



## St John's

Evangelical Lutheran Church & School  
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### *Ascension Sunday—7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

21 May 2023 9:00 A.M.

**Welcome!** We're glad you're here! Although we are from all different backgrounds, we love to learn about what God has done. You and everyone are welcome to learn about God and find helpful guidance for your life. Feel free to bring us your questions or your feedback so we can improve. Or ask how to be part of a group conversation about faith in Jesus.

We love to have **Children** with us in the pews for worship. Our children's activity bags in the entryway have activities that can help them. We love babies in worship too because our Savior said, "Let the little children come to me." When babies want to be loud, the **Parent's Room** (just outside our worship area) is a good place for them to talk or cry so the rest of the worshipers can focus on God's Word. Then come back so we can all worship together.

If your **hearing aids** have T-Coils, set them to "on" and the service will be piped wirelessly to your ears.

We invite you to fill out a **ministry card** so we can better care for you. You'll find one on the pew in front of you. God bless your week. Come hear God's Word with us again!

Members: please note that the ministry cards are designed to serve some of your needs too.

## Pre-Worship Pondering:

—Josua Wegelin

*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.*

*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.*

# The Lord Serves His People

## Worship Theme

*Christ Ascended! Rejoice!*

## Hymn

#172

## Invocation

Pastor: *In the name of the Father, who created us to be His children—  
and of the Son, ✠ who redeemed us from all rebellion against the  
Lord—and of the Holy Spirit, who brought us to faith and keeps us  
in faith through the gospel in Word and Sacraments.*

Congregation: *Amen. We are God's children through faith in  
Jesus. We rejoice to be in His house. It is good to  
celebrate Christ's resurrection and His ascension.*

## Confession and Absolution

*P: In His great love God gives us the opportunity to confess our sins to  
Him. He calls each of us to come humbly before Him and ask His  
forgiveness for our many wrongs. God will hear our confession  
because He has promised to listen.*

*C: Lord God, I confess my inability to keep You first in my  
life. My service toward Your Kingdom sometimes fades  
in the midst of my own priorities and agenda.*

*P: Your Word stirs up our love for others, and yet we regularly become  
self-centered again.*

C: You said I am Your witness. I am to share the good news about Your love and forgiveness through Jesus. But I often find it more comfortable to keep the gospel to myself.

P: *Too often we look critically at those around us and then allow our judgments to keep us from showing love.*

C: Lord, please forgive me for the sake of Jesus. He gave up His life willingly to restore my relationship with You fully.

P: *The apostle John writes: "If we live in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,*

C: *and the blood of Jesus His Son washes us clean from every sin.*

P: *If we confess our sins, He will keep His promise:* [1 John 1:7,9 NET]

C: *He will forgive our sins and wash away all unrighteousness."*

P: *God looks on us with favor because of Jesus' life and His death on the cross. God's forgiveness is complete and thorough. It comes to us in the name of the Father, and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit. May the power of His forgiving love enable you to walk in all His ways and live according to His will.*

C: Amen. We are the forgiven people of God! This is most certainly true.

P: *In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.*

## ♪♪ Song of Praise

tune: CW171

A hymn of glory let us sing! New songs  
throughout the world shall ring: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ, by a road before un-trod,  
ascends unto the throne of God. Alleluia! (5x)

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! (5x)

## Prayer of the Day

P: *Lord Jesus, King of glory, we are glad to celebrate that You ascended to the Father's right hand where You rule all things for*

*the benefit of Your Church. Although You visibly left, we know You have not left us alone. Grant us the Spirit of truth, the Comforter, so that at Your command and by Your power we may be Your witnesses in all the world, especially here in our corner of it.*

C: Help us witness well, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **First Lesson**

Acts 1:1-11

<sup>1</sup>In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup>until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>6</sup>So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup>He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” <sup>9</sup>After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. <sup>10</sup>They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup>“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

*P: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;*

C: worship the LORD in the splendor of His holiness. (Ps 29:2)

# Psalm 124

## Refrain

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
the Mak - er of heav - en and earth.

