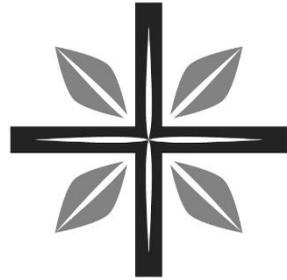


St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Welcome to our visitors!

- It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will fill your heart with the peace that only God can offer and the joy we have in knowing that Jesus Christ is our Savior from sin.
- Large print service folders, assisted listening devices, children's service folders and children's worship notes are available from the ushers.
- Parents may take small children into the entry area, mother's room (at the back of the church), or nursery (lower level of church) as needed and follow the worship service on the TV monitor. Changing tables are available in the mother's room and in the room adjacent to the nursery.
- Restrooms are located at the far end of the entry area.
- As the offering is received, members and guests are asked to sign the Friendship Register. Please pass the register to your neighbor and then return it to the center aisle. Visitors are also asked to fill out a guest card and give it to an usher.

Ascension

May 10, 2018

Prelude

Opening Hymn

Please stand to sing the final stanza

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

Christian Worship 171

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

DIALOGUE FOR ASCENSION

M: Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne. The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb.

C: **“You were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.”**
Revelation 5:6, 8, 9

(sung) Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph, his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:
“Jesus out of ev’ry nation has redeemed us by his blood.”

M: Jesus said, “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

C: **“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”**
John 6:51, 54

(sung) Alleluia! Bread of heaven, here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners, earth’s Redeemer, hear our plea
Where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

M: Jesus said, “I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

C: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” *John 14: 18, 19, 27*

(sung) **Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us; faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him when the forty days were o’er,
Shall our hearts forget his promise, “I am with you evermore”?**

Prayer of the Day

M: 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.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated

Advent Reading

Luke 1:26-38

Gospel for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.”

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.”

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Response to the Word

Adult Choir

Savior of the Nations, Come

arranged by William Braun

Savior of the nations, come; Virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood, by the Spirit of our God
Was the Word of God made flesh, woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

Then stepped forth the Lord of all from his pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man, his heroic course began.

Glory to the Father sing, glory to the Son, our King,
Glory to the Spirit be now and through eternity.

Christmas Reading

John 1:1-14

Gospel for Christmas Day

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Response to the Word

Adult Choir

This Little Babe

by Benjamin Britten

This little Babe, so few days old,
Is come to rifle Satan's fold;
All hell doth at his presence quake,
Though he himself for cold do shake;
For in his weak unarmed wise
The gates of hell he will surprise.

With tears he fights and wins the field,
His naked breast stands for a shield,
His battering shot are babish cries,
His arrows looks of weeping eyes,
His martial ensigns cold and need,
And feeble flesh his warrior's steed.

His camp is pitched in a stall,
His bulwark but a broken wall;
The crib his trench, haystalks his stakes;
Of shepherds he his muster makes;
And thus, as sure his foe to wound,
The angels' trumps alarum sound.

My soul, with Christ join thou in fight;
Sticks to the tents that he hath pight.
Within his crib is surest ward;
This little Babe will be thy guard.
If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy,
Then flit not from this heavenly boy.

Second Lesson for Epiphany

Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Response to the Word*Adult Choir***In Darkest Night***arranged by William Braun*

In darkest night the heavens declare your majesty,
Your wisdom, power, glory, and charm for all to see.
Where Abram gazed in wonder, we stand in awe today,
As stupefied and challenged as he by that display.
Still there, in all their splendor, the stars proclaim your might,
Still there your faithful promise beams love and life and light.

Then to this darkened planet you sent your Morning Star,
The Light of light from heaven, to lead us where you are;
From that Judean atom a constellation burst,
Each star a shining angel announcing peace on earth.
Look down with joy from heaven, dear God, be pleased to see,
Piercing our earthly darkness – your global galaxy!

Here shine as cheerful heralds, a sparkling diadem,
Announce Messiah's coming at night in Bethlehem;
Reflect the love that made you and set you where you are,
That honored you and chose you to be a guiding star;
Entice the wise and wary to permanent domains,
That nightless new creation where God in glory reigns.

Lenten Reading

Luke 18:9-14

Gospel for Ash Wednesday

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Response to the Word

Adult Choir

Out of the Depths

by Richard Frost

Out of the depths have I cried unto you.
Lord, hear my voice, Lord, hear my voice.
Lord, let your ear be attentive to my cry;
Lord, hear my cry for mercy.

