



**HE LIVES TO RULE ALL THINGS FOR THE CHURCH**

Ascension & Graduation Service

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

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May 21, 2026

## 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.

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## 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 you and am refreshed in the meaning of your ascension to heaven. Forgive me for the times I fail to trust in your promises and in your powerful work for me. Make your gracious and gospel-focused plans known in the lives of the students, especially the graduates, that they may serve you, their ascended King, all their days. In your name I pray. Amen.

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## 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.



## SERVING IN WORSHIP

**Presiding Minister**

**Accompanist**

Pastor Brock Groth

Micah Gray

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# ASCENSION & GRADUATION

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*Tonight we praise our ascended Lord for all that he does for us and promises to us through his ascension, and we thank him for blessing another school year in his grace.*

## SCHOOL CHOIR



*Stand*

## INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## CONFESSION

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.

**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



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



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

## ABSOLUTION

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.

**Amen.**

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## Prayer and Praise

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

## HYMN

*606 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*



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, his the  
food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to  
sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful  
you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of  
lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -



Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus  
sin - ners, earth's Re - deem - er, hear our plea where the  
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"?"

*Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, abr., alt.*

*Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1796–1867*

*Text and tune: Public domain*

## PRAYER

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.**

*Be seated*

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## The Word

### FIRST READING

*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.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING**

*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.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Matthew 28:20*

**Alleluia!**  
**Surely I am with you always,**  
**to the very end of the age.**  
**Alleluia!**

**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.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

474 Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise



1 Hail the day that sees him rise to his  
2 There the glo - rious tri - umph waits; lift your  
3 See, the heav'n its Lord re - ceives, yet he  
4 See, he lifts his hands a - bove; see, he



throne a - bove the skies! Christ, the Lamb for  
heads, e - ter - nal gates! He has con - quered  
loves the earth he leaves; though re - turn - ing  
shows the prints of love. Hark! His gra - cious



sin - ners giv'n, re - as - cends his na - tive heav'n.  
death and sin; take the King of glo - ry in!  
to his throne, still he calls the world his own.  
lips be - stow bless - ings on his Church be - low.

- 5 Still for us he intercedes,  
his atoning death he pleads.  
He, the first of all our race,  
near himself prepares a place.
- 6 There we shall with him remain,  
partners in his endless reign,  
there his face unclouded see,  
live with him eternally.

*Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, abr., alt.*

*Tune: Pierre de Corbeille, d. 1221; adapt. Richard Redhead, 1820–1901*

*Text and tune: Public domain*

**The Final Promises of Jesus**

*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*

# OFFERTORY

# 942 Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

*Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev.  
Tune: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. James E. Engel, 1925–1989  
Text and tune: Public domain*



## PRAYER

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,

**Hear our prayer.**

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,

**Hear our prayer.**

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,

**Hear our prayer.**

Ruler of all things, we ask for your grace especially on the graduates. May their hearts always be focused on you and your glory. Strengthen their 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,

**Hear our prayer.**

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

**Amen.**



HYMN

472 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New songs through-  
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the  
 3 To them the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and  
 4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the



out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Mount of Ol - ives stand, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 gaze up - on the sky?" Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 por - tals of the sky." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Christ, by a road be - fore un - trod, as - cends un -  
 and with his fol - low - ers they see their Lord as -  
 "This is the Sav - ior," thus they say. "This is his  
 "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall see re - turn - ing



to the throne of God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 cend in maj - es - ty. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 glo - rious tri - umph day." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 in great maj - es - ty." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

- 5 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!
- 6 O risen Christ, ascended Lord,  
all praise to you let earth accord.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
You are, while endless ages run,  
with Father and with Spirit one.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Text: The Venerable Bede, 673–735, abr.; tr. composite*  
*Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Köln, 1623*  
*Text and tune: Public domain*

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## PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS

*Liam Braun*  
*Isaac Parr*  
*Jaelyn Perron*



*Stand*

## **PRAYER**

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.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## **BLESSING**

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

## 930 Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.  
2 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
3 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me;  
4 I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; you are my own.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.  
I the Lord will smile up - on you and give you peace;



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for -  
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry; here you touched him, saw his  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you; here his ten - der com - fort  
I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er, and



ev - er. Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.  
glo - ry. Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
stilled you. Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.  
Broth - er. Go, my chil - dren; I will keep you and give you peace.

*Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008*

*Tune: Welsh, 18th cent.*

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*Tune: Public domain*



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