

Ascension of Our Lord

May 17 and 18, 2026



He Lives to Rule All Things for the Church



198 Westridge Ave., Burlington, Wisconsin
262-763-8229 | stjohnsburlington.org
Rev. Kirk Lahmann | Rev. Kenneth Rodrigue



Welcome to Worship

Thank you for joining us for worship today! We are honored that you are with us. We pray that the Word of God you hear will strengthen your faith and increase your love for the Lord! Please fill out a “Welcome to Worship” card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in an offering plate, located near the sanctuary doors, as you leave worship. If you are a guest, know that we are thankful you have joined us and hope that you will join us again soon.

Prepare for Worship

To prepare for worship, read through the service focus and the Scripture readings. Ponder the words of the Psalm of the Day. Spend time in prayer, using the prayers on the inside cover of the hymnal or on pages 255-258. For those intending to receive the Lord’s Supper, read through the “Christian Questions” on pages 295-296. Consider reading through portions of the Small Catechism on pages 286-293.

Today’s Focus for Worship – He Lives to Rule All Things for the Church

Without the resurrection of Jesus, we would have to wonder who oversees the world. At times the world seems so chaotic. People claim to be in charge but they have limited power and strange ideas. Many of the ideas are harmful for Christians. Leaders seem to lead without acknowledging Jesus. But Jesus lives, and it makes a difference. Jesus is head over everything for the Church. When Jesus ascended, he took his proper place in heaven. The Festival of the Ascension is one of the oldest and most joyful celebrations in the Christian Church. It will be observed by Christians until Christ returns to take us to be with him.

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Kirk Lahmann

Preacher: Pastor Kenneth Rodrigue

Accompanist: Cindy Klink

Trumpet: Glen Rubach

Acknowledgments

Today’s service is adapted from *Christian Worship: Hymnal*, © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House, p. 188 – “The Service, Setting Three.” Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by *Christian Worship: Service Builder* © 2022 Concordia Publishing House. The Prayer of the Church is reprinted from *Praying with the Readings...* © Paul C. Stratman. Used with permission. The Closing Collect is reprinted from *Now and Forever: Contemporary Collects...*, © Paul C. Stratman. Used with permission. Artwork by Ed Riojas, © higherthings.org.

The Service

Setting Three



Hymn

Lo, God to Heaven Ascendeth | 214 (TLH)
Please stand to sing the final stanza.

Lo, God to heav'n ascendeth! Thro'out its regions vast
With shouts triumphant blendeth The trumpet's thrilling blast;
Sing praise to Christ the Lord; Sing praise with exultation,
King of each heathen nation, The God of hosts adored!

With joy is heav'n resounding Christ's glad return to see
Behold the saints surrounding The Lord who set them free.
Bright myriads, thronging, come; The cherub band rejoices,
And loud seraphic voices All welcome Jesus home.

From cross to throne ascending, We follow Christ on high
And know the pathway wending To mansions in the sky.
Our Lord is gone before; Yet here He will not leave us,
But soon in heav'n receive us And open wide the door.

Our place He is preparing; To heav'n we, too, shall rise,
With Him His glory sharing, Be where our Treasure lies.
Bestir thyself, my soul! Where Jesus Christ has entered,
There let thy hope be centered; Press onward toward the goal.

Stand

Let all our thoughts be winging To where Thou didst ascend,
And let our hearts be singing: "We seek Thee, Christ, our Friend,
Thee, God's exalted Son, Our Life, and Way to heaven,
To whom all power is given, Our Joy and Hope and Crown."

