

# St. Johns Lutheran Church



[God] seated him at his right hand  
in the heavenly places,

## **AS WE GATHER**

We gather together to celebrate Christ the King taking His rightful seat in glory, honor, and authority at God the Father's right hand. (Ascension Day in the church calendar was last Thursday.) With the ancient worshipers, who clapped their hands and shouted praises to God at the coronation of their king, we rejoice in the victory Jesus earned for us by His death for our sin and His resurrection over death's grave. Our praises keep rolling from our Easter celebration some forty days ago, all the way to today and even beyond, as we witness that Jesus' ascension is the capstone of His victory. Scepter in hand and seated upon His throne, Christ reigns over all things in heaven and on earth. We are honored to be in His presence this day and receive from our King the gifts He graciously bestows.

## **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 take time to fill out an attendance card and drop it in the basket during the offering. Please consider liking us on Facebook (St. Johns Lutheran Church – St. Louis City) and checking out our website (<https://stjohnslutheranstlouis.org/>).

### **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 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! “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

Let us come before our Lord and King in a time of confession so that we may receive assurance of His mercy and forgiveness.

*We take a moment of silence for personal prayers and reflection.*

Lord Jesus, You are the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

**All things have been created by You: things in heaven and things on earth, visible and invisible.**

All things are Yours, including us. We have been created by You and for Your glory.

**Yet our sinfulness separates us from You and Your will for our lives. By what we do and what we fail to do, we fall apart without You holding us together.**

Lord Jesus, in all things You reign supreme. You are the King of all, the Sovereign of our souls. God the Father dwells fully in You.

**By Your blood, You have reconciled us to the Father. By Your cross, grant us Your forgiveness and peace. Amen.**

Our merciful God is pleased to have all His fullness dwell in His crucified, risen, and ascended Son, Jesus Christ. He alone is the image of God, and in Him all things hold together. Through faith in Christ, you and I have been reconciled to God and stand renewed in His presence. As a called and ordained servant of Christ the King, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☧ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## WORD

### THIS IS THE FEAST

*LSB 155*

*Refrain*

**This is the feast of victory for our God  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain***

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor,  
blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain***

**Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory, and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain***

**For the Lamb who was slain  
has begun His reign. Alleluia *Refrain***

## **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, gloriously took His throne, ascending to Your right hand, grant that 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**

One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.  
Psalm 27:4

## **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.

(Christ candle is extinguished) <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.**

**PSALM**      *Psalm 47; antiphon: v. 5*

<sup>5</sup>God has gone up \* with a shout,  
    the Lord with the sound of a \* trumpet.

**<sup>1</sup>Clap your hands, all \* peoples!**  
**Shout to God with loud \* songs of joy!**

<sup>2</sup>For the Lord, the Most High, is \* to be feared,  
    a great king over \* all the earth.

**<sup>3</sup>He subdued peoples \* under us,**  
**and nations un \* der our feet.**

<sup>4</sup>He chose our heritage \* for us,

the pride of Jacob \* whom he loves.

**“Sing praises to God, sing \* praises!**

**Sing praises to our King, sing \* praises!**

**For God is the King of \* all the earth;**

**sing praises \* with a psalm!**

**“God reigns over the \* nations;**

**God sits on his \* holy throne.**

**“The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of \* Abraham.**

For the shields of the earth belong to God;

he is highly ex \* alted!

**Glory be to the Father and \* to the Son**

**and to the Holy \* Spirit;**

**as it was in the be \* ginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. \* Amen.**

**“God has gone up \* with a shout,**

the Lord with the sound of a \* trumpet.

**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.

**VERSE**      *Romans 6:9; Matthew 28:20b*

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia.  
**Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. 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 OF THE DAY

“Up through Endless Ranks of Angels”      *LSB 491*

**Up through endless ranks of angels,**

**Cries of triumph in His ears,  
To His heav'ly 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**

*Christ High-ascended, Now in Glory Seated (LSB 840)*  
*Sung by the Choir*

## **OFFERTORY**

*LSB 159*

**What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?  
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Let us pray:

Loving Father, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, into this world to bear our sins and to be our Savior. By His death, He has destroyed death. By His rising to new life, He has given to us the guarantee of life forever with You. By His ascension to heaven's glorious throne, He has proven that He is King of kings and Lord of lords.

Lord, in Your mercy,

**reign in our hearts.**

Sovereign of all, we thank You that nothing is hidden from Your sight. In mercy, You have redeemed Your fallen creation by reconciling sinners to their Creator through the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross. Lord, in Your mercy,

**reign in our hearts.**

Look with favor upon us and our families, our congregation and our community, guiding our steps in the way of peace. Grant boldness to all who bear Your name, raising up faithful men and

women who serve in positions of leadership among us, that we each may live out our callings under Your authority and care. Lord, in Your mercy,

**reign in our hearts.**

Restoring Redeemer, the brokenness of our lives bears witness to the fact that, without You holding us together, we are lost and hopeless. Rescue those who despair, and grant patience to those suffering in times of trial, anguish, and loss. Comfort those who are saddened by the death of those they love. Fill with perfect peace those who belong to You, [*including . . .*]. Let all who hunger and thirst for what You alone can give find their solace and rest in You. Lord, in Your mercy,

**reign in our hearts.**

Crucified, risen, and exalted King, our Lord Jesus, with the ancient worshipers who clapped their hands and shouted their praises at the coronation of their sovereign, we rejoice in Your exaltation to the Father's glory and in Your promise to come again.

