



*And when he had
said these things...*

HE WAS LIFTED UP

*and a cloud took
him out of their sight.*

A C T S 1 : 9 , E S V

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

1449 34th Street NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881

www.WinterHavenLutheran.org

Rob Sauers, Pastor (920) 602-3242

Neil Bernthal, Teacher (863) 967-5145

Katie Naumann, Teacher (253) 230-4184

Organist: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: John Weis

Acolyte: Maxwell Kuehne

As We Gather

What have you witnessed? Jesus' disciples witnessed Jesus teach with authority, feed the five thousand with a few loaves of bread and some fish, heal people of a variety of diseases, and even bring Lazarus back to life. Yet, in spite of what they witnessed, they struggled to believe the story would continue after Jesus was crucified on Good Friday. Surprise! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Following the resurrection, they witnessed more amazing things Jesus said and did, and now they would get their chance to share what they had seen and heard. What have you seen and heard about Jesus? What have you seen and heard Jesus do in your life? Who can you share with what you have witnessed?

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

212 (1-4, 7) – A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Dialogue for the Ascension

- P** Praise the LORD from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights!
C Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts!
- P** How excellent is Your name in all the earth,
C Who have set Your glory above the heavens!
- P** For You, LORD, are most high above all the earth;
C You are exalted far above all gods.
- P** God has gone up with a shout, The LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
C God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne.
- P** The LORD reigns; Let the peoples tremble!
C He dwells between the cherubim; Let the earth be moved!
- P** Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;
C A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.
- P** Praise the name of the LORD, For His name alone is exalted;
C His glory is above the earth and heaven.

Confession and Absolution

- P** Though Christ is ascended on high and is seated at the right hand of the Father, ruling and reigning over all creation, there have been times when we have lived as though we rule and reign over our own lives. We have lived as though Christ were too far away to matter. But our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him, confess our sins, and receive His forgiveness.
- C** **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer: we confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for you. Christ is ascended, and all things are under His feet, including sin, death, and the devil. On account of Christ's saving work and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

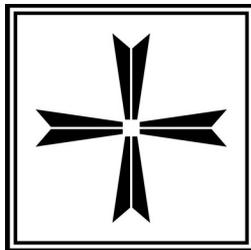
✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the text: "Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us." The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.



Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to all peo-ple on



earth. Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther: We wor - ship You, we give You thanks, we



praise You for Your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



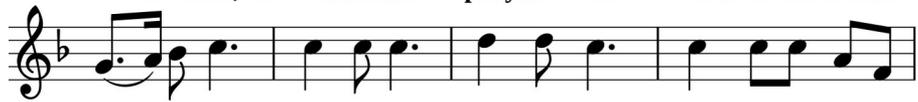
Lamb of God: You take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. You are seat-ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For You a-lone are the



Ho - ly One, You a-lone are the Lord, You a-lone are the



Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the

- P** He will choose our inheritance for us,
- C** **The excellence of Jacob whom He loves.**
- P** God has gone up with a shout,
- C** **The LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**
- P** Sing praises to God, sing praises!
- C** **Sing praises to our King, sing praises!**
- P** For God is the King of all the earth;
- C** **Sing praises with understanding.**
- P** God reigns over the nations;
- C** **God sits on His holy throne.**
- P** The princes of the people have gathered together,
- C** **The people of the God of Abraham.**
- P** For the shields of the earth belong to God;
- C** **He is greatly exalted.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴ Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” ⁴⁵ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ And you are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ “Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” ⁵⁰ And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

Alleluia

- P** Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



writ - ten that we may believe that Je-sus is the Christ, the
 Son of God. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu - ia!

Confession of Faith

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.

Hymn

765 – Christ High-Ascended

Sermon Text

Acts 1:1-11

¹ The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, ² until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, ³ to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. ⁴ And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; ⁵ for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” ⁶ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. ⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked

steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."



Sermon

Can the Weak Really Be His Witnesses?

Offertory

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O
God. Re - new a right spir-it with - in me. Cast me
not a - way from Your pres-ence. Take not Your Ho - ly
Spir-it from me. Re - store to me the joy of Your sal-
va - tion. Up - hold me with Your free Spir - it.

