



*The Ascension, from "The Small Passion" Artist: Albrecht Dürer (German, Nuremberg 1471–1528 Nuremberg) Date: ca. 1510
Credit Line: The George Khuner Collection, Gift of Mrs. George Khuner, 1975*

May 12, 2024
Ascension of our Lord, Year B
9:00 a.m.

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

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WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess to God and to one another the ways we have fallen short.
Abiding God,

We confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Siblings in Christ: by grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus † Christ all your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scept - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scept - ter,

his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the

vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
 lieves, nor ques - tions how, Though the cloud from sight re -
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful

Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus

out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving God,

In you we live and move and have our being. May we remember this truth, and may we continue to choose life in you. May we keep the commandments of Jesus, follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and witness the hope that is within us, sharing Christ's love in the world.

Amen.

READING: Acts 1:1-11

[Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁴[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of The Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Morning Has Broken

1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black - bird has
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
 Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version
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BLESSING OF GRADUATES

Life presents us with various significant milestones that set the stage for the next phase in our earthly journey. Graduation from high school is one of these milestones. Today we wish to honor those who are moving through this special time of accomplishment, transition, and change, and to show them that we, their community of faith, stand with them and support them as fellow believers in Jesus Christ.

Let us pray. Gracious God,
You bless your children with many achievements. We give thanks especially today for the milestones that these graduates have attained. As they begin new phases of their lives, may they know your love in all the experiences they have. Bless the parents and guardians of these students, who have raised them and nourished them in Christian faith. Give them strength in your holy presence, and give them many joyful reunions with their children, those who are leaving home to go far away, and those staying close by. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

People of St. John, will you promise to keep these graduates and their families in your thoughts and prayers as they go forth into the future?

We will.

Will you, as fellow believers in Jesus Christ, promise to help them as need and opportunity arise?

We will.

PRESENTATION OF BLANKETS

The ladies of St. John made blankets for each one of you. May these blankets remind you of the love and support you have at St. John. When times get hard may you remember this community of faith, and lean into our prayers, as we hold each one of you in prayer. May you find joy, comfort, bravery, and peace wherever your next adventure takes you.

GRADUATE BLESSING

Go out into the world in peace; be of good courage.

Hold fast to what is good; return no one evil for evil.

Strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak.

Help the suffering; honor all people.

Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Responding to "God of grace," with "**hear our prayer.**"

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Let us show our friendship with Christ and our love for our neighbors by giving generously so that we may bear the lasting fruit of Christ's love.

SPECIAL MUSIC

In The Garden

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God,

We give you thanks and praise for light and life and love. Above all, we give thanks for the presence of the living Christ among us. By your Spirit who breathes within us, strengthen our faith, use our gifts, and work in our lives to bear witness to the resurrection of Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

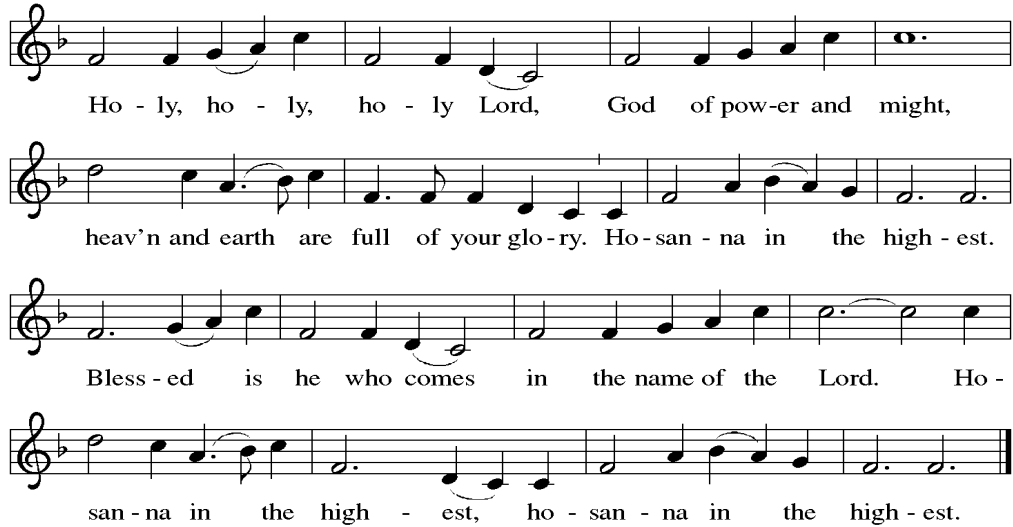
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ; who, enthroned forever at your right hand, intercedes for us as our great high priest. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's table, and know God is alive, almighty, and present. Receive the bread and the wine, and be filled with God's love. Take a moment to pause, be present, and rejoice in the Lord. Amen.



