

# St. Paul's Plymouth

May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Ascension

Divine Service II

Welcome!



Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
[www.stpaulsplymouth.org](http://www.stpaulsplymouth.org)

# Welcome

**Thank you** for joining us for worship today!

We pray that your spiritual life will be nourished through Word and Sacrament.

- † If you desire, there is a nursery in the back on the west side of the church, but please know that **your children are ALWAYS welcome** in our service no matter how much noise they make. We're happy to have them hear the Word and join us praising God with their voices!
- † Before you leave, please sign the **guest register**. It is located on the top of the stairs in the church entryway.
- † Please talk to one of the **Elders** (seated in the back of the church) if you have questions about the service or the congregation.
- † **Large print service folders** are available. Please speak to one of the Elders if this would be of assistance to you.
- † Our Sunday morning service can be heard on KWBE 1450AM (94.7FM) and viewed live and archived at [www.stpaulsplymouth.org](http://www.stpaulsplymouth.org). Please share this information with those who are not able to attend worship.
- † **Prayers before Worship** can be found in *Christian Worship – A Lutheran Hymnal*, pages 10-11.

## Broadcast Sponsor

Our broadcast this morning is sponsored by St. Paul's Ladies Aid of Plymouth, Nebraska.

## Focus for Our Worship

Christ rules all things for His Church. In the early 700s AD, there lived an English churchman known to history as the Venerable Bede. He was the great teacher of the middle ages, the man who divided history into AD and BC, the first great historian of the English language and a devout man of God. On May 25, 735AD, on the great Ascension Vigil, Bede finished his translation of the Gospel of St. John into Old English. Then, on that day of Ascension, he died. From his deathbed, Bede spoke the words that have become the Prayer of the Day for Ascension. This beautiful prayer set the tone for the day, beginning with a note of triumph and ending with a supplication for the Spirit and His work.

## OPENING HYMN “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” (CW 171)<sup>1</sup>

*Please Stand*

### INVOCATION

**M** In the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.<sup>2</sup>

**C** Amen.

### CONFESSION

**M** Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**All** **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.**

**For faithless worrying and selfish pride,**

**For sins of habit and sins of choice,**

**For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,**

**You should cast me away from Your presence forever.**

**O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

### ABSOLUTION

**M** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In His great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through His called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.<sup>3</sup>

**C** Amen.

### LORD, HAVE MERCY

**M** In peace that is ours through the forgiveness of sins, let us pray to the Lord.

**M** For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from You all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**M** For the spread of Your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in You, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C** **Christ, have mercy.**

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<sup>1</sup> Note: This hymn was written by The Venerable Bede (see theme of the day)

<sup>2</sup> The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshippers of their baptisms.

<sup>3</sup> See John 20:21-23.

**M** For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await Your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**M** Lord of life, live in us that we may live for You.

**C** Amen.

## GLORY BE TO GOD

*Gloria in Excelsis*

Tune: O HEILIGE DREIFALTIGKEIT



1 All glo - ry be to God on high!  
2 Our grate - ful thanks to you we bring,  
3 O Lamb of God, to you we pray.  
4 You, Christ, are ho - ly— Lord a - lone;



Your name, O Lord, we glo - ri - fy;  
For your great glo - ry, heav'n - ly King,  
You take all hu - man sin a - way.  
The Fath - er's glo - ry you made known.



We praise you for your peace and grace,  
For all, O Fath - er, you have done  
Have mer - cy, Lord; re - ceive our prayer;  
We by your Spir - it sing a - gain:



Your fav - or toward our fal - len race.  
Through Je - sus Christ, your on - ly Son.  
From God's right hand, your mer - cy share.  
"All glo - ry be to God!" A - men.

## THE WORD

### SALUTATION

**M** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M** Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day You 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.

*Please Be Seated*

## FIRST LESSON – Acts 1:1-11

*We read the historical account of our Lord ascending into heaven where He reigns with authority for the good of His children.*

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>6</sup>So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

<sup>7</sup>He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>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."