## Psalm Tone

If the LORD had not been on our side—let Israel say—  
if the LORD had not been on our side when men attacked us,  
when their anger flared against us,  
they would have swallowed us alive;

the flood would have engulfed us,  
the torrent would have swept over us,  
the raging waters  
would have swept us away.

## Refrain

Praise be to the LORD,  
who has not let us be torn by their teeth.  
We have escaped like a bird  
out of the fowler's snare;

the snare has been broken,  
and we have escaped.  
Our help is in the name of the LORD,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## Refrain

## Verse of the Day

Matthew 28:20b

*P: Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*  
*Jesus said,*

*C: "Surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age." Alleluia!*

## Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

<sup>44</sup>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." <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

<sup>46</sup>He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>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 high." <sup>50</sup>When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup>And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

*P: You have heard the Gospel of the Lord.*

*C (speaks): Praise be to Christ!*

## Hymn of the Day

#174

## Sermon

John 17:1-11a

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. <sup>2</sup>For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. <sup>3</sup>Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true

God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup>I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup>And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. <sup>6</sup>I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. <sup>8</sup>For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. <sup>11</sup>I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one.”

*Listen in on Jesus' High Priestly Prayer*

**Profession of Faith**

Luther's Explanation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Article  
of the Apostles' Creed

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.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, 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.

All this He did that I should be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

## We Bring a Thank Offering

Hymn #171\*

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!

## Prayers of the Church

### Lord's Prayer

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.

## Hymn

#170

### Prayer

*P: Lord Jesus, we have heard the good news that You are the King of the universe and Savior of all. Preserve our faith in this Gospel so that we may trust in Your mercy and serve You as loyal subjects. We ask it of You because You live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

C (speaks): Amen.

### Blessing

*P: 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 His favor and grant you His ✠ peace.*

C: Amen.

## Hymn

#169\*



## Acknowledgments

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Song of Praise and Thank offering hymn stanza – “*A Hymn of Glory Let us Sing*” from CW #171, original words by The Venerable Bede *abr.*, *tr.* composite. In the public domain.

## Memory Verse of the Month

1 Peter 2:16

Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God.

## SERVING THE LORD AND US May 21, 2023

**Minister:** Pastor Nathan Cordes 651-448-3559 KnowJesusBetter@StJohnsLakeCity.com

**Organist:** Dianne Wolff **Audiovisual Tech:** Chris Fischer

**Communion/Flower Cte for May:** Laurie Balow, Lois Brinkman

**May 21 Ushers:** Scott Hawkinson & Ralph Kackmann

**May 28 Ushers:** Mark Nibbe & Glenn Albers

### Teachers in our LES

Mr. David Zabel, Principal, Gr. 6-8    Mrs. Jamie Fischer, Gr. PK-4, Director  
Miss Molly Ring, Gr. 3-5    Miss Allison Hofland, PK-3  
Mrs. Katie Majerus, Gr. 1-2    Miss Michelle Yotter, Gr. K

**Sunday School Teachers** Dawn Balow, Jennifer Ellison, Kristi Gross,  
Philip Harteneck, Seth Harteneck, Brittany Huneke, Marcus Huneke

**Youth Bible Teachers** Stephanie Knudsen, Jolayne Johnson

### Some of the Ways We Fed our Faith

**Sunday Morning Worship Attendance** – 189    **Communion** – 158  
plus all who watch the worship video or read the worship materials

**Sunday Bible Class** – 33    **Sunday Teen Bible Class** - 4

**Sunday School** – 13    **GROW** – 17

**CONFIRMATION** Sunday is June 4

**Memorials:** Jean Wohlers: \$7500 Windows and Siding Fund

**VBS** Our sister church Trinity Lincoln has invited our Age 3 through Grade 6 children to attend their Vacation Bible School on Sat July 15. Pick up more info from our information counter between the two doors into the church office.

