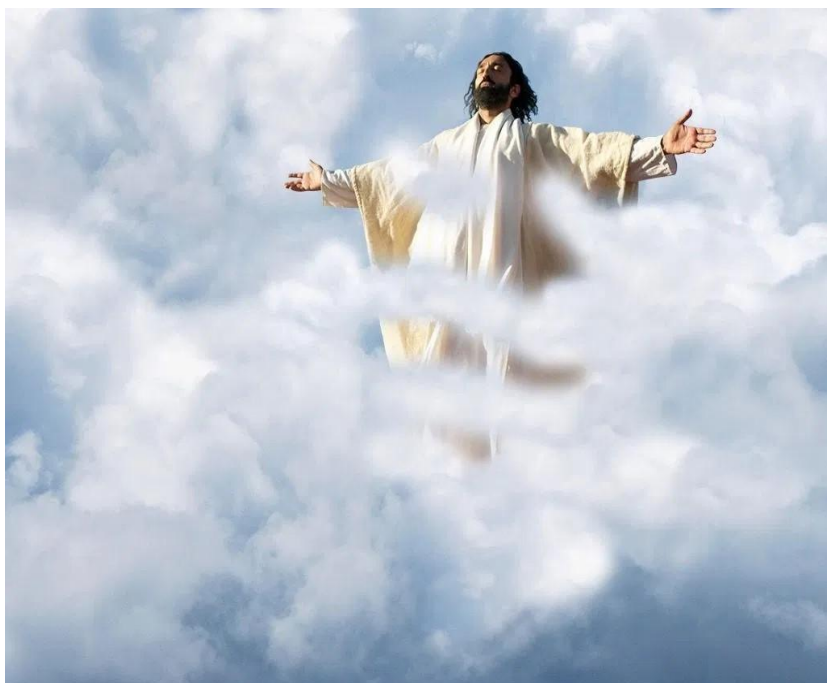


# St. Johns Lutheran Church

Lifting Up His Hands



He Blessed Them

## **AS WE GATHER**

“I’ll see you soon!” So says the parent, spouse, or friend leaving for an errand or a short trip, with certainty that time together will soon be had again. “I’ll see you soon!” so says Jesus as He departs and ascends into heaven. And though it has not been hours or days or even weeks, rather nearly two thousand years later, we still hold to the certainty of His promise that we shall see Him again soon at His time. Until that day, though, we are wise to not stay looking up into the sky, as the disciples began to do long ago. Rather, we heed His mission to make disciples and keep ourselves prepared for that day.

## **RINGING OF THE BELLS WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **WELCOME GUESTS**

We’re glad you are here! Make it a point to introduce yourself to the pastor. *(Please keep your distance though)* Please take time to fill out an attendance card and drop it in the basket during the offering.

## **PREPARATION**

**HYMN**            “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”            *LSB 493*

**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  
Up on 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 shy?”  
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!  
“Here after Jesus you shall see  
Returning in great majesty.”  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**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!**

*Stand*

**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!**

## **INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**      *Psalm 47:2–3; 124:8*

Our help is in the name of the LORD,  
**who made heaven and earth.**

Let us then confess our sins unto our gracious Lord.

**We confess before God and before one another that we have  
failed to live in the image of Christ. We have sinned against  
You in thought, word, and deed.**

We stand guilty before our Father in heaven and are in need of His  
forgiveness.

**Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Because of and in Christ's continued presence through all our days,  
**renew us and strengthen us for Christlike living and service in  
Your kingdom until the day when we ascend to the heavenly  
realm where we shall be in the presence of Christ forever and  
ever.**

Jesus Christ, your ascended Lord, has heard your confession, and  
He alone has the power to forgive all sin. His presence and grace  
are enough for us in this time and eternally. God has promised His  
merciful forgiveness for the sake of His Son, Jesus, to those who  
repent of their sins and turn to Him in faith. God keep us in His  
grace by the Holy Spirit, lead us in ways of faith and obedience,  
and finally bring us to live with Him forever; through Jesus Christ,  
our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **WORD**

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS... Glory to God in the Highest      LSB 204**

**To God on high be glory  
And peace to all the earth;  
Good-will from God in heaven  
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!  
We praise and bless You, Father;  
Your holy name, we sing-  
Our thanks for Your great glory,  
Lord God, our heavenly King.**

**To You, O sole begotten,  
The Father's Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior,  
You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us , Jesus;  
Receive our heart-felt cry,  
Where You in pow'r are seated  
At God's right hand on high.**

**For you a-lone are holy;  
You only are the Lord,  
For-ever and for-ever,  
Be worshiped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit  
Alone are Lord Most High,  
In God the Father's glory.  
"Amen!" our glad re-ply.**

## **SALUTATION**

**The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

**Amen.**

## MEMORIZED WORD

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands. I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land. Psalm 143:5-6

## FIRST READING *Acts 1:1-11*

<sup>1</sup>In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>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; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” <sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup>He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>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.” <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup>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.”

