



the *Ascension* of Jesus

Luke 24: 44-53

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

May this hour be a journey of the heart, a renewal of spirit, a pause in our lives as we worship the Lord our God together. If you are a guest this morning, we extend a special welcome to you and invite you to sign our guest book located in the gathering space outside of the sanctuary, also known as the narthex. Following our worship service, we invite you to share in a time of fellowship over coffee, juice, and snacks in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in learning more about our congregation and becoming a member, please visit with any member of the congregation or Pastor Janis Sloka. Thank you for celebrating the love of Jesus Christ with us at St. Paul Lutheran Church!

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME HERE!

We feel strongly that the faith formation of youth—just as any adult’s—develops through experience; because of this, we welcome youth of all ages to participate fully in worship and invite them to serve in a number of roles, such as: ushers, greeters, readers, and musicians. While we expect that children will behave as children—giggles, wiggles, and all—we also understand that sometimes they (and their parents or guardians) need a break; on those occasions, you are welcome to utilize the nursery (unstaffed) located on the north end of the narthex. Additionally, there is a playroom for children and a couch room for older youth on the west end of the Fellowship Hall. You can also find children’s bulletins and crayons on the table as you enter the main church building doors.

ABOUT OUR WORSHIP

As Lutherans, worship is connected with and central to everything we do—uniting us in celebration, engaging us in thoughtful dialogue, and helping us grow in faith. At the heart of our worship life is the presence of God through the word proclaimed and the sacraments—Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; this is because worship is—first and foremost—fundamentally about what God is doing in the world and in our lives, and then our response to God’s action. In the context of worship, we find our response in the liturgy, which is a way of living God’s story. The liturgical texts that form the prayers we pray, the texts we say, and the songs we sing find their roots in the Bible; for more information see the back of the hymnal, ELW pp. 1154-1159. Furthermore, these liturgical texts invite each and every one of us—not just the pastor or choir or any other worship leader—to use our voices to praise God. Through worship we are shaped to be participants in God’s life in this world.

PLEASE ASK AN USHER/GREETER FOR...

- Assistance with wheelchair seating • Assisted listening devices • Large print bulletins • Directions to restrooms •

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Ascension Sunday/7th Sunday of Easter
May 21, 2023
Holy Communion Sunday

+Indicates to rise as you are able.
Congregational responses are printed in **bold**.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

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.

WELCOME

+CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

We run to the tomb to see for ourselves, and it is true... Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Our Lord is with us now and always, for Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

+ SONG

"I Come With Joy" ELW #482

+GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

+CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

+PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Amen.

You may be seated.

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.

[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.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 47 *Please read the verses responsively*

¹Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.

²**For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth.**

³He subdued peoples under us,
and nations under our feet.

⁴**He chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.**

⁵God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

⁶**Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

⁷For God is the king of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm.

⁸**God is king over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.**

⁹The princes of the peoples gather
as the people of the God of Abraham.
For the shields of the earth belong to God;
he 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 are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: “Only By the Blood of the Lamb”

Only by the blood of the Lamb,
Only by the blood of the Lamb;
We’ve overcome, in His grace we now stand,
Only by the blood of the Lamb.

Repeat

+GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53

Children’s Bible page #498

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

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 our Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

BLESSING for VBS Staff & Volunteers

SERMON

SONG *“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus” ELW #392*

+PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

+PEACE

The sharing of the peace is one of the oldest traditions in the Christian church. Far more than a sociable handshake, it is a ministry we do for each other that proclaims the promise of God's peace given to us and reconciles us to God and one another.

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

OFFERING

Every good and perfect gift is from God. In grateful response to all of God's gifts, we offer our time, talents, and treasures. These offerings support the ministry of the church-bearing witness to the love of Christ in our community, country, and world. Your financial offerings may be placed in the plates by the sanctuary doors. You are also invited to visit www.stpaulgarrisonnd.com/giving to set up a one-time gift or regular, electronic giving. Thank you for being a part of what God is doing at St. Paul Lutheran!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL MUSIC *Organist*

+GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

+WORDS OF INSTITUTION – SUNG WITH “BROKEN FOR ME”

Blessed are you, O God, for you have brought forth bread from the earth. Blessed are you, O God, for you have created the fruit of the vine. In the beginning you watered the earth that man and woman might have food and drink.

You gave your servant Sarah bread to strengthen her family on their journey, and wine to make them glad. You called Moses and his people out of bondage and refreshed them with food in the wilderness.

And here at your table you offer us bread and wine for the journey to nourish us as daughters and sons. Blessed is our brother Jesus, Who walks with us on the road of our world's suffering, And who is known to us in the breaking of the bread.

