

“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.”

Acts 1:11, NKJV



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

As we gather for worship, we recall the disciples gazing skyward after Jesus ascended, perhaps asking, "What now?" Do we sometimes feel a similar sense of Christ's distance amidst our daily challenges? Today, we explore the profound truth that Jesus' ascension was not an abandonment, but His glorious enthronement as our Active Lord! He promised His empowering Spirit and commissioned His followers to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. Come, let us discover anew how our ascended Savior is powerfully present with us through His Word and Sacraments, guiding His Church and filling us with purpose until His promised return.

✠ 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.

Opening Sentences

Acts 1:11, Psalm 47:5, Ephesians 1:22-23

P Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven?

C **This same Jesus, who was taken from us into heaven, will return in the same way we saw Him go.**

P God has gone up with a shout!

C **The LORD with the sound of a trumpet!**

P Our Lord Jesus Christ has ascended on high,

C **And is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

P He is the Head of the body, the Church,

C **And He fills all in all.**

P Let us therefore worship our ascended and active Lord!

C **With hearts full of joy and thanksgiving! Amen!**

Confession and Absolution

P Dearly beloved, let us approach Almighty God with humble hearts, confessing our sins and seeking His forgiveness for the sake of our ascended Lord Jesus Christ.

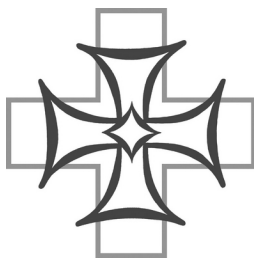
- C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have not always lived in the light of Christ's ascension, often forgetting His active reign and our calling to be His vibrant body on earth. Our focus has strayed to earthly concerns, and we have failed to witness boldly to His saving power. We have not perfectly loved You or our neighbor. For these sins, we are truly sorry and humbly repent. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ—His suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension—have mercy on us.
- P** Upon this your confession, I, as a called servant of the Word, announce God's grace to you. Our ascended Lord Jesus Christ, now reigning at God's right hand, has accomplished full salvation for you. As He commanded before He ascended, forgiveness is proclaimed in His name. Because He is our active King and Intercessor, His pardon is freely given. Therefore, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
- C** Amen.

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Introit

Psalm 110:1, 4-5; 47:5

- P** The LORD said to my Lord,
C “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”
P The LORD has sworn And will not relent,
C “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”
P The Lord is at Your right hand;
C He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath.
P God has gone up with a shout,
C The LORD with the sound of a trumpet.



Glory be to the Father

Gloria Patri

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son
and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be-gin-ning,
is now, and ev-er shall be for - ev-er more. A - men.

The musical score is written on three staves in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for 'Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son'. The second staff continues the melody for 'and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be-gin-ning,'. The third staff concludes with 'is now, and ev-er shall be for - ev-er more. A - men.' The music features a mix of eighth, quarter, and half notes, with some rests.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

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

The musical score is written on two staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff contains the melody for 'Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -'. The second staff continues with 'on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.' The music consists of quarter and half notes.

Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis – 238 (1)

All glory be to God a - lone, For - ev-er more the Highest One,
Who doth our sin-ful race be - friend And grace and peace to
us ex-tend. A-mong man - kind may His good will All
hearts with deep thanks - giv - ing fill.

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff contains the melody for 'All glory be to God a - lone, For - ev-er more the Highest One,'. The second staff continues with 'Who doth our sin-ful race be - friend And grace and peace to'. The third staff continues with 'us ex-tend. A-mong man - kind may His good will All'. The fourth staff concludes with 'hearts with deep thanks - giv - ing fill.' The music features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some rests.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray...

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

C Amen.

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. ²² And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 47

P Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples!

C Shout to God with the voice of triumph!

P For the LORD Most High is awesome;

C He is a great King over all the earth.

P He will subdue the peoples under us,

C And the nations under our feet.

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, The people of the God of Abraham.
C **For the shields of the earth belong to God; 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.



