



ASCENSION DAY

May 21, 2020

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
627 S. Washington Street New Ulm, MN

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee
revbovee@gmail.com
507-217-6364 Cell



Type in Search: St Johns
Lutheran Church New Ulm MN

www.stjohnsnewulm.com
Email: stjohnsnewulm@gmail.com

 facebook.com/stjohnsnewulm

507-354-6744

Pastor Rob Guenther
pastorguenther@gmail.com
507-240-2433 Cell

ASCENSION DAY 2020

OPENING HYMN

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

CW 171

1. A hymn of glory let us sing!
New songs throughout the world shall ring: Alleluia!
Christ, by a road before untrod,
Ascends unto the throne of God. Alleluia!
2. The holy apostolic band
Upon the Mount of Olives stand, Alleluia!
And with his followers they see
Their Lord ascend in majesty. Alleluia!
3. To them the shining angels cry,
"Why stand and gaze upon the sky?" Alleluia!
"This is the Savior," thus they say.
"This is his glorious triumph day." Alleluia!
4. "You see him now, ascending high
Up to the portals of the sky." Alleluia!
"Hereafter Jesus you shall see
Returning in great majesty." Alleluia!
5. Be now our joy on earth, O Lord,
And be our future great reward. Alleluia!
Then, throned with you forever, we
Shall praise your name eternally. Alleluia!
6. O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All praise to you let earth accord. Alleluia!
You are, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit one. Alleluia!

Minister: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

M: Lord God, you have brought us safely to this hour of prayer. We thank you for providing all that we need for body and life. Bless us who have gathered in your name. Forgive our sins. Speak to our hearts. Dispel our sorrows with the comfort of your Word, and receive our hymns of thanks and praise, through Jesus Christ, our living Savior, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God our heavenly Father has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

M: Let our prayers be acceptable in your sight. Come and help us in time of need that we may sing your praise in holy joy now, and forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

PSALM 47

Refrain sung once by cantor; all join for subsequent refrains



God mounts his throne to shouts of joy, to shouts of joy!



God mounts his throne to shouts of joy, to shouts of joy!

Cantor: *All people, clap your hands, cry out to God with joy!
For the Lord, Most High, we revere, great king over all the earth.*

ALL: **Refrain**

*Our God goes up with shouts of joy to the trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing out praise; sing praise to our king, sing praise.*

Refrain

*God is the king of all, sing praise with all your skill.
God is the ruler of all the lands, God reigns upon the throne.*

Refrain

LESSON

Ephesians 1:16-23

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 also 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 the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him 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 title that can be given, 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.

SEASONAL RESPONSE

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
Surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age. Alleluia!

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Draw us to thee,
 For then shall we
 Walk in thy steps forever
 And hasten on
 Where thou art gone
 To be with thee, dear Savior.</p> | <p>4. Draw us to thee
 That also we
 Thy heav'nly bliss inherit
 And ever dwell
 Where sin and hell
 No more can vex our spirit.</p> |
| <p>2. Draw us to thee,
 Lord, lovingly;
 Let us depart with gladness
 That we may be
 Forever free
 From sorrow, grief, and sadness</p> | <p>5. Draw us to thee
 Unceasingly;
 Into thy kingdom take us.
 Let us fore'er
 Thy glory share;
 Thy saints and joint heirs make us.</p> |
| <p>3. Draw us to thee;
 Oh, grant that we
 May walk the road to heaven!
 Direct our way
 Lest we should stray
 And from they paths be driven.</p> | |

SERMON TEXT

Luke 24:44-53

<p>He 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 Christ will suffer</p>	<p>and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. 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</p>	<p>high." When he 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. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.</p>
--	--	---

SMALL EXPECTATIONS, BUT GREAT FULFILLMENT

OFFERING

At this time members of St. John's would normally collect a thank offering. But since we are not able to meet together, we still encourage our members to give by mailing their offerings to St. John's Lutheran Church, 627 S. Washington Street, New Ulm, MN; or you can bring your offerings directly to church and place them in the drop box in the entryway between 8:00 am and 1:00 pm on weekdays; or talk to your bank about automatic bill pay. If you are not a member of St. John's do not feel that you have to give, but thank you for tuning in.

ASCENSION PRAYER

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, you are our Strength and our Song. You have prepared for us a well of salvation in Jesus Christ your Son, who through the eternal Spirit made himself an offering for the sins of the world. We thank you for your great mercy.

We long for the day when we are able to worship you in your house. We pray that you would continue to take away the effects of this illness and restore our world and nation to a way in which we may go back to our jobs and vocations. But through all of this, make us better people, more eager to serve you, and who do not take your blessings for granted.

Most especially do we praise you for the life of grace and truth that Christ Jesus lived among us. We thank you that through him you have unfolded your glorious purposes and solemn designs. Move our hearts to believe all that he has taught us and to love one another as he has commanded.

Grant now, as we celebrate with joy the ascension of our Lord, that even as you have raised him to the right hand of your power and majesty, so may we ever exalt and praise him in adoration and prayer, and find in him the springs of gladness and devotion.

Lift the eyes of your Church heavenward to see him who ever lives to make intercession for the saints and grant your people sure hope and confidence in the exceeding greatness of his power.

We pray for your mercy upon all who are afflicted in any way. Especially do we plead for your gracious help to all the sick, and those who are under special restrictions due to the threat of the COVID-19 virus. Comfort them through your Word. Give them the confidence that whatever they ask in accordance with your will, you will grant. Encourage them with the knowledge that in all things you work for the good of those who love you.

Special prayers of thanksgiving or intercession may be spoken here

Finally, O God, comfort us with the knowledge of our Savior's ascension, and prepare our hearts for his coming again when he will take us to be you forever. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, whose name is above every name. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

THE BENEDICTION

M: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

On Christ's Ascension I Now Build

CW 173

1. 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 shall come and call them.
2. Since Christ returned to claim his throne,
Great gifts for me obtaining,
My heart shall rest in him alone,
No other rest remaining,
For where my treasure went before
There all my thoughts shall ever soar
To still their deepest yearning.
3. Oh, grant, dear Lord, this grace to me,
Recalling your ascension,
That I may serve you faithfully,
Adorning your redemption;
And then, when all my days will cease,
Let me depart in joy and peace
In answer to my pleading.

† † †

PREACHER
ORGANIST
SOLOIST

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee
Craig Hirschmann
Jon Laabs