Lord, in Your mercy,

**reign in our hearts.**

Preserve us in faith until that coming, glorious, and awesome Day! Instill in us an ever-deepening reliance upon Your Word and Spirit. Create in us hearts that are ready to receive Your presence as You draw near to us again this day in Your body and blood. Make us one, Lord, even as You are one. Lord, in Your mercy,

**reign in our hearts.**

With confidence in the King who reigns supreme and governs all things in heaven and on earth for the benefit of His people, we entrust our prayers into Your care,

O gracious Father, for You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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 you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**HYMN**      “On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build”      *LSB 492*

**On Christ’s ascension I now build  
The hope of my ascension;  
This hope alone has always stilled  
All doubt and apprehension;  
For where the Head is, there as well  
I know His members are to dwell  
When Christ will come and call them.**

**Since Christ returned to claim His throne,  
Great gifts for me obtaining,  
My heart will rest in Him alone,  
No other rest remaining;  
For where my treasure went before,  
There all my thoughts will ever soar  
To still their deepest yearning.**

**O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me,  
Recalling Your ascension,  
That I may serve You faithfully  
In thanks for my redemption;  
And then, when all my days will cease,  
Let me depart in joy and peace  
In answer to my pleading.**

Preacher  
Liturgist

Pastor Michael Tanney  
Pastor Michael Tanney

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Lector             | Pastor Michael Tanney  |
| Elders             | Al Bohannon & Earl Welch   |
| Organist           | Suzanne Manelli  |
| Ushers             | Cameron Hampel, John Benwell,<br>Patrick Benwell, Jayvon Evers, Joan Potvin,<br>William Gebhart, and Roger Schmidt |
| Children's Message | Pastor Michael Tanney  |
| Acolytes/Screen    | Tra-Mi and Thao-Vy   |

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# Announcements

## Saved to Share Called to Care

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

Attendance Sunday/Communion: 50/41

Nepalese Attendance: 31

Offering: \$1,653.00

**PRAYER BREAKFAST** Come & join us for a Prayer Breakfast downstairs today after worship. It will begin around 10:30am (replacing Bible Study). Our special & holy guest, our Triune God, will be there also. See you there!

**MUSIC IN A SACRED SPACE** Hope Ev. Lutheran in St. Louis will host a season closing Organ Vespers on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 4pm to celebrate the Holy Trinity. Guest musicians for the service will be organist Janet Muth and the school choir of St. Paul Lutheran in Hamel, IL. Rev. Benjamin Ball will serve as guest preacher. Hope Lutheran is located at 5218 Neosho St. in ST. Louis, MO. Visit [hopelutheranstl.org](http://hopelutheranstl.org) for more information.

**CHURCH PICNIC** will be on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 10am (with lunch following) at the Old Carriage Pavilion in Tower Grove Park.

**PIANO CONCERT** on Sunday, May 21, at 4:00 p.m., at LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH featuring their Music Director and Concert pianist, Dr. Mark Laverty. Works by Bach, Beethoven and Brahms will be performed, as well as hymn singing. No tickets needed; a freewill offering will be received. Lord of Life is located at 15750 Baxter Road, in Chesterfield. For more information, visit: [www.LordofLifeLCMS.org](http://www.LordofLifeLCMS.org).

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL IN OLIVETTE** is currently seeking two teachers for the 2023-2024 school year. These positions are for preschool and 8th grade. Candidates must have a teaching certificate and have a passion for Lutheran education. Please submit your resume to [teachercall@ilsolivette.org](mailto:teachercall@ilsolivette.org). We look forward to hearing from you. Check out our website to learn more about us at [ilsolivette.org](http://ilsolivette.org).

## Prayers

**Special Prayer Petitions** –Veronica (Compass Director) and Daughter Emera as they grieve the death of their Husband/Father; **Sharon Sieber** for healing of cancer on her kidney; **Confirmation Class** for the Lord to help them finish what they have begun; **Our Vicars** as they continue to take classes at the Seminary; **Our Field-Workers** Tristan (and family), Alvaro, and Isaac;  
**Shut Ins** – Bobbie Kepford, Jerry Schmaltz, Steve Bain, Carmen Hobson

### Opportunities to Love and Serve Christ this Week

May 21 – May 28

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Sunday      | <b>9:00am Worship</b><br><b>10:30am Prayer Breakfast</b><br>10:30am Nepali Worship<br>12:30pm African Worship            |
| Monday      | <u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass<br>6pm Ladies Exercise  |
| Tuesday     | <u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass<br>6pm Seminary Students  |
| Wednesday   | 8am-12pm Office Open<br><u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass / <u>3:45pm</u> Compass Chapel  |
| Thursday    | 8am-12pm Office Open<br>2pm Ridgewood Bible Study<br>3pm-6pm Compass   |
| Friday      | 8am-12pm Office Open<br>8am Bible Study<br>1pm Nepali Mother's Prayer Service  |
| Saturday    | <u>8:30am</u> Food Pantry / <u>9am</u> Confirmation<br>2pm Vicar Meeting / 5:30pm Young Adult Bible Study                |
| Next Sunday | <b>9:00am Joint Worship w/ Communion</b> (Confirmation)<br>10:30am Bible Study/Nepali Worship<br>12:30pm African Worship |