**THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Observed as The Ascension of Our Lord**

**May 12, 2024**

 “The next statement of the creed identifies Jesus as the one who “ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.” Thereby, the creed reminds us that the friend of sinners is indeed at the reins of the universe. Far from being absent from them, he is where God is—in control of his world, and ruling it as a part of his love for the sinners he wills to befriend.

 Like the statement about the descent to the netherworld, the confession of Jesus’ ascension makes no sense if it is taken as a cosmological or astronautical statement. The ascension was not like climbing up a ladder. Rather, it is imagery in the service of a profound theological truth: Jesus, who is the sinners’ friend, is not a pretender, a wishful thinker hoping that things will turn out for them in the end.

 He is, in fact, in charge, and he is bringing about that good and gracious will of God which he spoke and lived.”

**Frederick Niedner, Jr. and David Truemper**

***Keeping the Faith***

The Ascension was a great and indescribable cause for joy, for in it the nature of humankind ascended, above the dignity of all the heavenly creatures, rising above the angelic order, above the sublimity of the archangels, until, received into the company of the eternal Father, it was made a sharer of the throne of God’s glory, to whose nature it was united in the Son. Therefore, the Ascension of Christ is our uplifting, for where the glory of Our Head shall go, there the hope of our body is called.

Let us then rejoice exceedingly with fitting joy, and let us be glad with devout thanksgiving. For on this day, not alone are we made sure heirs of paradise, but in Christ we have already reached the heights of heaven, and we have obtained more abundant gifts through the ineffable favor of Christ than we lost through the envy of the devil.

**Leo**

**✠ In the Name of Jesus ✠**

**✠ GATHERING ✠**

**INTRODUCTION**

*In today’s readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1: 11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.*

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC *Did You Hear the Mountains Tremble* The Praise Band**

 **(Martin Smith)**

**THE EASTER ACCLAMATION**

P: Christ is risen and ascended! Alleluia!

**C: He is risen and ascended indeed! Alleluia!**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*As you are able please rise*

**THE GATHERING SONG NSB 70 Open Our Eyes**

The congregation faces the cross as it enters

**THE GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be

 with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, Your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all

 heavens that He might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as He promised, He

 abides with us on earth to the end of time, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,

 one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*The assembly is seated*

**✠ WORD ✠**

**FIRST READING Acts 1: 1-11**

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

In 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.**

**THE PSALM: Psalm 47**  **Read responsively**

1Clap your hands, all you peoples;

     shout to God with a joyful sound.

**2For the LORD Most High is to be feared:**

     **a great King over all the earth,**

3Who subdues the peoples under us,

     and the nations under our feet;

**4Who chooses our inheritance for us,**

     **the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.**

5God has gone up with a shout,

     the LORD with the sound of the ram's horn.

**6Sing praises to God, sing praises;**

     **sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

7For God is King of all the earth;

     sing praises with a song.

**8God reigns over the nations;**

     **God is enthroned on high.**

9The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham.

     The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

**SECOND READING Ephesians 1: 15-23**

The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we would be given the wisdom to comprehend this and display it through love toward others.

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.**

*As you are able please rise*

**THE VERSE**

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**THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 24: 44-53**

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord!**

44Then He said to the disciples, "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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ!**

*The assembly is seated*

**THE SERMON**

*Silence for meditation follows the sermon*

*As you are able please rise*

**THE HYMN OF THE DAY 393 *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing***

**THE NICENE CREED**

A: God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and

 hope, we confess our faith.

**We believe in one God,**

 **the Father, the Almighty,**

 **maker of heaven and earth,**

 **of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

 **the only Son of God,**

 **eternally begotten of the Father,**

 **God from God, Light from Light,**

 **true God from true God,**

 **begotten, not made,**

 **of one Being with the Father.**

 **Through Him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

 **He came down from heaven;**

 **by the power of the Holy Spirit**

 **He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

 **He suffered death and was buried.**

 **On the third day He rose again**

 **in accordance with the Scriptures;**

 **He ascended into heaven**

 **and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

 **He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**

 **and His kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

 **Who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

 **With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified.**

 **He has spoken through the prophets.**

 **We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

 **We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

 **We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

 **and the life of the world to come. Amen**

**THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

A: Our risen and ascended Lord offers up priestly intercessions before the throne of God. Let us

 offer our prayers for the Church, the world, and all those who long for the grace of new life.