**Opportunities for Learning, Serving and Spending Time Together  
May 21, 2023 – May 28, 2023**

**Today**

- 8:55 AM Live-stream on YouTube
- 9:00 AM Worship
- 10:15 AM Bible studies for all ages
- 10:35 AM Rebroadcast of 9 AM service on ch 18 or 13

**Monday**

- 1:15 PM Bluffs Communion
- 2:00 PM Caring Hands Quilters
- 2:15 PM High Street House
- 3:00 PM Pepin Plaza

**Tuesday**

- 8:00 AM Track and Field Day for St. John's School

**Wednesday**

- 8:40 AM Chapel—all welcome
- 3:30 PM Catechism Bible Study
- 6:00 PM School Picnic Pot-Luck at Hok-Si-La ALL WELCOME

**Wednesday—cont.**

- 7:00 PM Rebroadcast of Sunday's service on ch 18 or 13

**Thursday**

- 9:30 AM G.R.O.W.
- 6:00 PM End of School Year Service ALL WELCOME

**Friday**

- 8:00 AM Last day of school at St. John's – Kickball Tournament

**Saturday**

**Sunday**

- Last Sunday Offering—LIMA see below
- 8:25 AM Usher unlocks doors
- 8:55 AM Live-stream on YouTube
- 9:00 AM Worship w/ Communion
- 10:15 AM Bible studies for all ages
- 10:35 AM Rebroadcast of 9 AM service on ch 18 or 13

**LSO** Next week we plan to gather an LSO. This month's Last Sunday Offering is for LIMA. Watch for the LSO envelope in your worship folder next week. LSO envelopes are always available on the info counter between the two doors into the church office.

## LIMA Update

*This quarter's LIMA (Lutheran Institutional Ministries Association) update is from Truth North Campus Ministry in the Twin Cities. Pastor Sam Lor serves as our campus pastor there.*



**“Home away from home.”** That’s the description some of the students use to describe the True North Bible studies. We gather around God’s Word, knowing that the Word impacts our lives beyond our intellect. In the case of True North, it unites through a common identity.

Our students come from different backgrounds and areas of the country but are united in one common confession: “One Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” (Ephesians 4:5-7). This unity transcends physical boundaries and cultural backgrounds. It brings people together.

At the request of the students, we are slowly working through Ephesians. We’ve spent over a semester and are nearing its conclusion. We’ve studied Paul’s letter focusing on the shared identity that unifies God’s church, the body of Christ.



True North does a couple of things to deepen that unity. We offer fellowship opportunities to allow students time to relax from their studies and have some fun. We provide service opportunities to help the students put their faith into action. And, of course, we offer our weekly Wednesday night Bible studies. Diane Hover, our events coordinator, prepares a

a homemade meal for us every week. She also makes meals for the students to take home!  
***“Home away from home.”***



The home-cooked meals make the cafeteria food more bearable. The warmth of a house makes the lecture halls feel less cold. And God’s Word, of course, replenishes our weary souls.

As Christians, we all find ourselves away from our true home. Until we return home, Christ’s Word refuels us and reinforces our identity. It gives us the forgiveness Christ won on the cross. And it is this forgiveness that empowers us to shine our lights to those around us who are living in darkness.



Please keep the True North students and staff in your prayers as we continue to live out our identities as forgiven children of God.

*Pastor Sam Lor*

LIMA supports the Beacon campus ministry in North Mankato, True North campus ministry in the Twin Cities, the Twin Cities hospital chaplaincy, the Rochester/Mayo hospital chaplaincy, as well as prison ministry in Minnesota. For more information about LIMA please contact Pastor Brian Kom, LIMA’s executive director, at [pastorkom@ascensionrochester.org](mailto:pastorkom@ascensionrochester.org).