<sup>9</sup>After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

<sup>10</sup>They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup>"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."

**JUNIOR CHOIR** "Shine On Me" by Karen Maio

## SECOND LESSON – 1 Peter 4:7-11

*The Apostle Peter encourages us to use to the glory of God all the various individual gifts with which He has blessed us through the Ascended Christ who rules all things.*

<sup>7</sup>The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. <sup>8</sup>Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup>Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup>Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. <sup>11</sup>If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

**VERSE OF THE DAY – Daniel 7:13,14**

**M** Alleluia. In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. Alleluia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Faith comes from hear - ing the mes - sage, and the



mes - sage is heard through the Word of Christ. Al - le -



lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Please Stand*

**HOLY GOSPEL:**

**M** The Gospel according to St. Matthew chapter 28:

**C** **Glory be to you, O Lord.**

<sup>16</sup>Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup>When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make

disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

**M** This is the Gospel of the Lord!

**C** Praise be to you, O Christ!

*Please Be Seated*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “On Christ's Ascension I Now Build” (CW 173)

**SERMON – Matthew 28:16-20 – GROW AND GO!**

*Please Stand*

### **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.<sup>4</sup>**

*Please Be Seated*

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<sup>4</sup> Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Christians composed the Nicene Creed in the fourth century to defend the Bible's teachings that both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are true God, equal to the Father in one eternal, undivided Trinity.

## OFFERING<sup>5</sup>

*Please Stand*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### THE SACRAMENT

#### PREFACE<sup>6</sup>

**M** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**M** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them up to the Lord.

**M** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is good and right so to do.

**M** It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give You thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who rose from the dead in glorious triumph to bring forgiveness to the world and everlasting life to all who believe. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise Your holy name and join their glorious song:

#### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



1 O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and  
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How tru - ly blest is



might, Your glo - ry, earth and heav - en In  
he Who in God's name is com - ing To

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<sup>5</sup> Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer Him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to Him (See 1 Corinthians 16:2).

<sup>6</sup> The words of the Preface mark the beginning of the Sacrament section of the service and lift the worshippers' hearts in praise. The opening sentences are among the oldest in the Christian liturgy.

count - less ways re - cite. Ho - san - na! Come and  
set his peo - ple free! He comes to bring sal -

save us, Lord God of hosts on high, And in your  
va - tion And with his blood out - poured, De - liv - er

grace and mer - cy Re - ceive our fer - vent cry.  
us from bond - age— Ho - san - na, might - y Lord!

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**M** Blessed are You, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which He has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By His incarnation, He became one with us.

By His perfect life, He fulfilled Your holy will.

By His innocent death, He overcame hell.

By His rising from the grave, He opened heaven.

Invited by Your grace and instructed by Your Word, we approach Your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with Him and all His ransomed people in glory everlasting.

**C** Amen.

### LORD'S PRAYER

**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.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**M** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is My  $\text{✠}$  blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."



- M** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** Amen.

**LAMB OF GOD *Agnus Dei***

Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
 you take a - way the sin of the world;  
 grant us your peace. A - men.

*Please Be Seated*

**DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**Close Communion** We ask that only those who have previously spoken to our pastor or are members in good standing of this or another WELS or ELS congregation come to Holy Communion today. Our practice of Close Communion (which has been the practice of the Christian Church throughout the ages) is in no way trying to judge anyone's faith. What we are trying to do is follow the Bible's clear teaching (I Corinthians 11) to first study God's Word

together. As we do so, we can share with/review with you what the Lord's Supper is all about. You, then, also have an opportunity to examine what we believe and teach before you come to the Lord's Supper here at St. Paul's and make a public profession that you agree with what we teach.

If you have any questions about this or would like to commune at St. Paul's in the future, please talk to Pastor Berger after worship this morning. He would love to sit down with you on your timetable and at your convenience and talk about these important matters.

### PRAYER BEFORE COMMUNION

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at Your holy table. But You are a friend of sinners, and You will not cast me out. This bread is Your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is Your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At Your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior. Amen.

