

Sunday Worship
Bulletin
**Feast of
Ascension**

10:00 a.m.

May 29, A.D. 2022



Saint John's Lutheran Church

---- *Missouri Synod* ----

60 Broad Street, Westfield, MA

(413)568-1417

Rev. David Riley, Pastor

125 Glenwood Drive, Westfield, MA 01085

Cell phone # 870-814-4828

Website: stjohnswestfield.org E-mail: info@stjohnswestfield.org

Radio Broadcast at 7:30 AM on WHYN 560 AM

WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS, OUR LORD!

We pray that our worship this day will be an inspiration to every one of us. If you are a visitor or the guest of someone, please sign our Guest Book at the round table in the Foyer. Requests for prayers in this morning's service may be made by writing them on the Prayer Request form in the entryway of the church. A Nursery for infants and toddlers is available in Room 4 on this level.

Jesus said: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you are also to love another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:34-35



The Order of Morning Worship

† OPENING HYMN NO. **532**: *“The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns”*



1 The Head that once was crowned with thorns Is crowned with glo - ry now;
2 The high - est place that heav'n af - fords Is His, is His by right,
3 The Joy of all who dwell a - bove, The Joy of all be - low
4 To them the cross, with all its shame, With all its grace, is giv'n;



A roy - al di - a - dem a - dorns The might - y Vic - tor's brow.
The King of kings and Lord of lords, And heav'n's e - ter - nal Light;
To whom He man - i - fests His love And grants His name to know.
Their name an ev - er - last - ing name, Their joy the joy of heav'n.

**5 They suffer with their Lord below,
They reign with Him above,
Their profit and their joy to know
The myst'ry of His love.**

**6 The cross He bore is life and health,
Though shame and death to Him:
His people's hope, His people's wealth,
Their everlasting theme.**

† INVOCATION, CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

L: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

L: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent,

bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

L: 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. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C: Amen.

✠ SALUTATION and COLLECT

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And with Thy Spirit.

L: Let us pray. Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Be Seated)

✠ FIRST READING: Acts 1:1–11

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

✠ EPISTLE: Ephesians 1:15–23

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that

you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far 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 one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

✠ HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C: Glory be to You, O Lord.

Then he said to 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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ.

✠ STATEMENT of FAITH: APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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 of the DAY No. **492**: “*On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build*”



1 On Christ’s as - cen - sion I now build The hope of my as -
 2 Since Christ re - turned to claim His throne, Great gifts for me ob -
 3 O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Re - call - ing Your as -



cen - sion; This hope a - lone has al - ways stilled All doubt and
 tain - ing, My heart will rest in Him a - lone, No oth - er
 cen - sion, That I may serve You faith - ful - ly In thanks for



ap - pre - hen - sion; For where the Head is, there as well I
 rest re - main - ing; For where my trea - sure went be - fore, There
 my re - demp - tion; And then, when all my days will cease, Let



know His mem - bers are to dwell When Christ will come and call them.
 all my thoughts will ev - er soar To still their deep - est yearn - ing.
 me de - part in joy and peace In an - swer to my plead - ing.

(Be Seated)

† SERMON: “*The Ascension of Our Lord*”

(Please Stand)

† PRAYER of the CHURCH

L: O Lord, since Your Son has gone up with a shout and the sound of a trumpet, ascended in triumph and is seated at Your right hand, so open our lips to sing praises to our King, rejoicing and living in the truth of His victory for us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Heavenly Father, Your Son has commanded us to go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation. Bless the proclamation of Your Church, that many may believe, be baptized and be saved. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Merciful God, preserve Your Holy Church here and scattered throughout the world. Give steadfast faith to all Christians by the preaching of Your Word and through the Holy Sacraments, and send laborers into Your harvest. Enliven the love of Your saints to bear one another's burdens and to show mercy toward those outside of the Church. Quicken us in the hope of eternal life in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Father of glory, You raised Your only begotten Son from the dead and established Him at Your right hand so that we might be part of Your household forever. Bless our homes as we await our day of resurrection. Be the companion and consolation of those who live in solitude, strengthen husbands and wives so that their love exemplifies the love between Christ and His Church, and bless parents and children as they gather around Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Eternal Lord, since Your Son will shatter kings when He executes judgment on the nations, keep all our leaders from acting in ways that will earn them His wrath. Bless them with wisdom to govern us in accord with Your righteous ways. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Compassionate Lord, as believers in Your Son's name, we call on You to deliver all who suffer in our midst from sickness of body and mind and every other power of the enemy. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

† BENEDICTION

L: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

† CLOSING HYMN No. 525: "Crown Him with Many Crowns"



1 Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;
2 Crown Him the vir - gin's Son, The God in - car - nate born,
3 Crown Him the Lord of love. Be - hold His hands and side,
4 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave



Hark how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own.
Whose arm those crim - son tro - phies won Which now His brow a - dorn:
Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those He came to save.



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And
Fruit of the mys - tic rose, Yet of that rose the stem, The
No an - gels in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But
His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who



hail Him as thy match - less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty.
root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, The babe of Beth - le - hem.
down - ward bend their won - d'ring eyes At mys - ter - ies so bright.
died e - ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.

**5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n,
Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n
The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns
As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,
For He is king of all.**

God's Mission Becomes Our Mission

God gives us the privilege and opportunity to be His stewards of the Gospel. With transformed hearts, we become deeply concerned about people who are perishing because they do not know Jesus. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we become His hands, feet, and mouth to witness to those around us. Through us, He carries on His life-saving work. God *“desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”* (1 Timothy 2:4). He seeks our participation in this mission effort. Through the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20), Jesus tells us to *“go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you.”* In Acts 1:8 we read, *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

We are called to be about God's mission with all the resources He entrusts to us. It involves more than giving a token amount of our time, abilities, and money. It is not to be a part-time or a half-hearted activity. When we submit to Him all that we are and have, God can do great things through us. With God's help, we can have the mission zeal of the Apostle Paul who committed his life to telling people about Jesus' love which was demonstrated on the Cross. May God help us to be tireless in our effort to share the Gospel.