

And He put all things under His feet,
and gave Him to be head over
all things to the church, which
is His body, the fullness of Him
who fills all in all.

Eph. 1:22-23



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

When a friend or family member moves away, we immediately feel their absence. We might be tempted to think of Christ's Ascension the same way—that He gave His final instructions, went up to heaven, and left us here to manage on our own. But the Ascension isn't a goodbye. Today, Paul's letter to the Ephesians reminds us of a wonderful truth: Jesus didn't ascend to step away from His Church; He ascended to fill it. He was exalted over all things precisely so He could be present with us in all things. As we gather for worship today, may the Holy Spirit open the eyes of our hearts to see our victorious, ever-present Savior.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

212 (1-3, 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

Psalm 47:5; Ephesians 1:20-22; Matthew 28:20

- P** God has gone up with a shout,
- C** **The LORD with the sound of a trumpet!**
- P** Christ is seated at the right hand of God in the heavenly places,
- C** **Far above all principality and power and might and dominion.**
- P** He has put all things under His feet,
- C** **And gave Him to be head over all things to the church.**
- P** He is not far from us, for He has promised:
- C** **"I am with you always, even to the end of the age."**

Confession and Absolution

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Our ascended Lord Jesus Christ reigns in glory as Head over all things to the Church. Though He fills all in all, we confess that we often live as though He is far removed from our daily lives. We doubt His governing power, we yield to the fears of this world, and we fail to recognize His comforting presence among us. Let us therefore draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. We have not trusted in Your loving care; we have lived as though You were absent, forgetting Your promise to be near; we have not lived as faithful members of the body of Christ. Therefore, we flee to Your infinite mercy. Forgive our doubts, and grant us Your grace for the sake of our ascended Lord Jesus Christ, who intercedes for us at Your right hand.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. By His glorious resurrection and ascension, Jesus has overcome the world and now fills all things with His presence. As a called servant of Christ, 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 ✠

Glory be to the Father

Gloria Patri

P In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



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


Gloria Patri

GLORY BE TO GOD THE FATHER

First Reading

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.”

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; He is a great King over all the earth.
- C** **He will subdue the peoples under us, 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

765 – Christ High-Ascended

Sermon Text

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.

Sermon

Ascended to be Present

Offertory



Create in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
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

738 - Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

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 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!

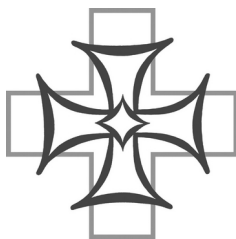
General Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

C 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

Children of the Heavenly Father



✠ ILS Promotion and Graduation ✠

Children Being Promoted to:

First Grade

Katelyn Goodwin

Second Grade

Hannah Hawkins

Third Grade

Emmalyn Goodwin

Jacob Sauers

Fourth Grade

Emmily Diaz

Lukas Hawkins

Troy Ortiz

Fifth Grade

Jenna Lawson

Mia O'Brien

Kaileyangelys Rodriguez-Sanchez

Sixth Grade

Mollyjoy Joiner

Graysen Wynn

Seventh Grade

Joel Castaneda

Eighth Grade

Katrina Bernthal

Anais Ortiz

Haven Wynn

Ninth Grade

Yazmin Castaneda

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

216 – On Christ's Ascension I Now Build

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✝ Announcements ✝

Upcoming Schedule – winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar

May 17	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service/ILS Promotion Sunday
May 19	11:30 am	ILS Last Day of School (Early Release)
	6:30 pm	ILS End of Year Program
May 24	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
May 31	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service

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

- **June 7** – Trustees/Church Council
- **July 5** – Quarterly Voters' Meeting
- **August 2** – 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.

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: When a loved one moves away, their absence leaves a painful void. The disciples felt that ache as they watched Jesus disappear into the clouds. We often think of the Ascension as Christ's departure, leaving us to fend for ourselves. But next Sunday, we will discover a glorious paradox: Jesus ascended not to be absent, but to be universally present. In our sermon text from Ephesians 1:15-23, we see our Savior seated "far above all principality and power." He now reigns as head over all things specifically for the church—His body. Join us next week as we explore our theme, "Ascended to be Present," and find comfort in knowing the One who fills all in all is always with you!

Come Fly With Us to Vacation Bible School: Join us this summer for an exciting week of adventure at our "Soaring High!" Vacation Bible School, July 20–24, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am each day! Children ages 4–12 are invited to hop in the hot air balloon basket as we explore new destinations and learn that Jesus is our best treasure and the only way 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!

CLC Women's Retreat West: Join Grace Ev. Lutheran Church (Valentine, NE) for the Women's Retreat West, happening September 18-20, 2026, at the Arrowood Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma, SD. This year's sessions will focus on Words to Others, Words to Yourself, and Words to the Lord. Come enjoy a refreshing weekend filled with Bible study, heart-opening conversations, and wonderful fellowship activities.

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer." – Psalm 19:14

For more information, please visit: <https://womensretreat.clclutheran.net/womens-retreat>

CLC News: Pastor Chad Seybt of Morning Star Lutheran Church, Fairchild, WI, Peace with God Lutheran Church, Onalaska, WI, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Melrose, WI, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Millston, WI, has received the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Chad Seybt of the Western Wisconsin Quad Parish has also received the call to St. Luke's Ev. Lutheran Church, Lemmon, SD. <> ILC Education Program Graduate Ms. Riley Naumann has accepted the call to teach 3-4 grades at Messiah Lutheran School, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, West Columbia, SC, has received the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Stefan Sonnenfeld of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, MI, has returned the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Teacher Stephen Krause of Grace Lutheran School, Valentine, NE, has received the call to Faith Lutheran School, Markesan, WI. <> Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has received the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison Heights, MI.

✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

May 18 – May 23, 2026

Monday - *Mark 16:14-20*

Awaiting the promised Spirit, we remember how the risen Jesus sent the eleven out to preach the Word, how vital it is to believe that Word, and how He confirmed His Word by various signs.

Tuesday - *John 15:26-16:4*

When the Counselor comes, He will testify about Jesus, and so will Jesus' apostles. Not all will believe the testimony, to be sure, but fierce opposition does not mean that the Spirit was wrong.

Wednesday - *1 Peter 4:7-11*

The approaching end times call for a sound mind and prayerful watching, but most of all for love which uses the gifts that God has given in service to one another on our heavenly walk.

Thursday - *Ezekiel 36:25-27*

The LORD will cleanse from impurity and idolatry. The LORD will give a new heart and put His Spirit within, that we, His people, may be led to walk in His ways.

Friday - *Psalms 97*

The LORD reigns. The earth, created by Him, rejoices in this. Fire, lightning, mountains, and heavens bow before Him. All other "gods" are nothing compared to Him. Let us also rejoice and give thanks!

Saturday - *Psalms 93*

The LORD rules forever. Majesty and strength are His clothing. He is mightier than the thundering waters, and His word stands firm. His holiness is what makes His house eternally beautiful.