A: That the Church may faithfully witness to Jesus and repentance and forgiveness in His name,

 we pray:

**C: Hear us, risen Lord.**

A: That the Jesus Who rules the world at the Father’s right hand might fill all leaders and nations

 with wisdom, and all things with His Spirit of justice, reconciliation, and peace, we pray:

**C: Hear us, risen Lord.**

A: That we might be clothed with power from on high to be “taken up” into Jesus’ own love and

 mission for the world, we pray:

**C: Hear us, risen Lord.**

A: That those in the healing professions: doctors, nurses, surgeons, therapists, aides, and

 counselors might bring the immeasurable power of God’s healing love to the lonely, the

 forgotten, the institutionalized, and the sick, especially: **Cathy Martin; Venia Wendt; Russ**

 **Fischer; Marsha Kenney; Debbie Martin; Kathy Stein; Leonard Cross; and Kay Peglow,**

we pray:

**C: Hear us, risen Lord.**

A: That those celebrating birthdays, especially **Pat Miller;** and anniversaries, especially **Fred**

 **and Judy Laborn** might be filled with grace this day and every day and grow in grace in the

days ahead, we pray:

**C: Hear us, risen Lord.**

A: That with all the saints we too might be received into the fullness of Christ’s everlasting rule

 and glory, we pray:

**C: Hear us, risen Lord.**

P: Ascended Lord, You have not left us, but gone before us into the heavenly glory. Raise these

 our prayers to heaven, and present them to God in union with Your eternal sacrifice, that we

 may know Your divine love in this life and may be one with You in the life to come.

**C: Amen.**

**✠ MEAL ✠**

**THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the risen Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*The assembly is seated*

**THE OFFERING**

**THE VOLUNTARY *Seek to Serve*  St. Paul Senior Choir**

 **(Lloyd Pfautsch)**

*As you are able please rise*

**THE PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS**

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**THE OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A: Let us pray. Eternal God,

**C: Our Savior Jesus Christ has promised to be with us until the end of time. Accept all we**

 **offer You this day, and renew in us His risen and ascended life. We ask this in the name**

 **of Jesus the Lord. Amen.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: Holy God, You alone are holy.

 You alone are God.

 The universe declares Your praise:

 Beyond the stars;

 beneath the sea;

 within each cell;

 with every breath.

**C: We praise You, O God.**

P: Generations bless Your faithfulness;

 Through the water;

 by night and day;

 across the wilderness;

 out of exile;

 into the future.

**C: We bless You, O God.**

P: We give You thanks for Your dear Son:

 At the heart of human life;

 near to those who suffer;

 beside the sinner;

 among the poor;

 With us now.

**C: We thank You, O God.**

P: In the night ... “Do this for the remembrance of Me.”

 As often as we eat ... we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

 Remembering His love for us on the way,

 at the table,

 and to the end,

 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: We pray for the gift of Your Spirit:

 In our gathering;

 within this Meal;

 among Your people;

 throughout the world.

 Blessings, praise, and thanks to You,

 Holy God,

 through Christ Jesus,

 by Your Spirit,

 in Your Church,

 without end.

**C: Amen!**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

P: Risen from the dead, Jesus lives to intercede for us and join us as He taught us to pray:

**C: 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, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive**

 **those who sin against us.**

 **Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**

 **For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever.**

 **Amen.**

**INVITATION TO THE MEAL**

P: Alleluia! Christ the Lamb of God has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us celebrate His Feast

 with joy. Blessed are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb. God’s holy gifts for

 God’s holy people. Come, for all is now ready.

*The assembly is seated*

**DISTRIBUTION**

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Those wishing to receive the Laying on of Hands, Anointing with Oil and Prayer for Healing

may come to Pastor at the side aisle

**HYMN DURING DISTRIBUTION 434 *Jesus Shall Reign***

 **ELW 483 *Here is Bread***

 **ELW 481 *Come to the Table***

 **NSB 64 *Majesty***

*As you are able please rise*

**THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**C: Amen.**

**THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

A: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, in the Eucharist we celebrate the Ascension of Your Son into

 glory. May the gifts of His Body and Blood help us to rise with Him to the joys of heaven,

 where He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**✠ SENDING ✠**

**THE BENEDICTION**

P: May God the Father Who raised Christ from the dead open to you the gate of everlasting life.

