While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.
Luke 24:51
WELCOME – to all who have gathered to hear the Good News of Jesus!

VISITORS – We are so glad you chose to join us today! We understand that visiting a church can be an intimidating experience. We pray that Jesus blesses and nourishes your faith through the gospel proclaimed this day. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to ask. God bless your worship!

RESTROOMS – It is located in the back room.

SMALL CHILDREN – Small children are always welcome in our service. It is a wonderful opportunity for them to learn about worship, observe their parents listening to God’s Word and, most importantly, hear about their Savior! If you should need to take your child out for any reason, you can go in the back room and still watch the service on closed-circuit TV. Thanks for bringing your kids to hear about Jesus.

CONNECT WITH US – Please fill out the connection card you received when you came in today with as much info as you are comfortable. This helps us better serve you whether you are a guest, visitor or member. Thank you for worshipping with us.

THEME OF THE DAY – Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, he ascended back into heaven and now sits at the right hand of the Father ruling over all things for your benefit. Before he left, he promised to return again and he most certainly will, on the last day, to take us to be with him. Until that day, Jesus tells us to share the good news about him with others. We do so knowing he is with us and will help us be his witnesses to the very ends of the earth!
ORDON OF SERVICE

THE FESTIVAL OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
Our King mounts his throne in victory to sit at the right hand of the Father.

OPENING HYMN
A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing
Christian Worship 171 verses 1-4

Please stand for the final stanza.

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen

A DIALOGUE FOR THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
M: God has ascended amid shouts of joy!
C: Let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and ex- tol him with music and song.
M: Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.
C: We believe and are sure that he is the Christ, the Son of the liv- ing God.
M: God raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appoint- ed him to be head over everything for the church.
C: At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
M: Since you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

C: Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

M: When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

C: Never again will we hunger; never again will we thirst. The sun will not beat upon us, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be our shepherd; he will lead us to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from our eyes.

CONFESSION OF SINS

In the confession we acknowledge our sins and ask God to forgive them. The absolution stresses the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ for our sins and the sins of the world. In the absolution we are assured that Christ has forgiven us all of our sins.

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us 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.

The congregation may kneel.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

HYMN

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing
Christian Worship 171 verses 5-6
PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, King of glory, you have 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

THE WORD

This section is the heart and high point of our service. What follows is not the uncertain word of untrustworthy human beings. It is the Word of God that has called us to faith and strengthens our faith in Jesus as our Savior.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 1:1-11

After Jesus finished instructing his disciples, he ascended into heaven.

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” 6 So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” 9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” (NIV)
SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON
Ephesians 1:16-23
Jesus is seated at the right hand of his Father where he reigns as our eternal King.

I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. (NIV)

HYMN
Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise
Christian Worship 175
THE GOSPEL


After Jesus completed the work of salvation, he ascended into heaven.

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.” 45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46 He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 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.” 50 When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. 51 While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. 52 Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. 53 And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God. (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C: Amen.

SERMON HYMN

On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build
Christian Worship 173

SERMON:


Ascension Means Promises Fulfilled!
APOSTLES’ CREED
The Creed is a summary and profession of the Christian faith. This is a confession of the whole Christian Church on earth concerning the teachings of Scripture and especially about the person of Jesus Christ.

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.

OFFERING
Our thank-offering to the Lord flows out of the thankful hearts that have received the forgiveness of sins though a crucified and risen Savior. Please take a moment and fill out the connection card and place it in the offering plate as it goes by.

For your convenience, you can scan this QR code to give online.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH
The Lord invites our prayers and promises to listen and respond according to his will.

M: Confident of our Lord’s return, let us approach our Father’s throne of mercy on behalf of the Church and of all people.
Gracious Lord God, amid shouts of joy we celebrate your Son’s ascension into heaven where he is now seated in majesty at your right hand. Grant your Church steadfastness in these gray and latter days that she may hold to the truth and boldly confess the saving name of Jesus.

C: As the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh seek to silence our witness to the truth, grant us courage to believe in our hearts and confess with our lips that Jesus is Lord.
M: Even as your beloved Son intercedes on behalf of his Church, so has he commanded us, his kingdom of priests, to pray for others.

C: **Hear us, O Lord, as we implore you to show mercy to those in need:**

M: to the sick, the lonely, and the depressed grant relief; to the dying and those who mourn bring comfort; to the hungry, the homeless, and the unemployed send your help; to the elderly, give joy for living life to the full; to the young send patience to wait for the fuller life to come; to husbands and wives and their families, to single parents who raise their children alone grant wisdom and strength.

C: **Pour out your blessings to all who depend on your power and grace.**

M: Almighty Father, you are the good Giver of all that we have. In your mercy continue to grant us daily bread, supplying us with what we need before we even ask.

