

Ascension

May 24, 2020

“St. Philip’s Evangelical Lutheran Church and School”

Pastor: Raymond Kimbrough

Principal: Jason Schapekahm

Welcome, Friend!

You Have Come To The Right Place!

Jesus Loves YOU!

WELCOME

For more information regarding St. Philip’s Lutheran Church,
please contact Pastor Kimbrough at 414-254-6093.

For information on our K4 – 8th grade Christian day school
please contact our Principal, Jason Schapekahm at 414-659-4688.

Worship Theme:

“The Risen One Ascends into Heaven”

Order of Service

Opening Hymn: On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3uXwatsVtc>

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 wen before, There all my thoughts shall ever soar

To still their deepest yearning.

Oh, grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Recalling your ascension,

That I may serve you faithfully, Adorning your redemption;

And then, when all my days will cease, Let me depart in joy and peace

In answer to my pleading.

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Confession of Sins

Pastor: 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.

Congregation: 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.

The 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.

Congregation: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor & Congregation: 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 Lesson: Ephesians 1:16-23

St. Paul prays that the Ephesians might grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, who, after being raised from the dead, is seated at the right hand of his Father. There he reigns as our eternal King. He is far above any earthly ruler and controls all things for the sake of his believers.

¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I 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. ¹⁸ I pray also 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 the saints, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Psalms 47 – Responsive Reading (selected verses)

Reader: Clap your hands, all you nations.

Congregation: Shout to God with cries of joy.

Reader: How awesome is the LORD Most High.

Congregation: The great King over all the earth!

Reader: God reigns over the nations.

Congregation: God is seated on his holy throne.

Reader: God has ascended amid shouts of joy.

Congregation: The LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

Reader: Sing praises to God, sing praises.

Congregation: Sing praises to our King, sing praises.

Reader: For God is the King of all the earth.

Congregation: Sing to him a psalm of praise.

Reader and Congregation:

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.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 24:44-53 *After Jesus completed the work of salvation, he blessed his disciples and ascended into heaven. Before he left this world, he appointed us as his witnesses.*

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 Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance and 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 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.

Devotion Hymn: Draw Us to Thee

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I31y5w0nM6w>

Draw us to Thee, For then shall we Walk in Thy steps forever
And hasten on Where Thou art gone To be with Thee, dear Savior.

Draw us to Thee, Lord, lovingly; Let us depart with gladness
That we may be Forever free From sorrow, grief, and sadness.

Draw us to Thee; O grant that we May walk the road to heaven!
Direct our way Lest we should stray And from Thy paths be driven.

Draw us to Thee That also we Thy heav'nly bliss inherit
And ever dwell Where sin and hell No more can vex our spirit.

Draw us to Thee Unceasingly, Into Thy kingdom take us;
Let us fore'er Thy glory share, Thy saints and joint heirs make us.

Devotion Text – Acts 1:1-11 - “Jesus Says ‘Good-bye’ To His Disciples”

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 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. 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.”
⁶So when they met together, they 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. 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.”

Brothers and Sisters in the Lord. Today, we celebrate the “ascension” that took place 40 days after Jesus had risen from the dead on Easter morning. Throughout those 40 days, Jesus appeared to over 500 people giving proof of His resurrection and strengthening their faith. This was important because His disciples would have to carry on His work of preaching and teaching about the kingdom of God. But, at the end of that 40 day period, it was time for Him to say “good-bye”. After 3+ years of being almost constantly in their presence, of teaching them and comforting them, of personally giving them hope, He ascends up to Heaven as they watch. Can’t you almost feel their human sorrow and sadness? What are we going to do now? Who will lead us?

I think that all of us, at some time or other, have or will have to say “goodbye” to a close friend or relative. Usually when we do, the “goodbye” will include 3 steps: 1) we remember fondly what we accomplished together; 2) we make a promise to keep in touch; and, 3) we make plans to see each other again. On that first Ascension Day, as recorded by Luke in our text, we see all 3 of those steps. He recalls Jesus’ words actions with His disciples regarding His work and sacrifice for the sins of the world. He also records how Jesus promised that they would receive power to be His witnesses when the Holy Spirit would come upon them at Pentecost. Then, we hear that, as they stood there looking up into the sky, 2 men dressed in white appeared with them. **“he shall return even as you see Him go up”** was their promise. That was the certain plan to see them again.

To be sure, our “good-byes” are so often sad. They are sad because we will miss that person who is the object of our “goodbye”. But, the good news comes from knowing why Jesus said “goodbye” to His disciples in the first place. In the gospel of John, chapter 14:1-3, Jesus had told them, **“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ²My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”**

Because of Jesus’ accomplished work here on earth, we have the blessed assurance that we and our Christian loved ones will someday have a joyful, everlasting reunion in Heaven. Because of Jesus, someday we will never have to say “good-bye” again.
Pastor Raymond Kimbrough

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn: Shout to the Lord – sung by St. Philip's Praise Band

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHN7CT9B0eQ&feature=emb_title

Verse: My Jesus, my savior Lord, there is none like you
All of my days, I want to praise the wonders of your mighty love
My comfort, my shelter tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath, all that I am never cease to worship you

Chorus: Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of your name I sing for joy at the works of your hands
Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you

repeat verse and chorus

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
THE WEEK OF MAY 24, 2020**

OFFERING UPDATE

5/11-5/17	Week	May to date	July to Date
Budget	\$3,653.85	\$10,961.55	\$ 168,076.98
Actual	\$7,939.70	\$12,403.70	\$ 148,252.72
Over(Under)	\$4,285.85	\$ 1,442.15	(\$10,254.86)

Continuing Our Mission and Ministry

Our church still has ongoing ministry to conduct. We assume you will want to continue giving your offerings to the Lord. You may send your offerings in the mail (3012 N Holton Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212). Online giving is also available from our website or click this link: <https://members.myeoffering.com/#/landing>.