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

218 (1-3, 5) – See, the Conqueror Mounts in Triumph

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

Our Ascended, Active Lord

Offertory



1 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
2 spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Your
pres - ence, and take not Your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of Your sal - va - tion; and up -
hold me with Your free spir - it. A - men.

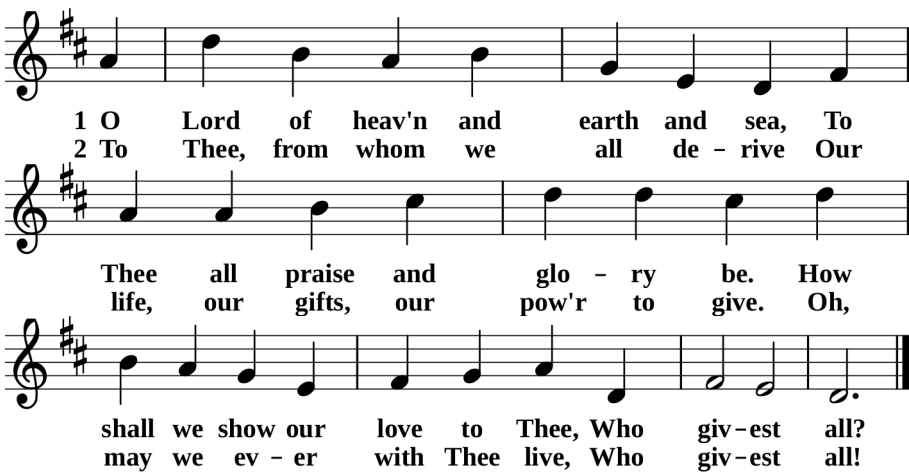
Hymn

213 – Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise

Offering

Offering Hymn

443 (1, 8)



1 O Lord of heav'n and earth and sea, To
2 To Thee, from whom we all de - rive Our
Thee all praise and our glo - ry be. How
life, our gifts, our pow'r to give. Oh,
shall we show our love to Thee, Who giv - est all?
may we ev - er with Thee live, Who giv - est all!

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.

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

738 – Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

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✝ Announcements ✝

Upcoming Schedule		
May 25	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
June 1	9:15 am	Confirmation Examination
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
June 8	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)

Upcoming Meetings: Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

- **June 1** – Trustees/Church Council
- **July 6** – Quarterly Voters’ Meeting
- **August 3** – Education/Elders

In Our Prayers: Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers: Don Beymer, Bob & Joan Doriot, Johanna Jaehnigen, David & Elsie Kleinschmidt, Shirley Rosenberry, and Mike Sheffield. May the Lord strengthen their faith, grant them His peace, and assure them of His abiding presence.

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: Next Sunday is Confirmation Sunday! We'll have the distinct joy of witnessing two of our young people confess their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. How fitting, then, that our meditation from God's Word will be John 15:1-8, as we explore the theme, "Forever His Branches." Jesus, the True Vine, calls us to abide in Him, promising that as we remain connected to Him, we will bear much fruit. What a comforting and vital truth for our confirmands as they publicly affirm their commitment, and for each of us, as we live out our lives in His grace. Come, let us rejoice together in the gift of faith and our secure place in Christ!

All Aboard for Vacation Bible School: Join us this summer for an exciting week of adventure at our "Making Tracks" Vacation Bible School, July 14–18, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am each day! Children ages 4–12 are invited to come along as we explore how Jesus guides us through life and leads us safely to heaven. Each day will be filled with:

- Christ-centered Bible lessons
- Creative crafts and active games
- Joyful singing and tasty snacks

We encourage you to invite your friends, neighbors, grandkids, and classmates—any child who would be blessed by a fun and faith-filled week learning about Jesus!

Register today at www.winterhavenlutheran.com/vbs, or speak with Pastor Sauers for more information. If you're able to volunteer during the week or would like to donate snacks or drinks, we'd be very grateful—just let Pastor Sauers know how you can help!