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



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Here Is Bread... I'm sorry but these lyrics are unavailable.

Beautiful Savior

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown,
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky,
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677; in Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God,

In you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world. In Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the beauty of God be reflected in your eyes,
May the love of God be reflected in your hands,
May the wisdom of God be reflected in your words,
May the knowledge of God flow from your heart,
That all might see, and seeing, believe.
In the name of the Holy † God Triune. **Amen.**

Crown Him with Many Crowns

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,
 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave
 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,

hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
 whose arm those crim - son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem,
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts. 1-3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4
 Music: DIADEMAIA, George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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Welcome to all! Happy Easter! (Yes, it's still that season!) And happy Mother's Day to all who share a caring relationship with a mom or mom-figure. Welcome to worship.

People hold many feelings on Mother's Day. I pray for those celebrating, mourning, yearning or experiencing mixed emotions. Wrap all in your care, God of love.

Please remember to silence pagers and cell phones during services.

To those who are visiting: Welcome to St. John and thank you for joining us! You are welcome to sign our registry in the narthex.

Reminder! If you are in need of Pastoral care, please contact St. John (715) 675-6950

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. All are welcome to Christ's Table.

Food Basket. Each week you are invited to bring non-perishable grocery items to be given to a local food pantry. Place your gift in the *Shopping Cart* next to the main entrance. **Reminder, food pantries cannot accept expired donations.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m. the Adult Study will discuss pages 7—25 from the book *A is for Alabaster: 52 Reflections on the Stories of Scripture* by Anna Carter Florence.

Sunday, May 19 at 10:15 a.m. join us for an Ice Cream Social, BINGO, and welcoming our new members! To make this event a success, we are in need of small prizes for folks of all ages for BINGO. Make plans to join in on the fun! See Kim Landwehr with questions.

Monday, June 10 at 6:30 p.m. The Book Club will discuss, *The Mighty Queens of Freeville: A Mother, a Daughter, and the Town That Raised Them* by Amy Dickinson.

Vacation Bible School Registration is open! VBS will be Sunday, June 23 – Thursday June, 27. Register on our website <https://stjohnwausau.org/education/vbs/>

St. John Choir will be getting back together, please watch for future dates to meet. Thank you, Amanda Grueneberg, for leading.

Fundraising Committee will meet soon. Please watch bulletin for dates.

St. John Quilting Wishlist. Left over fabric or never used fabric, light weight denim, cotton or flannel sheets, pillow cases, cotton curtains (unlined), cotton shower curtains. If you are interested, come join us! You can also sew a quilt top from home. Size needed is 60 x 80. They do not need to be fancy. Thank you!

Live Streaming and Photography Notice. When you enter a St. John Lutheran Church service or event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording or live streaming may occur. If you prefer not to be recognized on camera, the back row inside the church is not within viewing distance of a camera and communion will typically be only on a wide shot where it may be difficult to recognize congregants. Parents, please note our children's sermons are being recorded and live streamed. If you do not want your child to be recognized on camera, please refrain from having them participate.

Coming This Week @ St. John May 12– May 19

Today

9:00 a.m. Worship

May 14

8:30 a.m. Quilting

9:00 a.m. Pr. Maggie @ Pr. Meeting

6:30 p.m. Adult Study

May 17 & 18

Both Days Pr. Maggie @ Synod Assembly

May 19

9:00 a.m. Worship & New Member Welcome!

10:15 a.m. BINGO & Ice Cream Social!