Invocation

Matthew 18:20; 28:19-20

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession and Absolution

1 John 1:8-9; 2:2; Matthew 28:19-20

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

Matthew 15:22; 17:15; Mark 10:47

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

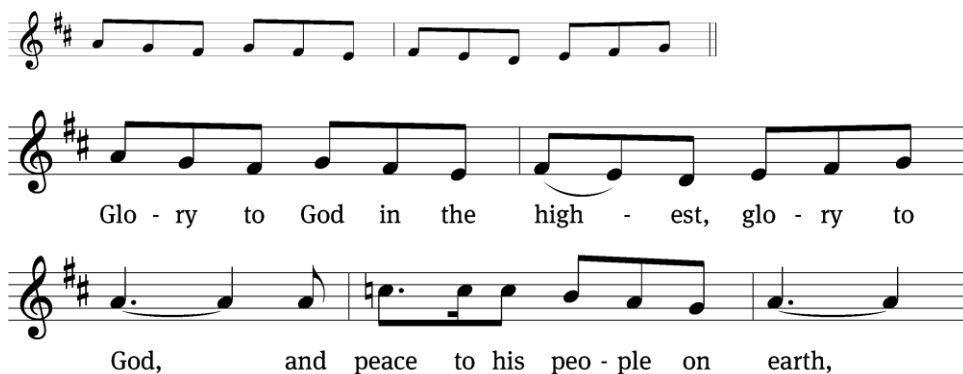
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



A - men. A - men.

Glory Be to God *Gloria in Excelsis*


Luke 2:14; John 1:29




Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to
God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,



and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and




Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we




praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on




us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For



you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the



Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus

Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to
 God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
 and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day you ascended far above the heavens, and at God's right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that, at your command and by your power, we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

¹In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ²until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³After his suffering, he presented himself to them 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.

⁴On 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. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

⁶Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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.”

⁹After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

*The Paschal Candle, which has been lit since Easter Sunday,
is extinguished at the moment of Christ's ascension into heaven,
symbolizing Christ removing his visible presence from among us.
Christ did not remain with his Church in bodily form
but returned to his heavenly Father's right hand in glory,
far above all rule and authority, power and dominion,
to be head over everything for the Church.*

¹⁰They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹“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.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

God Mounts His Throne to Shouts of Joy | 47-C

Refrain

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

Verses

1 All peo - ple, clap your hands, cry out to ____
 2 Our God goes up with shouts of joy to the
 3 God is the King of all, sing praise with ____

God with joy! For the LORD Most ____ High ____
 trum - pet blast. Sing praise for God, ____
 all your skill. God is the rul - er

Refrain

we re - vere, great King o - ver all the earth.
 sing out ____ praise; sing praise to our King, sing praise.
 of all the lands, God reigns up - on the throne.

Text (sts. 1-3): Nicholas Palmer; (Ref): Lectionary for Mass
 Tune: Nicholas Palmer
 Text (Ref): © 1969 ICEL. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 709159
 Text (sts. 1-3) and tune: © 1995 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 709159

¹⁵For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, ¹⁶I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷I 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. ¹⁸I pray 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 his holy people, ¹⁹and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²²And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Refrain

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

⁴⁴ 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.”

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ 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.”

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build | 476

Sermon

Ephesians 1:15-23

Incomparably Great Power

Stand

Confession of Faith – Augsburg Confession, Article III

Our churches teach that the Word, that is, the Son of God, assumed the human nature in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. So there are two natures—the divine and the human—inseparably joined in one person. There is one Christ, true God and true man, who was born of the Virgin Mary, truly suffered, was crucified, died, and was buried. He did this to reconcile the Father to us and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for all actual sins of mankind.

He also descended into hell, and truly rose again on the third day. Afterward, He ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father. There He forever reigns and has dominion over all creatures. He sanctifies those who believe in Him, by sending the Holy Spirit into their hearts to rule, comfort, and make them alive. He defends them against the devil and the power of sin.

The same Christ will openly come again to judge the living and the dead, and so forth, according to the Apostles' Creed.

Be seated

Rite of New Member Welcome (10:30)

By Transfer

Those welcomed “By Transfer” have come to St. John’s from another WELS congregation.

