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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
624 Jennings St. Sioux City, Iowa 51101
Church: (712)252-0338 School: (712) 258-6325
www.siouxcitystpauls.org



6 p.m. Sat., May 23, & 8:15 a.m. Sun., May 24, 2020



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

(6 p.m. Sat., May 23 & 8:15 a.m. Sun., May 24, 2020)

Servants of God's House

Pastor: Rev. Kenny Hsu

Organists: 6 p.m. Sat., Joyce Seymour; 8:15 a.m. Sun., Doris Hill

Ushers: Nick Gunn Team

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

Readers: 6 p.m. Sat., Marlis Hilden; 8:15 a.m. Sun. Jim Winckler

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 with the words written in **bold**.)

The Ringing of the Bells

Hymn of Invocation

"On Christ's Ascension I Now Build"
(stand as you are able for the last verse)

The Wave of Fellowship

LSB 492

(The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.)

The Invocation *Matthew 28:19b; (18:20)*

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

C: Amen.

P: Lord, at the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus sent His disciples out to the ends of the earth with a mission to be witnesses of His resurrection. Strengthen us as we continue their faithful witness. Embolden all missionaries and evangelists by constantly opening a door for Your Word to be spoken. We ask this in faith for we know that Christ is ascended.

C: He rules and reigns in glory.

P: Lord, thank You for sending the promised Holy Spirit to guide us in all of our ways. Conform our lives to the Word of God and transform us by the renewing of our minds. We ask this with boldness for we know that Christ is ascended.

C: He rules and reigns in glory.

P: Lord, we live in a world with imperfect leaders, imperfect laws, and imperfect communities, but we know that all things are under Christ's feet, and He has all power and authority. So we ask for You to send Your perfect wisdom to our elected and appointed officials, instill Your perfect justice in our lawyers and judges, and bring Your perfect hope to our communities. We ask this in hope for we know that Christ is ascended.

C: He rules and reigns in glory.

P: Lord, we pray for those who are sick and recovering, those who are hospitalized and homebound, *especially* Steve and Angie Brown, Sandra Johnson, Gerald Collins, Brian Erickson. Strengthen them, and give them patience in their afflictions. We ask this in love for we know that Christ is ascended.

C: He rules and reigns in glory.

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. We ask this in love for we know that Christ is ascended.

C: He rules and reigns in glory.

P: Finally, Lord, we ask for Your comfort for all those who grieve the death of loved ones. Grant them peace as they hope in the resurrection to eternal life. We ask this knowing that Christ is ascended.

C: He is returning soon. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

(on the back cover of the hymnal)

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn

"See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph"

LSB 494 vs. 1-3

Silent Prayer

Postlude

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ.

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.

(Please be seated)

Hymn of the Day "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing" LSB 493 vs. 1-4

Sermon "Essential Workers" Acts 1:1-11

Offering of God's People to their Beloved Savior

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: Thank you for joining 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 Hymn "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing" LSB 493 vs. 5-6

(stand as you are able)

The Prayer of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Dear heavenly Father, You sent Your Son into our world with a mission to seek and to save the lost. Thank You for His life, ministry, suffering, death, and resurrection.

Most especially today we thank You for seating Him at Your right hand in His ascension. We thank You for we know that Christ is ascended.

C: He rules and reigns in glory.

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.

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.

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!

Introit Ps. 110:1, 4–5; antiphon: Ps. 47:5

P: God has gone up with a shout,

C: the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

P: The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand,

C: until I make your enemies your footstool."

P: The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind,

C: "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

P: The Lord is at your right hand;

C: he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son

C: **and to the Holy Spirit;**

P: as it was in the beginning,
C: **is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P: God has gone up with a shout,
C: **the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**

The Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

C: **Heavenly Father, Your Son sent us to the ends of the earth with the Gospel and promised always to be with us. Embolden us to spread the good news of Jesus' death, resurrection, ascension, and return; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The First Reading *Acts 1:1–11*

(Jesus ascends into heaven and promises the Holy Spirit.)

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴And 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; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He

said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But 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."

⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and 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."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual We praise God together in the words of the Gradual.

C: **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 under His feet.**

The Epistle Lesson Ephesians 1:15–23

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

¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that 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, ¹⁸having 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, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of

his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far 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. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Stand as you are able)

The Alleluia *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.

(Please remain standing for the Gospel and the Creed)

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to St., Luke the 24th chapter.

C: **Glory be to You, O Lord.**

⁴⁴Then 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." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And 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." ⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple blessing God.