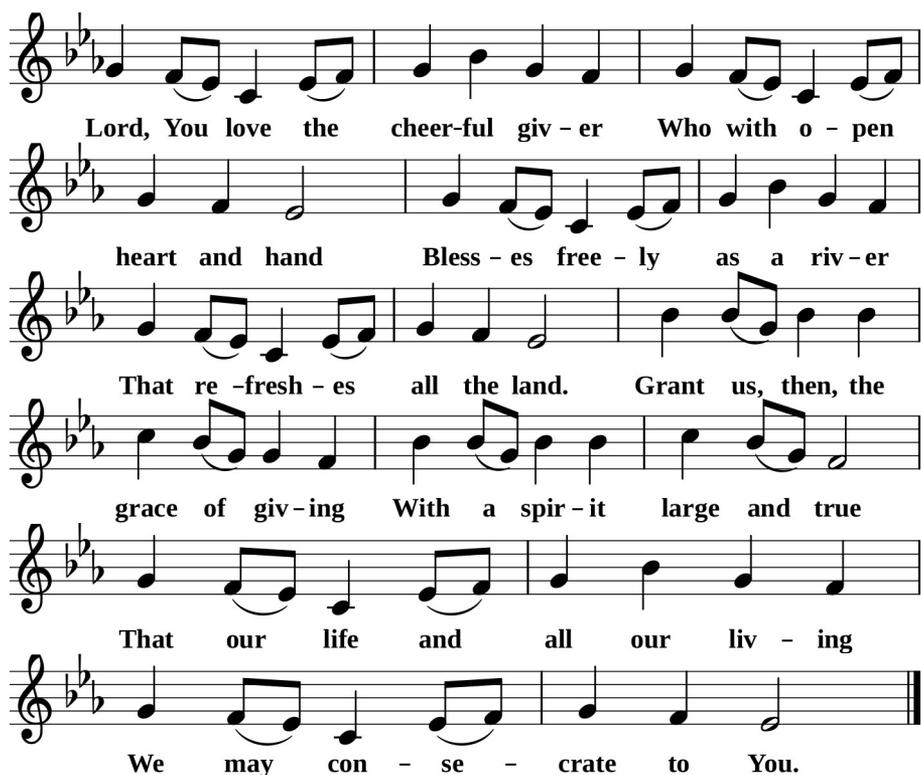
Hymn

216 – On Christ's Ascension I Now Build

Offering

Offering Hymn

788 (1)



Lord, You love the cheer-ful giv - er Who with o - pen
heart and hand Bless - es free - ly as a riv - er
That re - fresh - es all the land. Grant us, then, the
grace of giv - ing With a spir - it large and true
That our life and all our liv - ing
We may con - se - crate to You.

General Prayer

The 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.

ILS Children's Song

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

✠ ILS Promotion and Graduation ✠

Children Being Promoted to:

First Grade

Alondra Corea
Emmily Diaz

Second Grade

Kaileyangelys Rodriguez-Sanchez
Dorian Clarke

Third Grade

Cadence Clarke

Fifth Grade

Katrina Bernthal
Jose Corea

Sixth Grade

Bryanna Rodriguez
Lexaniel Otero
Lexi Kerwin
Lilly Johnson

Seventh Grade

Levi Chambers
Bradley Jackson
Valeria Rodriguez Nova
Chyenne Mendez
Yizreel Lopez
Leah Clarke

Eighth Grade

Seth Bernthal
Zachary Conn
Erick Andino
Ariahna Gonzalez
Tyler Duenas Diaz

Ninth Grade

Landon Goodwin
Edward Andino
Serenity Gonzalez

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C Amen.

Hymn

222 – Look, Ye Saints, the Sight Is Glorious

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✝ Announcements ✝

Welcome to all of our guests and visitors this morning in our Savior's name. We are glad that you have come to worship with us this morning, and hope that you will come back and join us again. It is our prayer that your faith will be strengthened by the preaching of our Lord's pure Word and by the psalms and hymns that our Scripture-based liturgy offers. If you have any questions about our church or are interested in learning more about the Scriptures, please ask Pastor Sauers.

Upcoming Schedule

May 21	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service/Promotion Sunday
	11:15 am	Trustees and Board of Education
May 28	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
June 4	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion

New Opportunity in Uganda: The Kinship Committee and CLC Board of Missions has taken on a new and exciting opportunity—supporting a group of twenty orphans in Iganga, Uganda. Pastor Daniel Mugeni and his wife, Aidah, have taken on the task of caring for these orphans, and the financial burden on them is substantial. Pastors Gurath and Bernthal were able to spend time with the Mugeni family in July of 2022 and saw firsthand both their genuine love for these children and their genuine need for financial assistance. Please consider becoming a sponsor of one of these children. The commitment is \$45/mo. Kinship is also in need of sponsors for seminary students throughout the world. The financial commitment required to support overseas seminary students is similar, ranging from \$30 to \$50/mo. To become a sponsor or for more information, please contact Dan Roehl at 507-381-2042 or danroehl@hotmail.com.