Chris & Erin Galgan (Owen, Emmerson, Evan)

By Profession of Faith

Those welcomed “By Profession of Faith” have been confirmed Lutheran in the past and are now professing unity of faith with St. John’s.

David Jung (Charlotte, Sophia)

By Adult Confirmation

Those welcomed “By Adult Confirmation” have been taught God’s Word by St. John’s pastors and are now being confirmed Lutheran.

DJ Hendrickson

Kim Jung

Ava Marousek

Prayer of the Church

Ephesians 1:22-23

Jesus Christ, our ascended Lord, give us your blessing as you blessed your disciples, that we may be filled with your power and declare your praise.

You are head over everything for your church; you fill everything in every way.

Give us your Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that we may know you better. Enlighten us that we may know the hope of our heavenly inheritance.

You are head over everything for your church; you fill everything in every way.

You commissioned your disciples to be your witnesses to the ends of the earth. Send your Holy Spirit on all your people, that we may bear witness to your gospel of repentance and forgiveness, and bring your kingdom of grace to those who live in darkness.

You are head over everything for your church; you fill everything in every way.

You rule the world with truth and grace. Govern and guide the leaders of all nations, so that your Word may spread to the ends of the earth, and that we may enjoy security and peace.

You are head over everything for your church; you fill everything in every way.

You rule at your Father's right hand, and all things are under your feet. When dark days come, remind us of your gracious rule over everything for us, the members of your body the Church.

You are head over everything for your church; you fill everything in every way.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Most High, you sit at the right hand of your Father and rule as Lord over all things in heaven and on earth. Send us your Holy Spirit, give us true servants of your Word, and preserve your kingdom on earth by your power until all your enemies lie under your feet, that we may finally overcome sin and death and enjoy eternal life with you; for you live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one true God, forever and ever.

Amen.

Offering

2 Corinthians 9:7

Offerings given in thanks to the Lord are brought to the Lord's altar. We ask all worshipers to fill out a "Welcome to Worship" card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in the offering plates at the sanctuary doors following the service.

Hymn

See, the Conqueror Mounts in Triumph | 174 (CW93)



1 See, the con - qu'ror mounts in tri - umph; See the
 2 Who is this that comes in glo - ry With the
 3 While he lifts his hands in bless - ing, He is
 4 He has raised our hu - man na - ture On the



King in roy - al state, Rid - ing on the
 trump of ju - bi - lee? Lord of bat - tles,
 part - ed from his friends; While their ea - ger
 clouds to God's right hand; There we sit in



clouds, his char - iot, To his heav'n - ly pal - ace gate.
 God of ar - mies, He has gained the vic - to - ry.
 eyes be - hold him, He up - on the clouds as - cends.
 heav'n - ly plac - es, There with him in glo - ry stand.



Hark! The choirs of an - gel voic - es Joy - ful
 He who on the cross did suf - fer, He who
 He who walked with God and pleased him, Preach - ing
 Je - sus reigns, a - dored by an - gels; Man with



al - le - lu - ias sing, And the por - tals high
 from the grave a - rose, He has van - quished sin
 truth and doom to come, He, our E - noch, is
 God is on the throne. By our might - y Lord's



are lift - ed To re - ceive their heav'n - ly King.
 and Sa - tan; He by death has crushed his foes.
 trans - lat - ed To his ev - er - last - ing home.
 as - cen - sion We by faith be - hold our own.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, abr., alt.
 Tune: REX GLORIAE (87 87 D) Henry T. Smart, 1813–79.

Stand

Closing Collect

Jesus Christ, you are the Lord Most High, the great King over all the earth. By your Holy Spirit and the Word of your gospel, be with your Church to the end of the age. Clothe your Church with power from on high that we may preach repentance for the forgiveness of sins in your name until you return. You, Jesus, fill everything in every way. You are the awesome King over all the earth, and you live with your Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, greatly exalted, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer *Pater Noster*

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

Blessing *Aaronic Benediction*

Numbers 6:24-26

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.

Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing | 472