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **GRADUAL**

**Christ has risen \* from the dead.**

**[God the Father] has crowned him with glory  
and \* honor.**

**He has given him dominion over the works \* of his hands;  
he has put all things un \* der his feet.**

## **EPISTLE**     *Ephesians 1:15–23*

<sup>15</sup>For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup>that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, <sup>18</sup>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, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup>that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **ALLELUIA and VERSE**     *LSB 205*

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the  
Christ, the Son of God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**      *Luke 24:44–53*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.  
**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>44</sup>Then [Jesus] 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.” <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>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.” <sup>50</sup>Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup>and were continually in the temple blessing God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**HYMN**                      Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels                      *LSB 491*

**Up through endless ranks of angels,  
Cries of triumph in His ears,  
To His heav’nly throne ascending,  
Having vanquished all their fears,  
Christ looks down upon His faithful,  
Leaving them in happy tears.**

**Death destroying, life restoring,  
Proven equal to our need,  
Now for us before the Father  
As our brother intercede;  
Flesh that for our world was wounded,  
Living, for the wounded plead!**

**To our lives of wanton wand'ring  
Send Your Spirit, to our need,  
Now for us before the Father  
With Your pow'r and love abide;  
Welcome us, as You are welcomed,  
To an endless Easter tide.**

*Stand*

**Alleluia, alleluia!  
Oh, to breathe the Spirit's grace!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Oh, to see the Father's face!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Oh, to feel the Son's embrace!**

## **SERMON**

### **APOSTLE'S CREED**

**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**

## **OFFERING**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Let us pray:

Ascended Lord, Jesus Christ, we rejoice as we bring our prayers to Your throne of grace. We pray for the whole Christian Church, that through it the will of God be done among us on earth and that in it we may rejoice in hearing the Good News of the Gospel.

Ascended Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

As all things on this earth are under Your feet, we pray for the nations of the world and for those who lead them, that justice, security, and peace be known around the globe by Your mercies, provisions, and grace. Ascended Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the Church and for this congregation, that we use wisely the time and all resources You have given us, accomplishing Your will to further Your mission by the power of the Holy Spirit. Ascended Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those with special needs facing trial and troubles in spirit or body, and all those whose cares and challenges are of concern to us, [*especially . . .*]. Assure them and us of Your continuing presence in their lives and in our lives also.

Ascended Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the times in our lives when we wonder if Jesus is enough, remind us that because of Christ's ascension, His presence remains each day as He continually pours out His gifts of grace, mercy, and forgiveness. Ascended Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

With gratefulness, ascended Lord, we thank You for the faithful witness of those no longer with us here on earth who rejoice in

Your eternal care. Inspire us by their faithful witness and help us serve You and others in love all our days.

Ascended Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

### **BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless us and keep us.

The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The Lord look upon us with favor and ☩ give us peace.

**Amen.**

**HYMN**            See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph    *LSB 494*

**See, the Lord ascends in triumph:**

**Conqu'ring King in royal state,**

**Riding on the clouds, His chariot,**

**To His heav'nly palace gate.**

**Hark! The choirs of angel voices**

**Joyful alleluias sing,**

**And the portals high are lifted**

**To receive their heav'nly King.**

Who is this that comes in glory  
With the trump of jubilee?  
Lord of battles, God of armies,  
He has gained the victory.  
He who on the cross did suffer,  
He who from the grave arose.  
He has vanquished sin and Satan;  
He by death has crushed His foes.

While He lifts His hands in blessing,  
He is parted from His friends;  
While their eager eyes behold Him,  
He upon the clouds ascends.  
He who walked with God and pleased Him,  
Preaching truth and doom to come,  
He, our Enoch, is translated  
To His everlasting home.

Now our heav'nly Aaron enters  
With His blood within the veil;  
Joshua now is come to Canaan,  
And the kings before Him quail.  
Now He plants the tribes of Israel  
In their promised resting place:  
Now our great Elijah offers  
Double portion of His grace.