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Take and Eat" (CWS 741) – see back page of the service folder

"Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices" (CW 242)

"Draw us to Thee" (CW 170)

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank You, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with Your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in You as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of Your Spirit to live and work to Your praise and glory. Amen.

*Please Stand*

### SONG OF SIMEON<sup>7</sup>



1 O Lord, now let your serv - ant De - part in peace, as -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All glo - ry to the

sured: For I have seen your prom - ised In -  
Son, All glo - ry to the Spir - it, For -

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<sup>7</sup> Through God's Word and Sacrament, we have seen Jesus Christ, and like Simeon we find divine peace and comfort through faith in the Savior.



car - nate, sav - ing Word— A Light that will en -  
ev - er three in one; For as in the be -



light - en All gloom where Gen - tiles dwell; The bril - liant,  
gin - ning, Is now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une



crown - ing glo - ry Of those in Is - ra - el!  
name re - sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

**M** We give You thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that You have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift You have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By Your Spirit help us to live as Your holy people until that day when You will receive us as Your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### BLESSING<sup>8</sup>

**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 “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus” (CW 169)



<sup>8</sup> The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, “So they will put My name on them, and I will bless them” (see Numbers 6:27).

## NOTES AND NEWS

Pastor Fred Berger  
C-402-239-4509 O-402-656-3003  
[pastorberger@gmail.com](mailto:pastorberger@gmail.com)

Principal Andrew Danner  
C-402-433-5349 O-402-656-4465  
[danner@stpaulsplmouth.org](mailto:danner@stpaulsplmouth.org)

**Organist:** Cari Schroeder  
**Teen Usher:** Noah Worster  
**Greeters:** Bob & Marge Schmidt  
**Childcare:** Marcie Vossler, Patti Schwab  
**Broadcast Announcers:** Don Wurm, Barry Weichel

### This Week, By God's Grace (May 13<sup>th</sup> – May 20<sup>th</sup>)

Today	Bible Class, Sunday School	9:00am
	Worship with Communion	10:00am
	Utah Mission Trip Meeting	11:15am
Monday	Faculty Meeting	7:15am
	Preschool Field Trip	
Tuesday	Faculty Devotion	7:15am
	LES Catechism Class	8:30am
	Growing in Hope Bible Information Class	7:00-8:00pm
Wednesday	Faculty Meeting	3:45-5:00pm
Thursday	Faculty Devotion	7:15pm
	LES Catechism	8:30am
	Ladies Aid	2:30pm
Friday	School Chapel	8:30am
	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter Ends	
	School Dismisses for Summer Break	1:00pm
Sunday	Sunday School & Bible Class	9:00am
	Worship	10:00am
	St. Paul's Graduation	
	End of Year Sunday School Teachers' Meeting	11:00am
	(Greeters: Stan & Mary Hueske)	
	(Childcare: Deb Milius, Amy Weichel)	

### BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

**Today** – Dallas Christ    **Monday** – Cole Weichel  
**Thursday** – Dean Milius    **Friday** – Randy Schmidt, M/M Ron Collins  
**Saturday** – Tom Person, Dale Weichel, M/M Allen Schroeder

**Student Fund** – It has been our tradition at St. Paul’s that a free-will offering is taken for our Student Fund on the Sunday when we celebrate Ascension. Since we are celebrating Ascension today, the offering will be taken following our worship service this morning. Together with the Christmas Eve offering, these monies are given to students in the congregation who are attending a WELS Lutheran high school or college, or Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary to help defray tuition expenses.

**In Our Prayers** – We pray for Dave Upchurch’s continual recovery from his successful knee surgery which he had at St. Elizabeth’s in Lincoln on Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. He returned home on Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Growing in Hope Bible Information Class** – Our “Growing in Hope” Bible Information Class is now being offered each Tuesday evening through June 26<sup>th</sup>. The class runs from 7PM-8PM. If you would like to know more about what the Bible teaches, are considering joining our church family, or would just like a review of the basic teachings of the Christian faith, this class is for you! All materials are provided. Onsite childcare is also available. Please join us and bring a friend!!