C: **Teach us to be thankful and content, whether we have plenty or are in need.**

M: O Lord, heavenly Father, we here remember the sufferings and death of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Praising 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, we pray, 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.

C: **Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us.**

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

**Silent prayer.**

M: To you alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

---

**LORD’S PRAYER**

*We join together in praying the prayer our Savior has taught us!*

ALL: 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.
HYMN

Day by Day
Christian Worship Supplement 765

1 Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,

Bring - ing com - fort to my anx - ious soul.

Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me

Draw me near - er to my heav’n - ly goal.

Love di - vine, be - yond all mor - tal mea - sure,

Brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest;

2 Day by day, I know you will provide me

Strength to serve and wis - dom to o - bey;

I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me

O’er the paths I strug - gle day by day.

I will fear no e - vil of the mor - row;

Day by day, no mat - ter what be - tide me,

When my bur - dens grow too great to bear;

When I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.

When I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.

Brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest;

I will trust in your endur - ing grace.

You will hold me ev - er in your hand.

Oh, what joy to know that you are near me
PRAYER AND BLESSING

Having seen and heard all that the Lord has done, we are prepared to go from here in peace, to live in harmony with each other, and serve our God with gladness.

M: Almighty God, by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you turn us from the old life of sin and set our minds on things above. Grant that we who are reborn to new life in him may live in righteousness and holiness all our days, proclaiming his love to those who do not know him by faith, and longing for him to reappear in glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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.

CLOSING HYMN

Crown Him with Many Crowns
Christian Worship 341

Scripture is taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV). Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved. All other material reprinted under OneLicense.net#A-718787. Reprinted by permission.
ASCENSION
NEWS & NOTES

Our Week with the Lord: May 21—May 28, 2017

Today:
Worship w/Lord’s Supper ................................................................. 9:00 AM
Family Bible Hour ................................................................. 10:20 AM
Sunday School Meeting ......................................................... 11:30 PM

Thursday:
Leadership Team Training ................................................. 6:00 PM

Sunday:
Worship ..................................................................................... 9:00 AM
Family Bible Hour ................................................................. 10:20 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Today's Lesson: The Gift of the Holy Spirit
Next Week: The Man Who Could Not Walk
Memory Treasure: Do not fear, for I am with you always; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. Isaiah 41:10

OPEN FORUM

Sunday, June 4 after church, we will hold and Open Forum to discuss where we are at in our mission as a congregation, as well as where we plan to go in the next few months. Attendance is vitally important in order to inform you of what is going on at your church and to get your feedback on ways we can continue to effectively serve you and others with the good news of Jesus. Please, mark your calendars and plan on attending.
SOCCER
WITH OUR
SAVIOR
JUNE 14-16
Williamsburg Plantation Park
Kids Ages 3 to 10

HELP NEEDED
♦ Snacks, water and Gatorade
♦ Greeters/floaters/set up and take down
♦ Hot dogs, buns and chips

Registration online at www.welsale.com by June 1st

Thank you! Thank you! Mom’s Night Out was another big success because of the great volunteers that helped make it possible. We would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all of the volunteers who have helped this ministry to grow over the past year. To do this, please join us for a volunteer appreciation lunch at Cheddar’s on Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. Let us buy you lunch and thank you for your efforts. You are truly appreci-
WE THANK THOSE WHO SERVE!

**Music**
This Sunday: Mary Kollmeyer

**Ushers**
This Sunday: Noah Semmann
Next Sunday: Tod Goede

**Cleaning**
This Week: **We Need Your Help**
Next Week: Pat Werrell

**Refreshments**
This Sunday: Schetter Family
Next Sunday: **We Need Your Help**

**Last Week Attendance**
Worship: 85  Bible Class: 31  Sunday School: 21  Teen Class: —
**Bible 101** is your opportunity to explore the greatest story ever told.

**Bible 101** is the starting point in our church for anyone looking to learn more about God, anyone who wants to see for themselves what the Bible says, anyone who would like to receive the sacrament of holy communion, or anyone seeking membership in our church family.

It’s also a great refresher for anyone who’d like to review the Bible’s basic teachings.

*No previous Bible knowledge is needed or expected. All materials are provided free of charge.*

**Begin your Journey on June 14**
Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 pm

*Contact Pastor Doug to register*
pastor@welsalc.com / 910-937-0022 or 801-837-7289
MISSION STATEMENT
As a family of believers in our Savior Jesus Christ, we proclaim the Gospel in Word and sacrament to gather souls, nurture believers, and encourage Christian living within our community and throughout the world.

Ascension is a congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. We invite you to visit our congregation’s website (www.welsalc.com) or our synod’s website (www.wels.net) for more information about our locations, beliefs, and practices.

Our Regular Sunday Morning Schedule:
Sunday Morning Worship — 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School — 10:20 a.m.
Bible Class — 10:20 a.m.