He has raised our human nature  
On the clouds to God's right hand;  
There we sit in heav'nly places,  
There with Him in glory stand.  
Jesus reigns, adored by angels;  
Man with God is on the throne.  
By our mighty Lord's ascension  
We by faith behold our own.

Preacher	Pastor Michael Tanney
Liturgist	Dan Reh
Lector	Pastor Michael Tanney
Elders	Al Bohannon & Earl Welch
Organist	Suzanne Manelli
Ushers	Don Osiek, Ben Thomas, William Gebhart, and Roger Schmidt
Children's Message	Pastor Michael Tanney
Acolytes	Tra-Mi and Thao-Vy
Greeter	Roger Schmidt
Worship Screen	Tra-Mi and Thao-Vy
Bible Class	Pastor Michael Tanney

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# Announcements

## Saved to Share Called to Care

### Our Response to God's Love Last Week

Attendance Sunday: 31

Communion: 30

Nepalese Attendance: 32

Offering: \$2,119.00

**ATTENTION: PLEASE TAKE A HYMNAL** from the rack nearest to you and leave it on the pew where you are sitting prior to leaving the sanctuary today. This will enable us to be more efficient when we sanitize the pews this week. Thank you.

**FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** On Friday mornings, we will be starting a new Bible Study series called "See through the Scriptures". This Bible Study has been produced to provide hands-on training. It is designed to serve as a tool to convince people that: We need to *read* the Bible, We can *understand* the Bible's message, and that We can *explain* that message to others.

**ST. JOHNS SINGS** A special Thank You to Lydia Hampel for playing flute on Good Shepherd Sunday, April 25. We "sheep" love to be reminded that "...He leadeth me the quiet waters by." Congratulations, Lydia, on achieving your Master's degree! God's Blessings on your next steps in life! We can all look to hymn 711 in Lutheran Service Book as a prayer for guidance on our way.

**CHURCH PICNIC** We will be having our Church picnic on June 20th, 2021 at the Old Carriage in Tower Grove Park, starting at 10:00am.

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL** there will be an Executive Council today, May 16<sup>th</sup>, after Bible Study @ 11:30am.

**IDENTITY SUMMER 2021!** For youth entering 7th - 12th Grade in the fall of 2021. With the majority of the events being hosted outside and a limited number of people allowed to register for each event, the days may look a little different than before to help keep us socially distanced. Choose the event you want to be involved in and sign up! Registration opens on May 7<sup>th</sup>. A link to register can be found on the Identity page of Epiphany Lutheran Church's website: [www.elcstl.org](http://www.elcstl.org). An email will also be sent to

## Prayers

**Special Prayer Petitions** – **Carmen** Hobson for possible back surgery; **Ray** for thanks as he goes through treatment; **Joan** as she struggles with eye problems; **Celebrate** the birth of a new child to Nabin and Rhoda; **For** those infected by the corona virus for quick healing and recovery. **Field-workers** and **Vicars** for their class work; **St. Johns** for blessings on our virtual learning center; **Nepali & African Congregation** blessings; **Food Pantry & ESL** for blessings on what they do.

**Shut Ins** – Jeanette Creamer, Carmen Hobson, Bobbie Kepford, Dennis Solomon, Jerry Schmaltz, Carol Carr

### ***Opportunities to Love and Serve Christ this Week***

***May 16-May 23***

Sunday	<b>9:00am Worship</b>
	10:30am Bible Study/Nepalese Worship
	<b>11:30am Executive Council</b>
	12:30pm African Worship
Monday	8am-12pm Office Open
	3pm-5:30pm Virtual Learning Center
Tuesday	8am-12pm Office Open
	3pm-5:30pm Virtual Learning Center
	6pm Seminary Students
Wednesday	8am-12pm Office Open
	3pm-5:30pm Virtual Learning Center
	6:30pm NT Class/ESL
Thursday	8am-12pm Office Open
	3pm-5:30pm Virtual Learning Center
	6:30pm Confirmation
Friday	8am-12pm Office Open
	8am Bible Study
	7:30am-5:30pm Virtual Learning Center
Saturday	8:30am Food Pantry
	1:00pm Vicar Class
Next Sunday	<b>9:00am Worship w/ Communion</b>
	10:30am Bible Study/Nepalese Worship
	12:30pm African Worship