CONGREGATION SINGS

***Refrain:* Broken for me, broken for you; The body of Jesus broken for you.**

On the night of His arrest and betrayal, Jesus took bread and having blessed it, he broke the bread and gave it to His disciples, saying "This is my body, given for you."

CONGREGATION SINGS

***Refrain:* Broken for me, broken for you; The body of Jesus broken for you.**

***Verse:* This is my body given for you; Eat it, rememb'ring I died for you.**

In the same way He took wine, and having given thanks for it, He gave the cup to His disciples, saying, "This cup is the new covenant with God, sealed with my blood, Shed for you and for all, for the forgiveness of sins."

CONGREGATION SINGS

***Refrain:* Broken for me, broken for you; The body of Jesus broken for you.**

***Verse:* This is my blood I shed for you; For your forgiveness, making you new.**

Take this and share it. I shall drink wine with you next in the kingdom of God.

CONGREGATION SINGS

***Refrain:* Broken for me, broken for you; The body of Jesus broken for you.**

***Verse:* Come to my table and with me dine; Eat of my bread and drink of my wine.**

***Refrain:* Broken for me, broken for you; The body of Jesus broken for you.**

+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 and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

This is the Lord's table. Jesus himself is the host of this meal and welcomes everyone to come and eat, to be nourished in the faith—fed, forgiven, and loved back to life for the sake of a world in need. If you wish to remain seated, we will gladly bring Holy Communion to you in your pew; please simply inform the usher. If you wish not to receive Communion, you are still invited to receive a blessing and may indicate this preference by coming forward with your hands folded.

COMMUNION

+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' name. Amen.**

+OUR MISSION

Our mission statement reminds us of our collective calling as St. Paul Lutheran Church in light of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

What is the mission we share together?

Our mission is to GATHER as God's people; to GROW in faith, love, and service; and to GO into the community and world as disciples of Jesus.

+BLESSING

The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

+SENDING SONG

"Crown Him with Many Crowns" ELW #855

+DISMISSAL

Go in peace, to love and serve the Risen One. **Thanks be to God.**

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EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

- **VBS:** Starts tomorrow through Thursday at 5:30 p.m.
- **Lost and Found:** Please check out the cart outside of the worship area. Does the item belong to you or a family member. Items not claimed by today, May 21st, will be donated to GARC's thrift store.

Outreach

- **Next Sunday, May 28, Worship at 1st Congregational, UCC:** St Paul was invited to worship with the Congregational Church on May 28th at 10:00 a.m., to celebrate the installation of their new Pastor. This will be in place of worshipping at St. Paul. The worship service will be live-streamed. Please mark your calendars.
- **Camp of the Cross:** The Camp is having a “**Chair**”ing is Caring!” fundraiser to buy new chairs for the fellowship hall. See the new chair, in the gathering space, that they are planning to purchase. Each chair is \$25. There are Camp envelopes for the donations on a table in the church entry.
- **Equal Exchange:** a variety of coffee and chocolate are for sale, at cost, on a cart in the fellowship hall. This supports the small coffee farmers.

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Readers:** are needed for June. A sign-up sheet and a copy of the readings is on a table in the gathering space outside of the sanctuary.
- **Acolytes:** We need Acolytes for June.

Upcoming



General

- Office Hours: are from 9a.m.-12 noon Mondays-Tuesdays-Wednesdays through May. **Summer hours are 10a.m.-1p.m. Tuesdays-Wednesdays-Thursdays** in June, July and August.

- Update our Living Wall: People are encouraged to send updated pictures to the church to put up on the Living Wall. Bring a picture to the office or email your picture to the church, stpaul@restel.com. Faye Seidler will then put them on the wall.
- Directory: We are going to update the church directory. Loree would like everyone's phone numbers and addresses updated by May 15th. Please email, text, or write a note and leave it on Loree's desk. She will be using the information that is listed in Breeze, our church management system.
- Live Facebook: each week at St. Paul's. The 4 Ministers are also on FB and Instagram each week.
- Get your St. Paul Gear! Spread our mission with custom shirts! Check them out in the Fellowship Hall.

You are invited to visit www.stpaulgarrisonnd.com/giving to set up a one-time gift or regular, electronic giving.

Thank you for being a part of what God is doing at St. Paul!



In Our Prayers...

Matt Steinmetz, Kristi Devitt, Hayden Ogilivie, Clarence Behles, Glen Blanchard, Stuart Bennett, Mike Gackle, Mona Reinisch, Travis Kolden, Heidi Smith, Lorinda Johnson, Doug Steinmetz, Jeff Wretling, Alton Krebsbach, Terry Metz. The Betz Family at the death of Corey, The Rustad family at the death of Edythe. The Huston Family at the death of Darrin.