**C: Amen.**

P: May God the Son Who burst from the grave give you joy as you celebrate His resurrection.

**C: Amen.**

P: May God the Holy Spirit Who brought you to birth in Baptism fill you with strength and peace.

**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God: Father, Son, **✠** and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**THE SENDING HYMN 838 *Beautiful Savior***

**THE DISMISSAL**

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

A: Go in the peace of Christ, alleluia!

**C: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE**

**✠ To God Alone Be Glory ✠**

The Meditation is from *Keeping the Faith. A Guide to the Christian Faith.* David Truemper and

 Frederick Niedner, Jr. (Valparaiso University, Department of Theology, 1980). 67.

The Greeting, Peace, Offertory, Post-Communion Prayers, and Dismissal are from *Sundays and*

 *Seasons.* Copyright 2000 Augsburg Fortress.

The Prayers are adapted from *Prayers for Sundays and Seasons. Year B.* Peter Scagnelli.

 (Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1996, 72-73.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Please remember to mail your offering to the Church Office** at 818 Franklin Street, Michigan City, IN 46360**.** Another alternative is to give on-line through Tithe.ly. Please see your closure letter for information on how to set up a Tithe.ly account.

**St. Paul Members are reminded to have** a loved one contact the office if you are hospitalized. Many times, the Pastor doesn’t know someone is in the hospital. If you call and leave a message, please tell us which hospital the patient is at.

**Birthdays: Patricia Miller (5/16)**

**Anniversaries: Fred & Judy LaBorn (5/19)**

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Jim Tomsheck, Marsha Kenney, Grace Romine, Debbie Martin, Sue Koziel, Jana Thomas, Margie Torres, Jayla Jacobi, Ronwynn Jones, Chris Jones, Mark Tannehill, Joan Seifert, Virginia Murray, Brian Wiseman, Jary Tannehill, Sue Granacki, Kathy Stein, Karen Peters and Pastor Charlie Streitelmeier.

**OFFICE HOURS:** Libby will be in the office on Mondays, Wednesdays,

 and Fridays; volunteers will cover Tuesdays and Thursdays.

  Monday & Wednesday 8:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.

 Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

 Friday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**If you are listening to the worship broadcast on the radio and would like to watch the Sunday morning service live stream follow these steps:**

(1) If you have You Tube available on your TV, search for

 **St. Paul Lutheran Church Michigan City, IN.**

(2) The direct link on the computer is

 https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5AIPNaKr3QN50984jGOa1g.

    (3) This link is also on the main page of the church’s website in

 the church section and will continue to be posted weekly on the St.

 Paul Facebook page.

And it will always be available on the radio broadcast Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m.

on WEFM (95.9), and on the local cable access station #99 for the previous week’s

service on Sundays at 4:00 p.m. and the current service on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

and Fridays at 8:30 p.m.

**There will be no broadcast or streaming of the Sunday, May 12 service.** Both Mike Bockover and Paul Brooks will be out of town that weekend. This also means that the service will not be available on the local cable access channel or on the normal radio broadcast on WEFM. Broadcasting and taping will resume on Sunday the 19th.

**The approved and signed minutes of the February 22 and March 21, 2024 Church Council Meetings are on the table at the back of the church in the Narthex. Please take a copy with you as you go.**

**To send e-mail to the church office**, please use the following addresses:

Pastor Mark Reshan: seniorpastor@stpaulmichigancity.com

Church Office Secretary (Libby Pollock): churchsecretary@stpaulmichigancity.com

Church Treasurer (Karen Fleming): finance@stpaulmichigancity.com

**The Good News Newsletter**: If you have an article or anything you want included in **The Good News** please send it to the following e-mail address: splcgoodnews@gmail.com. Pastor Pamela Thiede will be using this e-mail address to assemble **The Good News** each month. The deadline for getting information to Pastor Pamela will be the 20th of each month.