Renew Your Subscription to Lutheran Spokesman and Daily Rest: The Lutheran Spokesman and Daily Rest are publications that offer biblical insights and inspiration for your daily walk with Christ. If you are a current subscriber, please review and update your information on the renewal sheet at the back of church. The sheet lists the names, addresses, and number of copies for each subscriber. To cancel your subscription, mark an X in the Delete box next to your name. To change your address, cross out the old one and write the new one below. To subscribe for the first time, write your name, address, and number of copies at the bottom of the sheet. The renewal sheet and payments are due by June 30, 2023. You can pay through your

offering by indicating the amount for the Spokesman (\$14 per subscription) and/or Daily Rest (\$15 per subscription). Thank you for your interest and support of these publications that enrich our faith and fellowship.

Branches: The Branches is a Christian Women's magazine which is published quarterly by women of the CLC. Subscriptions are available for the 2023-2024 subscription year (July through June). The Branches staff prays that, through this publication, we serve:

- to encourage you in your personal and family Bible study
- to edify you in your daily walk with Christ
- to provide a means to use and share your God-given gifts
- to celebrate and reflect upon God's gift of Christian sisters, near and far

Consider a subscription for yourself and/or gift subscriptions for women in your life! The cost is \$15.00/year for 4 issues. Checks are payable to, "The Branches," and should be sent to: Sandy Hulke, Subscription Manager, 29985 Norway Ave, Lindstrom, MN 55045. Online payments are also available via PayPal - you may contact Sandy Hulke at thebranchesmagazine@gmail.com.

Walk with the Apostle Paul (Greece and Turkey trip): A group trip to Greece and Turkey is planned for May 27-June 5, 2024 with a possible three day extension to Rome for those who are interested. The trip will include visits to Athens, Corinth, Berea, Thessaloniki, Philippi, Ephesus and much more. It will include visits to the traditional sites of many of the visits of the Apostle Paul recorded in the Book of Acts. We will be reminded of the zeal and spread of the early Christian church. The extension to Rome will include visits to the Sistine Chapel, Basilica of St. Peter, Catacombs, Colosseum, St. Paul's Church, and more. A video of a similar trip can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ul-o6E47MMw>. If you would like more information about this trip, please contact Nathanael Mayhew (nnmayhew@sleepyeyelutheran.com). Brochures with additional trip details are available upon request.

Christ's Explorers Camp: Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church (W. Columbia, SC) will be hosting Christ's Explorers Camp July 20th - 23rd in Sevierville, TN. Camp is open to students entering grades 3-9 for the 2023-24 school year. The cost is \$100 per camper. This year's theme is "Guiding Lights" with the theme passage being Psalm 119:105. The devotions and Bible studies will focus on how Jesus and His Word help us to overcome the darkness and confusion of the sinful world around us. Slots still available! You may register at christsexplorerscamp.com.

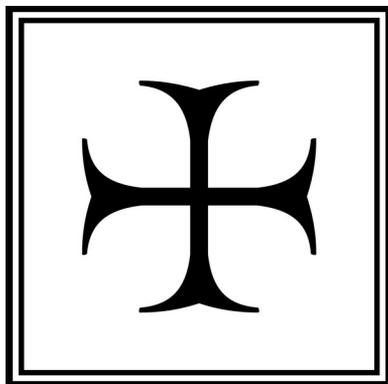
Pacific Coast Women's Retreat: Grow in Grace October 6-8, 2023 in Cusick, WA! We welcome all girls and women to our retreat in the beautiful Pacific Northwest! Planes, trains, and automobiles will bring you to Spokane, and then we'll lead you an hour-ish north to the Ponderosa Lodge. "Stay in the Know" by signing up on the Gethsemane Lutheran Church website for periodic updates. <https://gethsemaneclc.org/events/pacific-coast-womens-retreat/> Questions? Contact Tina Eichstadt, teichstadt@gmail.com or 651-398-2386.

CLC Call News: Pastor Nathanael Mayhew of Grace Lutheran in Sleepy Eye, MN and Faith Lutheran in New Ulm, MN has returned the call to serve as the third pastor at Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Messiah, Eau Claire has now extended that call to Pastor Matthew Hanel of St. Matthew Lutheran in Dallas, TX.