Birthday Wishes This Week To:

Courtney Krzmarzick May 21
Brian Gehring May 22
Jason Ouhl May 22
Cameron Bright May 23
John Solem May 23
Doris Taylor May 23
Elizabeth Diffely May 24
Clover Hudgen May 24
Adley Wilson May 24
Aaron Fuller May 25
Avery Melby May 26
Mackenzie Fuller May 27
Faye Seidler May 27



WHEN: MON, MAY 22ND - THUR, MAY 25TH

WHERE: ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH GARRISON, ND

WHO: ANY CHILD KINDERGARTEN - 6TH GRADE

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 8TH

PROGRAM IS OFFERED AS FREE-WILL DONATION

COKEsbury's HERO HOTLINE
Called Together to Serve God!



THIS WEEK ^{at} GLANCE

Today, Sunday, May 21st

9:45 a.m.	Worship Holy Communion/VBS Volunteer Blessing
10:45 a.m.	Fellowship
	June Action Group Meets
11:00 a.m.	Last day of Sunday School
2:00 p.m.	Graduations

Mon. 9:00 a.m. -12 Noon

9:00 a.m. -12 Noon	Office Hours
5:30-8:30 p.m.	Vacation Bible School

Tues. 9:00 a.m. – 12 Noon

9:00 a.m. – 12 Noon	Office Hours
10:00 a.m.	Men’s Bible Study
5:30-8:30 p.m.	Vacation Bible School

Wed. 9:00 a.m. -12 Noon

9:00 a.m. -12 Noon	Office Hours
5:30-8:30 p.m.	Vacation Bible School

Thurs. 10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.	Community Bible Study at The Meadows
5:30-8:30 p.m.	Vacation Bible School

Next Sunday, May 28th

9:00 a.m.	Choir Practice @ UCC Church
10:00 a.m.	Worship at the Congregational Church -UCC/Choir sings
11:00 a.m.	Luncheon

PERMANENT PROJECTOR AND RETRACTABLE SCREEN IN THE SANCTUARY

The Church Council after many years of discussion made the decision to put in the sanctuary a permanent projector and retractable projection screen. They believe it will enhance our worship experience and be helpful for children and youth ministries. After receiving a bid, they would like to move forward with your support. However, they will not install them until the monies are raised. So, we need your help! The cost is \$20,000 for the equipment, installation, and the work of an electrician.

We have raised \$7,811 so far. Can you help us meet our goal?

Please prayerfully consider helping make this possible! Please see a council member if you have questions.

Retractable not permanent



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH + ELCA

P.O. Box 726 – Garrison, ND 58540

stpaul@restel.com

Church Office: 701-463-2019

Sunday Worship – 9:45 a.m.

www.stpaulgarrisonnd.com

pastorsloka@gmail.com

Pastor's Cell: 701-861-9915

Sunday School – 11:00 a.m.

SERVING IN THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF OUR CHURCH

<i>Ministers</i>	The People of St. Paul Lutheran
<i>Pastor</i>	Rev. Janis Sloka, III
<i>Faith Formation Director</i>	Holly Klemisch
<i>Church Council President</i>	Keith Thelen
<i>Treasurer</i>	Holly Klemisch
<i>Financial & Church Secretary</i>	Loree Jeffers
<i>Custodian</i>	Pam Kolden
<i>Sunday School Coordinator</i>	Lisa Maki
<i>Missionaries</i>	Anne & Willie Langdji; Katie Narum Miyamoto
<i>Sweet Sounds Coordinator</i>	Loree Jeffers
<i>Choir Director</i>	Lisa Haugen
<i>Organist</i>	Sundi Lagge
<i>Reader</i>	Dennis Ness
<i>Ushers</i>	Mike & Katie Hanson
<i>Greeters</i>	Lu Graeber & Tonya Graeber
<i>Acolyte</i>	Grant Lagge & Chandler Hanson
<i>Door Attendant</i>	Tod Graeber
<i>Communion Assistants</i>	Connie Krueger & Lu Graeber
<i>Communion Set up and Clean Up</i>	Vicki Fure
<i>Fellowship Hosts</i>	Mary Zimmerman & Livesay's
<i>Technology</i>	Mark Torno

MISSION STATEMENT

As we share the gospel of Jesus Christ, our mission is to **GATHER** as God's people; to **GROW** in faith, love and service; and to **GO** into the community and world as disciples of Jesus.