**Worship Attendance:**

**Saturday, May 4, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m. 37**

**Sunday, May 5, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m. 63**

**TOTAL 100**

**IT’S TIME FOR A NEW DIRECTORY**

**As I get closer to the end of my first draft I find that some of the numbers I’ve called to check in with folks have been disconnected. If you know of anyone in the directory that has a new phone number or address please let me know by sending me an email or call the church office in the next couple weeks and let me know. I look forward to hearing from you as soon as you’re able.**

**Libby Pollock**

**Church Secretary**

**Our annual spring congregational meeting will take place on Sunday, May 19 at 10:00** in the St. Paul Room. There will be two main agenda items: the proposed budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year; and a report on the sale of the school building.



**POTLUCK DINNER**

 **Following the congregational meeting on May 19,** we will hold a traditional potluck meal. The Council will not be providing the main course this time, so whatever entrees, salads, sides, and desserts we have will come from those who attend. No need to sign up for anything; simply bring a favorite dish to share and enjoy good food and better fellowship following the meeting.

**The Mission of the Month for May**

May’s mission of the month is Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library of

LaPorte County. Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books each month to children from birth to age five, free of charge, through funding shared by Dolly and local community partners in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and Republic of Ireland. Any child within LaPorte County who is under the age of 5 can sign up. Some of the books Leah has received are “The Little Engine That Could,” “Llama Llama Red Pajama,” “The Very Hungry Caterpillar’s First Summer,” and her favorite, “Goodnight Gorilla.” Please consider helping to foster a love of reading in young kids in our community by donating to the Imagination Library. Checks can be made out to the church and marked for the Imagination Library and placed in the offering plate. Thank you so much!

**ACTIVITIES, EVENTS & MEETINGS**

**MAY 2024**

**Saturday,** May 11, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m. Ascension Worship Service

**Sunday,** May 12, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m. Ascension Worship Service

**Monday,** May 13, 2024 @ Noon Choir Rehearsal

 @1:00 p.m. Hope Circle/Green Room

 @ 1:00 p.m. Worship & Music Committee Mtg./Luther House

**Tuesday,** May 14, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m. Estuary/Luther House

**Wednesday,** May 15, 2024 @ 9:15 a.m. Bible Study/Luther House

 @10:00 a.m. God’s Purls/St. Paul Room

**Saturday,** May 18, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m. Vigil and Day of Pentecost Worship Service

**Sunday,** May 19, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m. Vigil and Day of Pentecost Worship Service

 @ 10:00 a.m. **Congregational Spring Meeting & Potluck** in

 St. Paul Room

**Monday,** May 20, 2024 @ 2:00 p.m. Finance Committee Mtg./Luther House

 @3:00 p.m. Executive Board Mtg/Luther House

**Wednesday,** May 22, 2024 @ 9:15 a.m. Bible Study/Luther House

 @10:00 a.m. God’s Purls/St. Paul Room

 @5:30 p.m. Church Council Mtg./St. Paul Room

**Thursday,** May 23, 2024 @ 4:00-10:00 p.m. **GIVE-BACK at Galveston Steakhouse**

**Saturday,** May 25, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m. Holy Trinity Worship Service

**Sunday,** May 26, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m. Holy Trinity Worship Service

**Monday, May 27, 2024 OFFICE IS CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY**

**Wednesday,** May 29, 2024 @10:00 a.m. God’s Purls/St. Paul Room

Thank$ for $haring

Thank you to all who participated in the Give-Back at Leed’s Public House on April 10, 2024. The church received $200.00 as a result of the event. This month, we will see you again at Galveston on Thursday, May 23! Here are two coupons: one for you and one for a friend.



**Coming Soon:**

We invite you to join us for a lakeshore cruise on the Emita II on Tuesday, June 4. The cost is $35 per person with $10 of that going to the church (no coupon required). Children up to age three are free. The link for making a reservation is:

 https://tinyurl.com/mtk3ach6

 Please use this link for any communication instead of the longer one previously provided. They have to book via the site (they’re not able to book over the phone). If you have any issues with using a credit card online, you are invited to pay Paul Brooks in person and he will take care of it for you. (please include a few extra dollars for fees)

 For now, the day is blocked out on their main page, so the above link is the only way to book a reservation for this particular cruise. The cruise will be made public two to three weeks prior to the cruise date, so the earlier you make your reservation, the better.