If you, O Lord, kept a record of sin, who, then could stand?
But with you, Lord, there is forgiveness. Therefore, you may be feared.
I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait, in his Word do I hope.

If you, O Lord, kept a record of sin, Lord, who, then could stand?
But with you, Lord, there is forgiveness. Therefore, we will not fear.
I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait, and in his Word do I hope.

Second Lesson for Easter

If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Response to the Word

Adult Choir

O Risen Lord

by K. Lee Scott

O risen Lord, O glorious Son,
Now is the mighty battle won:
Songs of praising we are raising:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

On the third morning he arose,
Shining in vict'ry o'er his foes;
Earth is singing, heaven is ringing:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

After the death that him befell,
Christ our Lord has harrowed hell.
Sing with gladness, gone is sadness,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord of all things lives anew,
And all his saints are rising, too.
May our living be thanksgiving:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel for Ascension

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.”

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. 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.”

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Response to the Word*Adult Choir***Why Do You Peer into the Skies?***by Jacob B. Weber*

Why do you peer into the skies, staring with open, wond’ring eyes?
See and believe that Christ came down, now claims again his holy crown:
Dying that all should be fulfilled, living as God the Father willed.

Why are you waiting on this hill? This is no time for standing still.
Soon to receive the Spirit’s pow’r, pray and prepare for that great hour.
Filled with the Word, go out and tell: Jesus defeated death and hell.

The reign of Satan now dispelled, the reign of God is still upheld.
Shout to the Lord great songs of joy; reaching new ears, all fears destroy.
When trumpets sound, the great surprise: he will return, and we will rise.

Ascension Message**Offering**

The members of St. John’s have joined together to do the Lord’s work in our community and around the world, and our offerings are a joyful response of our faith. If you are a visitor today, you are welcome but not obligated to give an offering.

Please stand

Prayer of the Church for Ascension

- M:** Father of glory, your Son ascended into your presence amidst the clouds, and now he reigns over the nations and sits on his holy throne as our victorious Savior over sin, death, and the devil.
- C:** **Increase in us patient trust as we continue to wait for the fullness of your glory to be revealed when he returns again in clouds of glory to reign over new heavens and a new earth.**
- M:** Gracious God, we rejoice that you sent your only begotten Son from his pure and kingly throne to take up our flesh and blood for our salvation.
- C:** **By your Holy Spirit, grant that your name may be kept holy among us as we teach your Word in truth and purity and live godly lives according to it.**
- M:** Source of all blessings, give us missionary zeal as we faithfully witness to the hope you have instilled in us.
- C:** **Use us as your instruments that more people may know by faith the riches of the glorious inheritance that you have prepared for all people.**
- M:** Eternal Father, although your Son tasted death, in his resurrection and ascension he demonstrated that death no longer has power over him.
- C:** **Grant peace and strength to those mourning the loss of loved ones, and remind them of your promise that one day, you will welcome them into an endless Eastertide.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

- M:** Heavenly Father, when your Son perfectly completed your plan for our salvation, he returned to you as the mighty Lord who sits above all rulers and authority and dominion.
- C:** **Gather your Church together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with angels and archangels and all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in his Kingdom, which has no end. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**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.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Be seated

Response to the Word

Adult Choir

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

by David M. Cherwien

I want Jesus to walk with me;
All along my pilgrim journey.
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
In all my trials, Lord,
I want Jesus to walk with me.
When my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me!
When my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Please stand

M: Father of glory, your Son ascended to heaven and now sits in majesty at your right hand. Increase in us patient trust as we wait for the fullness of this glory and majesty to be revealed when he returns again in triumph on the Last Day. Until that day, clothe us with your Spirit that we may proclaim your Kingdom and lift up the name of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: 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.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated

Closing Hymn

Draw Us to Thee
Christian Worship 170

Announcements

Postlude

Serving at Worship

Preacher	Pastor Kyle Bitter
Presiding Minister	Pastor Eric Schroeder
Lector	Pastor Joel Leyrer
Musicians	Lynn Kozlowski, organ Hannah Braun, violin Paula Rauth, flute
Adult Choir Director	Dr. William Braun
Head Usher	Tom Wessel

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