

# Essential Workers

Date: 05/24/2020

Text: Acts 1:1-11, Luke 24:44-53

## Verse for Meditation

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.”  
Acts 1:8

## Points to Ponder

1. Who are essential workers? What do they do?
2. Are you an essential worker? What do you do?
3. Is church an essential business? What is our business?
4. Do we do all this by ourselves?

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School**  
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10:45 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 13, 2019



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

- A Family to Whom You Belong -

Our Mission is to: **Make More & Better Disciples**

## THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

10:45 a.m. Sunday, MAY 24, 2020

**Servants of God's House Today:**

**Pastor:** Rev. Kenny Hsu

**Praise Team Accompanist:** Doris Hill

**Ushers:** Bob Grothaus Team

**Missionaries:** Charles Cortwright, Rev. Tim & Lisa Beckendorf,  
Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump, Rev. Paul Flo

**Reader:** Charlotte Grothaus

**WELCOME!** We are glad that you are here worshipping God with us. We pray for God's blessings to you and invite you to come back again soon.

**AS WE GATHER** Ascension shouldn't be overlooked. Ascension is a time of happy endings as Jesus concludes His earthly ministry and promises the Holy Spirit's imminent arrival. Jesus sends His disciples to the ends of the earth as witnesses of His resurrection. He promises that He will always be with us even to the end of the age. We remember today Jesus' earthly ministry and His mission for us, and we bask in the promise of His presence.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP** 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.

### Worship Service

(The congregation is invited to respond in the words written in **bold**.)

### The Ringing of the Bells

#### The Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

#### Opening Sentences

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen and ascended!

**C: Christ is risen and ascended indeed! Alleluia!**

P: Today is a day of celebration, grief, and anticipation.

**C: We celebrate our Lord's triumph and reign.**

### The Prayer of the Church

P: For those celebrating their baptismal anniversaries that they remain faithful to your Word including; Patrick Carney, Olivia Wagner, Linda Arndt, Tom Murphy, Jim Ellickson, Brady Lyons, Sara Sparr, William Winckler, and Charles Kanaby. Lord in Your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

### The Lord's Prayer

### The Benediction

#### The Going Out Song "Jesus Messiah"

He became sin, who knew no sin that we might become His righteousness.

Know He humbled Himself, and carried the cross.

Love so amazing, love so amazing.

Jesus Messiah, Name above all names,

Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel.

The rescue for sinners, the ransom from Heaven.

Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.

His body the bread, His blood the wine, broken and poured out, all for love.

The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn.

Love so amazing, love so amazing.

Jesus Messiah, Name above all names,

Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel.

The rescue for sinners, the ransom from Heaven.

Jesus Messiah, Lord of all. All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You.

All the glory to You, God, the Light of the world.

Jesus Messiah, Name above all names, Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel.

The rescue for sinners, the ransom from Heaven.

Jesus Messiah, Lord of all. Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.

You're the Lord of all, the Lord of all.

(Words & music Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Daniel Carson and Ed Cash, used by permission CCLI #11440148)

(Interlude)

- 3) There in the ground His body lay Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory Sin's curse has lost it's grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine Brought with the precious blood of Christ

(Interlude)

- 4) No guilt in life, no fear in death This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from His hand  
'Till He returns or calls me home Here in the power of Christ I'll stand  
(Words & Music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend, Copyright 2001 Kingsway Thankyou Music, used by permission CCLI #11440148)

**The Word** "Essential Workers" Acts 1:1-11

### **WE WORSHIP GOD THROUGH OUR GIVING**

We honor God with the gifts He has given to us.

St. Paul's members have pledged to support our ministry in their tithes and offerings.

**To our guest:** We are glad that you are with us today and please do not feel that you are obligated to participate. We invite you to come back again.

Please pass your **Welcome Card** to an usher or acolyte.

*Malachi 3:10- Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.*

**Offertory** "The Heart of Worship"

**Verse 1** When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come;  
Longing just to bring something that's of worth that will bless Your heart.

**Chorus:** I'll bring You more than a song, for a song in itself is not what You have required.  
You search much deeper within through the way things appear;  
You're looking into my heart. I'm coming back to the heart of worship,  
And it's all about You, all about You, Jesus. I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it,  
When it's all about You, all about You, Jesus.

**Verse 2** King of endless worth, no one could express how much You deserve.  
Though I'm weak and poor, all I have is Yours, ev'ry single breath. (Chorus)  
(Words/music by Matt Redman, EMI Christian Music, 1999 Thankyou Music, CCLI 11440148)

P: We grieve that He is not physically present with us.

**C: We anticipate the coming of the promised Holy Spirit on Pentecost.**

P: And we celebrate that His promise to always be with us remains and will never fade away.

**Opening Song**

**"Your Name"**

As morning dawns and evening fades, You inspire songs of praise  
That rise from earth to touch Your heart and glorify Your name.

Your name is a strong and mighty tower; Your name is a shelter like no other.  
Your name, let the nations sing it louder,  
'Cause nothing has the power to save but Your name.

Jesus, in Your name we pray, come, and fill our hearts today.  
Lord, give us strength to live for You and glorify Your name.

Your name is a strong and mighty tower; Your name is a shelter like no other.  
Your name, let the nations sing it louder,  
'Cause nothing has the power to save but Your name.

Your name is a strong and mighty tower; Your name is a shelter like no other.  
Your name let the nations sing it louder,  
'Cause nothing has the power to save but Your name.

Your name is a strong and mighty tower; Your name is a shelter like no other.  
Your name, let the nations sing it louder,  
'Cause nothing has the power to save but Your name.

But Your name. But Your name.

(Words & music by Glen Packlam and Paul Baloche, Integrity's Hosanna! Music, used by permission CCLI #11440148)

**Catechism** *The Second Article*

**C: 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.**

P: What does this mean?

**C: 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, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, 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, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

**First Lesson** Acts 1:1–11 (Jesus ascends into heaven and promises the Holy Spirit.)

<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.”

**Second Lesson** Ephesians 1:15–23

(Christ is risen and ascended. All things are under His feet.)

<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.

(Please stand, as you are able, for the Gospel)

**Holy Gospel** Luke 24:44–53 (Jesus is carried up into the heavens.)

<sup>44</sup>Then he 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.

**Confession and Absolution**

P: Though Christ is ascended on high and is seated at the right hand of the Father, ruling and reigning over all creation, there have been times when we have lived as though we rule and reign over our own lives. We have lived as though Christ were too far away to matter. But our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him, confess our sins, and receive His forgiveness.

(Silence for meditation.)

P: Heavenly Father,

**C: we confess to You that we are sinful and unclean. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we walk in Your perfect way and delight in Your perfect will. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for you. Christ is ascended, and all things are under His feet, including sin, death, and the devil. On account of Christ’s saving work and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen. We are forgiven and restored.**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen and ascended!

**C: Christ is risen and ascended indeed! Alleluia!**

**The Song of Instruction “In Chris Alone”**

- 1) In Christ alone my hope is found He is my light, my strength, my song  
This Cornerstone, this solid ground Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what depths of peace When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My Comforter, my All in All Here in the love of Christ I stand
- 2) In Christ alone, who took on flesh Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness Scorned by the ones He came to save  
'Till on that cross as Jesus died The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid Here in the death of Christ I live