Fruits of Faith	May 14, 2023	WH: 31 Orlando: 5
Immanuel Home		\$716.25
Building		\$25.00
Property Improvement		\$525.00
Tuition		\$1,350.00
ILC Scholarship		\$50.00
Benevolence		\$5.00
Total Offering		\$2,671.25

✠ Serving Next Weekend ✠

Cleaner (5/27): Sauers **Acolyte (5/28):** Seth Bernthal



✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

May 22 - May 27, 2023

Monday: John 7:33-36 – When the Chief Priests and Pharisees heard that people were thinking that Jesus might be the Christ, they sent to have Him arrested. Jesus reply suggests that they are not getting rid of Him, but He is returning to the Father (v 33). He would remove His visible presence also from His enemies.

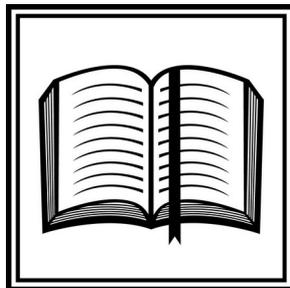
Tuesday: John 7:37-39 – Remembering Jesus’ ascension into heaven, we await the celebration of the sending of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Jesus promised this gift to believers even before He was crucified, buried, and risen again.

Wednesday: Ephesians 1:15-23 – The gift of the Spirit has this purpose: to enlighten our hearts to the hope that is ours in Christ, to the richness of our inheritance in Him, and to the resurrection power working on our behalf through Him who was raised to life and seated at God’s right hand forever.

Thursday: Psalm 42:1-5 – As the deer in the wilderness cannot live without water, so our innermost being needs God at all times. Especially when we are away from our regular visible places of worship, we need the inner connection with Him who is “my salvation” (v 5).

Friday: Psalm 42:6-11 – The Christian’s life has its ups and downs. After being lifted up by God’s comfort, another trouble casts us down, and some might repeat the taunt again, “Where is your God?” (v 3,10). But God’s love in Christ is not up and down. It is steadfast in the darkest of nights (v 8). Hope in God!

Saturday: Matthew 10:16-22 – The promise of the Spirit does not mean there will be no trouble or opposition. It is a promise of the right thing to say in the face of such difficulties. For the promised Spirit will make us witnesses before all kinds of people, and He gives us the assurance of salvation at the end of the road because of Jesus (v 22).



An Ascension “Goodbye”?

I don't know anyone that likes goodbye. We look forward to warm welcomes standing in our doorways, we cherish the moments of togetherness around a table, but we all know that eventually, we will be standing there at the end of the drive, staring, and waving as the car disappears around the bend. The last, sad word on our lips: “Goodbye.”

The disciples found themselves in a similar situation as they stared up into heaven, watching Jesus disappear behind a cloud. This would certainly qualify as the proper time for a tear-filled goodbye if it really were just another departure. The disciples knew this wasn't the case as the angels reassured them that this new arrangement was only temporary. “This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:11) Just as we comfort ourselves during farewells with the assumption that we'll be reunited again, so Jesus' Ascension is accompanied by the promise that He will return.

So, we know Jesus' Ascension means He will return, but does it also mean that, for the time being, Jesus is no longer present with His disciples? Not at all! As Martin Luther once said in his Ascension sermon of 1523, “Beware, lest you imagine within yourself that He has gone, and now is far away from us. The very opposite is true: While He was on earth, He was far away from us; now, He is very near.” The real reason that the Ascension is not just another “goodbye” is that it's not a “goodbye” at all!

Luke writes at the end of his Gospel, “And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven.” (Luke 24:50-51) Notice Luke doesn't write, “After finishing blessing them,” but rather, “while He blessed them,” He ascended into heaven. The disciples' last image of their Savior was of the Son of God with hands raised in blessing. And that's the same image of Jesus that we ought to hold on to now in these post-Ascension days.

In the Apostles' Creed, we confess, “He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.” He had sat there before from eternity, yet at His Ascension He returned to His throne with the victory over sin and death in hand. The result is that this throne room scene is described by John as, “In the midst of the throne . . . stood a Lamb as though it had been slain.” (Revelation 5:6) ►

As Jesus ascended to this position of glory, He was exalted as the One Who was crucified. And this is important! The One Who is exalted is the One Who was humbled to the point of death on a cross. The One Who holds all authority in His hands is the One Whose hands were pierced for your transgressions. The One Who is reigning as the King of kings is also the One Who loves you more than you could imagine. So, an Ascension “goodbye”? No! The truth is, Jesus never left. He is present and in charge, not only as the One Who loves you, but also as the One Who knows you. He knows your doubts, temptations, fears, and trials, and He rules over all for your sake. His hands are now raised over you in blessing just as He shall return—hands raised over you in blessing.

Written by Pastor Sam Rodebaugh of Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO for the May 2022 edition of “The Lutheran Spokesman.” For an online version of the Spokesman visit www.lutheranspokesman.org.