UPCOMING GRADUATIONS

If you have an upcoming graduation this spring please notify the church office. We would like to recognize all of our St. Philip's graduates both from high school and college.

Sammie Bausley – Wisconsin Lutheran High School
Dania Gipson – Milwaukee High School of the Arts – Drive by on June 3rd at 2PM

**"Our Mission Statement"
(Our Purpose as a Church)**

Our mission here at St. Philip's Lutheran is outlined for us in Matthew 28:19: 'Go and make disciples of all nations, teaching them and baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.' Making disciples includes proclaiming God's Word in its truth and purity, strengthening the faith of those under our care, and reaching out to the people of our community, (including our unchurched friends and relatives).
Let us pray for and work together toward this goal.

CALL NEWS

We are so thankful and beyond excited to welcome Grace Marquardt, wife of Mr. Marquardt, our 7th grade teacher, as our new 6th grade teacher! We welcome you and ask the Lord's blessings as you continue in His service.

We are also thankful and blessed to have these three faithful servants, Timothy Babinec, 3rd grade, Emma Schneck, 4th grade and John Marquardt, 7th grade reassigned to St. Philip's!
God's continued blessings!

ASCENSION PRAYER

The Ascension of Our Lord

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, you are our Strength and our Song. You have prepared for us a well of salvation in Jesus Christ your Son, who through the eternal Spirit made himself an offering for the sins of the world. We thank you for your great mercy.

Most especially do we praise you for the life of grace and truth that Christ Jesus lived among us. We thank you that through him you have unfolded your glorious purposes and solemn designs. Move our hearts to believe all that he has taught us and to love one another as he has commanded.

Grant now, as we celebrate with joy the ascension of our Lord, that even as you have raised him to the right hand of your power and majesty, so may we ever exalt and praise him in adoration and prayer, and find in him the springs of gladness and devotion.

Lift the eyes of your Church heavenward to see him who ever lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant your people sure hope and confidence in the exceeding greatness of his power.

We pray for your mercy upon all who are afflicted in any way. Especially do we plead for your gracious help to all the sick. Give them the confidence that whatever they ask in accordance with your will, you will grant. Comfort them with the knowledge that in all things you work for the good of those who love you.

Finally, O God, comfort us with the knowledge of our Savior's ascension, and prepare our hearts for his coming again when he will take us to be you forever. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, whose name is above every name. Amen.

Read June's Forward in Christ for Free

Northwestern Publishing House is offering free access to the digital edition of *Forward in Christ* for June. [Visit this link](#) to read and share this digital resource with others.

Help Support the Lutheran Military Support Group

On May 25th, we will again commemorate Memorial Day, but with the COVID-19 pandemic, the celebrations this year will be different. The Lutheran Military Support Group kindly asks you to consider supporting them through this difficult time by visiting their website, www.lutheranmilitary.org and clicking "Support Our Cause" at the bottom of the page.

Free Resource from WELS Congregational Services

WELS Congregational Services is pleased to provide this timely magazine, *For Such a Time as This*, filled with articles and resources to assist pastors and congregations as they seek to serve their members and communities during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Click this link](#) to download this free resource.

A long-awaited return

2020/05/19/in Together

It appears that the time we have been waiting for—when we can again gather in church for Word and sacrament—has arrived or will arrive shortly. Some states have already begun to relax or even remove restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 virus. In most places further relaxing of restrictions seems to be coming in the days and weeks ahead.

That means your congregation has probably already been making plans to resume public worship at some time in the coming weeks. (Some congregations resumed limited public worship last Sunday.) At least on a temporary basis, those plans will likely take into consideration common-sense measures to reduce the possibility of spreading the virus. Plans may also call for voluntarily following guidelines provided by federal, state, and local health agencies. As we make these decisions, it will be important for congregations to be aware of what restrictions apply to them so they may evangelically apply biblical principles in keeping with the Fourth Commandment, as we also seek to honor the Third Commandment.

We will also want to act evangelically and respectfully because we realize our members and neighboring congregations may have many different approaches, opinions, or comfort levels. As we try to walk through the various governmental and medical concerns, guidelines, and recommendations, we also want to have a balanced spiritual concern toward our members, realizing some will want to gather in worship as soon as possible and others will still feel hesitant for a while. There also will be divided human opinions on the wisdom of beginning to open up or not to open up at all at this time. We want to encourage everyone to be patient with everybody else and to make those decisions in Christian love and with much prayer.

I pray the Lord has kept you safe and healthy under his protection during these weeks. I also pray the Lord has blessed your congregation's ministry during this time, since the Word always continues to accomplish God's purpose. And I further pray for the members of your congregations, especially if they are suffering from illness or from any of the other attendant difficulties such as job loss, financial difficulty, or family turmoil. May the grace of our risen Lord Jesus give them—and all of us—his saving peace.

God bless you as you make evangelical, balanced, and thoughtful decisions about when—and how—to arrange for in-person worship. Together, God-willing, we will be back in God's house saying, "It is good, Lord, to be here!"

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder