



**TO RULE ALL THINGS FOR THE CHURCH**

Ascension and Graduation

# **ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | Bangor, WI**

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*May 25, 2023*

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we welcome you to St. Paul's. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us today. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news of God's forgiveness through Jesus.

## **PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP**

Ascended Lord, you are highly exalted and rule over all for the sake of your people. Be with me today as I worship and learn from you, especially as I am refreshed in the meaning of your ascension to heaven. Forgive me for the times I fail to trust in your plan and in your powerful work for me. Make your gracious and gospel-focused plans known in the lives of the students, especially the graduate, that they may serve you, their ascended King, all their days. In your name I pray. Amen.

## **FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN**

Children's activity sheets are available near the entrance to the sanctuary. The church basement is also available with a live feed of the worship service along with a Kids' Corner for parents with children to utilize during the service if needed.

## **THANK OFFERING**

You may leave your offering in the plate in the lobby. The QR code to the right will provide the link to our online giving option. If you're visiting with us today you are welcome to give an offering, but don't feel compelled by guilt or embarrassment to do so. God wants all offerings to be made freely and with joy.



# DIVINE SERVICE I

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*God's people gather together for strength from God and for mutual encouragement in Christ. Divine Service I therefore focuses us on the glory of Christ and his Word.*

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR

*In Christ Alone*

*please stand*

## INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## CONFESSION

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

## LORD, HAVE MERCY

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy

on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

## ABSOLUTION

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

**C: Amen.**

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## Prayer and Praise

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

## HYMN

*A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing* | **171** (1,5)

*(short musical intro)*

**A hymn of glory let us sing! New songs throughout the world shall ring:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Christ, by a road before untrod, Ascends unto the throne of God.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**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! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: 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.

**C: Amen.**

*be seated*

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# The Word

## FIRST LESSON

*Acts 1:1-11*

<sup>1</sup>I wrote my first book, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began doing and teaching <sup>2</sup>until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After he had suffered, he presented himself alive to the apostles with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and told them things about the kingdom of God.

<sup>4</sup>Once, when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for what the Father promised, which 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 were together with him, they asked, "Lord, is this the time when you are going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

<sup>7</sup>He said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set 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, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

<sup>9</sup>After he said these things, he was taken up while they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>They were looking intently into the sky as he went away. Suddenly, two men in white clothes stood beside them. <sup>11</sup>They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR

*Blest Be the Tie that Binds*



## SECOND LESSON

*Ephesians 1:15-23*

<sup>15</sup>This is why, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, <sup>16</sup>I never stop giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I keep praying that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, will give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in knowing Christ fully. <sup>18</sup>I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know the hope to which he has called you, just how rich his glorious inheritance among the saints is, <sup>19</sup>and just how surpassingly great his power is for us who believe. <sup>20</sup>It is as great as the working of his mighty strength, which God 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, authority, power, and dominion, and above every name that is given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup>God also placed all things under his feet and made him head over everything for the church. <sup>23</sup>The church is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

*please stand*

## GOSPEL

*Luke 24:44-53*

<sup>44</sup>He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to 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 to understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup>He said to them, "This is what is written and so it must be: 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 from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>Look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

<sup>50</sup>He led them out as far as the vicinity of Bethany. He lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup>And while he was blessing them, he parted from them and was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>So they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup>They were continually in the temple courts, praising and blessing God. Amen.

*be seated*



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the scep - ter,  
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, Here on earth our  
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we left in



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the tri - umph,  
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! Here the sin - ful  
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! He is near us;



His the vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace -  
 Flee to you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, Friend  
 Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight



ful Zi - on Thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus  
 of sin - ners, Earth's Re - deem - er, hear our plea Where the  
 re - ceived him When the for - ty days were o'er, Shall our



out of ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by his blood."  
 songs of all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.  
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?

## SERMON

Ephesians 1:15-23

## Ascension = Assurance

*please stand*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*be seated*

## **OFFERING**





## PRAYER

M: Ascended Savior, you have brought us to the end of this school year by your grace. Lead us now to acknowledge gratefully the blessings you have given us in body, mind, and spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: We thank you, Lord, for Christian teachers, parents, and peers who have served for our good. May their efforts bear fruit in lives that continue to grow in faith, hope, and love for Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: As we part for a time or go on to new stages of life, keep us safe in your protecting care. Refresh us through leisure and rest. Renew in us the desire to grow in all useful knowledge and in the wisdom that comes from you. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: Ruler of all things, we ask for your grace especially on the graduate. May his heart always be focused on you and your glory. Strengthen his hands for kingdom work with the confidence that your nail-scarred hands are always raised in the blessing of your ascension. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: Almighty Lord, we commend all that we have and are to your care, asking for the guidance of your Holy Spirit in every moment.

**C: Amen.**

## 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.**



1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me,  
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me  
 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me



Bring - ing com - fort to my anx - ious soul.  
 Strength to serve and wis - dom to o - bey;  
 When my bur - dens grow too great to bear;



Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me  
 I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me  
 Oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



Draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal.  
 O'er the paths I strug - gle day by day.  
 When I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.



Love di - vine, be - yond all mor - tal meas - ure,  
 I will fear no e - vil of the mor - row;  
 Day by day, no mat - ter what be - tide me,



Brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest;  
 I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace.  
 You will hold me ev - er in your hand.

Sav - ior, lead me to the home I treas - ure,  
 Sav - ior, help me bear life's pain and sor - row;  
 Sav - ior, with your pres - ence here to guide me,  
 Where, at last, I'll find e - ter - nal rest.  
 Till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.  
 I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

## PRESENTATION OF THE DIPLOMA

*Wyatt Horstman*

*please stand*

## PRAYER

**M:** O ascended Prophet, equip your Church to proclaim the precious gospel message of God's love for all the world. Give courage to our hearts, power to our words, and success to our efforts.

O ascended High Priest, represent us before the Father as his own dear children and heirs. Defend us against Satan's every accusation and ask for the Father's rich blessings in our everyday lives.

O ascended King, direct the affairs of governments and nations that they may serve the best interest of your Church. You are our Lord, Master, and King.

As the disciples lifted their eyes to watch your ascension, so lift our eyes daily to look for your coming again in glory. We pray all these things through you, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*be seated*

## THE BLESSING

*Sung by the Children's Choir*

# CLOSING HYMN

*Go, My Children, with My Blessing* | 332



1 Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing,  
2 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en,  
3 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished,  
4 I the Lord will bless and keep you



Nev - er a - lone. Wak - ing, sleep - ing,  
At peace and pure. Here you learned how  
Clos - er to me; Grow in love and  
And give you peace; I the Lord will



I am with you; You are my own.  
much I love you, What I can cure.  
love by serv - ing, Joy - ful and free.  
smile up - on you And give you peace;



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have  
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry; Here you  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you; Here his  
I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior,



made you mine for - ev - er. Go, my chil - dren,  
touched him, saw his glo - ry. Go, my chil - dren,  
ten - der com - fort stilled you. Go, my chil - dren,  
Com - fort - er, and Broth - er. Go, my chil - dren;



with my bless - ing— You are my own.  
sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.  
fed and nour - ished, Joy - ful and free.  
I will keep you And give you peace.



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## Church and School Picnic

Friday, May 26, at 12:00 pm

Bangor Village Park

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### SERVING IN WORSHIP

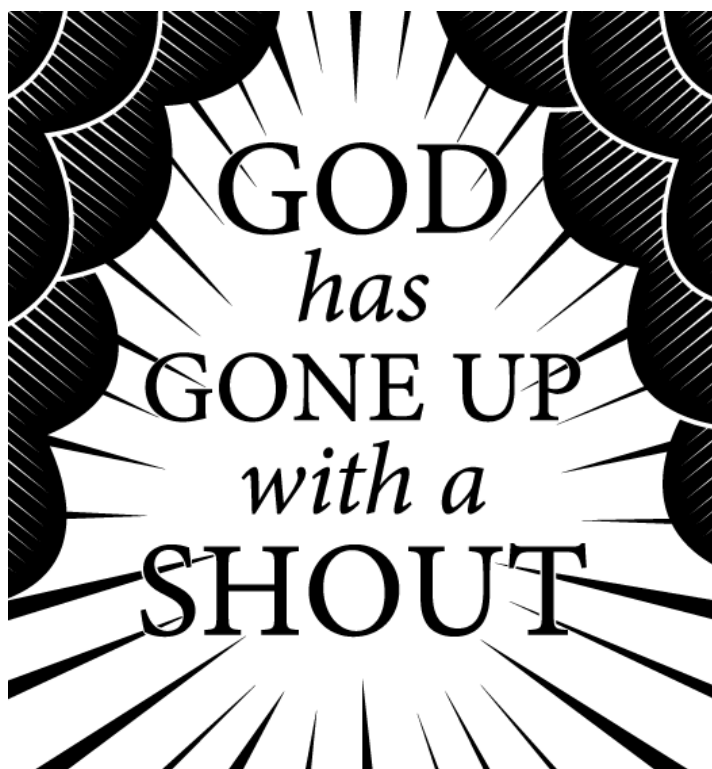
**Presiding Minister**  
**Accompanist**

Pastor Brock Groth  
Irene Bakken

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