

ACTS 1:8

You will  
be my  
**witnesses**  
to the ends  
of the earth

## **ASCENSION SUNDAY**

**May 21, 2023**

**9:00 a.m.**

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

*Building Disciples  
Growing in Faith  
Serving in Christ's Name*

**The Reverend Pamela M. Illick, Pastor**

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Welcome to all – especially visitors!!!

**It is no accident that you are here today!**

You are an answer to our prayer. We have been praying for you, and believe that God has brought you here because God wants to touch your life.

We welcome you in the name of the Risen Lord!

*Large print bulletins are available in the Narthex or from an usher.*

**Holy Communion:** All God’s Children are welcome to come to God’s Table! It is at the Table we receive Christ’s body and blood through the bread and wine. This holy meal renews and nourishes our spirit. Come and eat. If you are unable to walk up to the altar to receive communion, please let an usher know and Pastor will bring communion to you.

***The prefilled glasses are grape juice.***

*Please remember to write any prayer requests for today in the prayer book in the Narthex.*



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNITY TIME**

### **PRELUDE & QUIET MEDITATION**

#### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.  
We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

*Please stand or sit as you are comfortable.*

**GATHERING SONG ELW #430 “Rejoice, for Christ is King!”**

**GREETING**

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

C: **And also with you.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE**




1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

[Luke writes:] <sup>1</sup>In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After 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. <sup>4</sup>While 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; <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, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set 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, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward

heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They 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.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 47** (read responsively)

*God has gone up with a shout. (Ps. 47:5)*

<sup>1</sup>Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with a joyful sound.

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

<sup>3</sup>who subdues the peoples under us,  
and the nations under our feet;

**<sup>4</sup>who chooses our inheritance for us,  
the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.**

<sup>5</sup>God has gone up with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound of the ram’s horn.

**<sup>6</sup>Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our king, sing praises.**

<sup>7</sup>For God is king of all the earth;  
sing praises with a song.

**<sup>8</sup>God reigns over the nations;  
God is enthroned on high.**

<sup>9</sup>The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God  
of Abraham.

The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

**SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23**

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work 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 age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand or sit as you are comfortable.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>44</sup>[Jesus said to the eleven and those 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.”<sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And 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.”

<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 was blessing them, he withdrew 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 they were continually in the temple blessing God.

P: The Gospel of our Lord

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## **YOUNG PEOPLE'S MESSAGE**

### **SERMON**

Pastor Pam Illick

*Please stand or sit as you are comfortable.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #392 "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"**

### **NICENE CREED**

A: Let us confess our Christian faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

**C: 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.**

*Please be seated.*

**THE PRAYERS**

A: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

A: Ever-present God, root your church firmly in you. Let us neither become entranced staring up into the heavens, nor distraught by the suffering of the world. Teach us to see you in every face, every place, and every moment. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of the cosmos, you cradle creation in your loving arms and anoint it with signs of your presence. In the budding of flowers, the birth of a baby, and the formations of the land and sky, reveal your abundant life. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Eternal God, your reign is above us, around us, beneath us, and beside us. As you rule the cosmos with justice and mercy, pour out your Spirit upon those in authority, that they serve humbly and justly. We pray especially for the leaders of Ukraine and Russia, and for the people who live in the fear of war and the threat of war. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of companionship, provide clarity and direction for those experiencing life transitions—in births and deaths, new employment and new relationships, divorces and departures. We pray for those receiving new diagnoses or undergoing treatment for illness or injury especially..... and those whom we name in our hearts.... Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Immanent God, in you we live, move, and have our being. Draw us closer to you and clothe us in your power. Prepare our hearts to welcome and embrace those who are searching for a church home. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of welcome, you call us to feast at your eternal banquet. We give thanks for those who came before us, whose lives witnessed to your love. Hear us, O God.



**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ’s resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

**OFFERING**

“Now We Join in Celebration”

*Ushers will collect the offering.*

*Please stand or sit as you are comfortable.*

**OFFERTORY “Let the Vineyards be Fruitful”**



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A: Please join me in prayer:

**C: Generous God,**

**in this meal you offer your very self.**

**We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.**

**In the breaking of this bread**

**reveal to us the Risen One.**

**In the pouring of this wine**

**pour us out in service to the world;  
through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord is with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

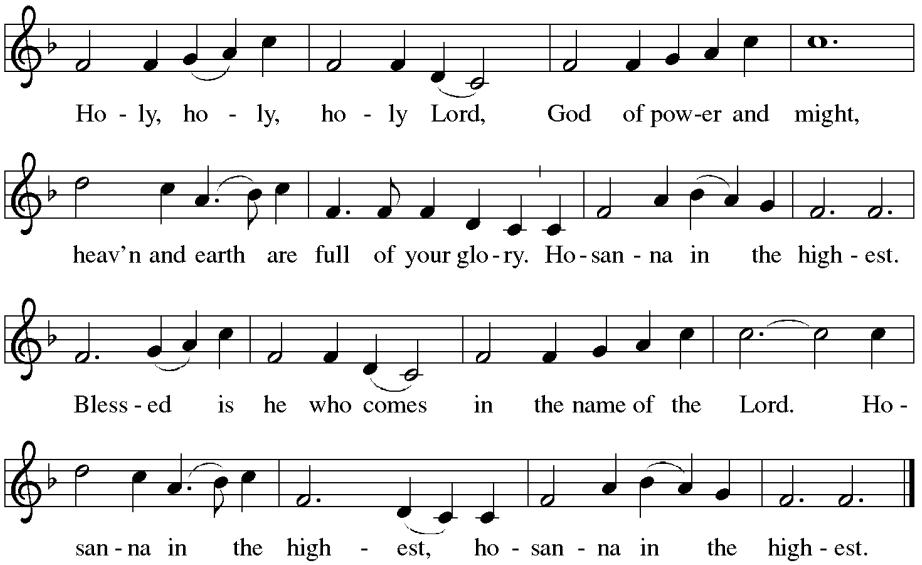
**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus 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.

**LORD’S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.  
**C: 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

P: Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

“Beautiful Savior”

## TABLE BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve us in eternal life.

**C: Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Gracious God,  
in you we live and move and have our being.  
With your word and this meal of grace,  
you have nourished our life together.  
Strengthen us to show your love  
and serve the world in Jesus’ name.

**Amen.**

## BLESSING

The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead,  
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit  
to live in the new creation.

**Amen.**

*Please stand or sit as you are comfortable.*

## SENDING HYMN

**ELW #579 “Lord, You Give the Great Commission”**

## DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. You are witnesses.

C: Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

*OUR WORSHIP IS CONCLUDED, OUR WORK NOW BEGINS.*



**Flowers and bulletins** are presented to the glory of God in honor of our children and youth.



Scan the QR code with your phone (using the camera or download a QR reader app) to make a one-time donation or set up recurring donations from your bank account, debit card, or credit card.