The Branches: The Branches is a women's magazine that serves to encourage you in your Bible study, edify you in your daily walk with Christ, and strengthen the bond of fellowship among Christian sisters. Renewals, new subscriptions, gift subscriptions -- all can be done at this time (by June 15 please). Subscriptions are \$16.00 per year for 4 issues (print or digital version). All subscriptions and subscription inquiries can be sent to: Sandy Hulke / Subscription Manager / 29985 Norway Ave Lindstrom, MN 55045. Email: thebranchesmagazine@gmail.com. Payments can be made by PayPal (email Sandy for details) or check (payable to The Branches).

ManUp! Men's Retreat 2025: Calling all men (18 and older)! Get ready for ManUp!, a powerful time of biblical encouragement, fellowship, and growth.

- **When:** September 25-28, 2025
- **Where:** Wyalusing State Park near Prairie du Chien, WI

This year's theme is **Ephesians 2:8-10**: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (ESV)

Join us for impactful Bible study, leadership training, team building, and worship. Plus, enjoy exciting activities like rock climbing, hiking, arrow tag, mountain biking, a trivia challenge, grilling, bonfires, and music!

Registration is NOW OPEN!

- Cost: \$75
- Late Registration: \$150 (after August 30)
- Registration Deadline: August 30, 2025

CLC Call News: Professor Joel Gullerud of Immanuel Lutheran High School, Eau Claire, WI, has received the call to serve as principal of Immanuel Lutheran K-12 School, Mankato, MN. <> Pastor Mark Tiefel of Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church, Middleton, WI, received the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Frank Gantt of Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Loganville, GA has received the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.

Fruits of Faith		May 18, 2025	Attendance: WH – 48	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>			<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>	
<i>General Budget</i>			<i>General Budget</i>	
\$963.52	General Budget	\$100.00	CLC General Budget	
\$1,500.00	Weekly Need	\$67.31	Weekly Need	
-\$536.48	-Under / +Over	+\$32.69	-Under / +Over	
\$26,425.67	Year to Date Offerings	\$765.00	Year to Date Offerings	
\$30,000.00	Year to Date Need	\$1,346.20	Year to Date Need	
-\$3,574.33	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$581.20	Year to Date (+/-)	
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>			<i>Non-Budgetary</i>	
	Building Fund		ILC Student Aid Fund	
	Property Improvement		ILC Building Fund	
\$50.00	ILC Scholarship Fund		ILC Improvement Fund	
	Tuition Grant		Mission Development (MDF)	
\$40.00	Benevolence Fund		Project Kinship	
	Learning with Littles		ILC Tour Choir	
	School Fund		Spokesman/Daily Rest	

✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

May 26 - May 31, 2025

Monday - *John 17:20-26*

Jesus prays not only for His disciples, but also for those who will believe through their testimony. He desires them to be one with God and with each other, that the world may know God's love.

Tuesday - *1 John 5:12-21*

The one who has the Son has life. Thus to prevent one from having the Son is to be a purveyor of death. But whoever is born of God (v. 18) repents of sin and looks to Christ, the true God (v. 20).

Wednesday - *Exodus 17:8-16*

The LORD preserves His people through the "banner" of God's staff (v. 9), held up by Moses. When Moses' arms tire, those who are one with him, Aaron and Hur, support both of his hands.

Thursday - *Luke 24:44-53*

After His resurrection, Jesus continued to open the disciples' minds to the Scriptures. On Ascension Day He was "taken up into heaven" (v. 51), and they returned to the city, blessed and very joyful.

Friday - *Ephesians 4:7-13*

The blessings of the ascended Lord to His Church are many and great, intended to build up the body of Christ until we all reach oneness in the faith and knowledge of the Son of God (v. 13).

Saturday - *Genesis 5:21-24*

Enoch "walked with God" (vv. 22, 24) and, reconciled to God through the promised Savior, he was taken by God without dying (compare Hebrews 11:5). Elijah was another taken without dying (2 Kings 2).