**Graduations** – We offer our congratulations to the following 2018 graduates:

- Eighth Grade – Brevin Damrow, Colton Jantzen, Nicholas Scheele, Gavin Weichel, Faith Worster
- High School – Christian Benash, Ethan Paxton, Kennedy Scheele, Randy Watts, Kailey Weichel
- College – Kate Likens - she graduated from UNL on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, with a BSN Agricultural Education Degree. Her future plans include Agriculture Educator and FFA advisor at Southern Valley Schools (near Oxford, NE).



May the Lord bless them as they use their gifts and talents to serve Him and those around them.

**Summer Music** – Anyone interested in sharing his/her musical gifts during our worship services this summer is asked to contact Pastor Berger. He would be happy to discuss various options with you.

**Vacation Bible School** – VBS will be held June 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-11:30am each day. Registration is available online by clicking on the VBS icon at [www.stpaulsplymouth.org](http://www.stpaulsplymouth.org) or by completing the yellow paper registration form included in today’s bulletin and on the back table in the front entrance. Completed forms should be returned to the church or school office. We are in need of volunteers to assist with VBS in the following areas: classroom teachers, craft helpers, kitchen helpers, and classroom aides. If you are able to help out, please contact Mr. Danner (402-433-5349) or email him at [danner@stpaulsplymouth.org](mailto:danner@stpaulsplymouth.org).

**WELS Coed Church Softball Tournament** – We are hosting a Single Elimination Church Softball Tournament at the east ballfield in Plymouth on Sunday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. The first game (with the two nearest teams playing) will begin at 1PM.



Men and women who are in high school or older, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Preferably, we’d like 24 individuals signed up so that St. Paul’s can have two teams in the tournament. There will be a concession stand open for food and drinks. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Pastor Fred Berger – [pastorberger@gmail.com](mailto:pastorberger@gmail.com) – or call the church office – 402-656-3003. Hope to see you there!

**WELS Mobile App** – If you have a smartphone, consider downloading the free WELS Mobile App! Among many other features, on the homepage you will have access to a verse of the day, a devotion you can either read or have read to you, and a “through the Bible in three years” that you can either read or have read to you. Might this be a way to be in daily contact with God through His Word amidst your busy daily life?

**NELHS Golf Outing** – The need for tuition assistance at NELHS has never been greater. A fun way to help provide support is through the annual NELHS golf outing. This year the golf outing will be in **Norfolk** at the beautiful **Eldorado Hills Golf Course**. The date for the event is **Saturday, July 28**. We hope you can gather some friends and join us for golf. If you can't make it or are not a golfer, consider sponsoring a hole. It appears there will be many families that need assistance, so every dollar counts.



*Refrain*

Take and eat, take and eat, this is my bod - y  
 giv - en up for you. Take and drink, take and drink,  
 this is my blood giv - en up for you. *Last time*

*Verses*

1 I am the Word that spoke and light was made;  
 2 I am the way that leads the ex - ile home;  
 3 I am the Lamb that takes a - way your sin;  
 4 I am the cor - ner - stone that God has laid,  
 5 I am the Light that came in - to the world;  
 6 I am the First and Last, the liv - ing One;

I am the seed that died to be re - born;  
 I am the truth that sets the cap - tive free;  
 I am the gate that guards you night and day.  
 A chos - en stone and pre - cious in his eyes.  
 I am the Light that dark - ness can - not hide;  
 I am the Lord who died that you might live;

I am the bread that comes from heav'n a - bove;  
 I am the life that rais - es up the dead;  
 You are my flock: you know the Shep - herd's voice;  
 You are God's dwell - ing place; on me you rest.  
 I am the Morn - ing Star that nev - er sets.  
 I am the Bride - groom, this my wed - ding song. *To Refrain*

I am the vine that fills your cup with joy.  
 I am your peace, true peace my gift to you.  
 You are my own: your ran - som is my blood.  
 Like liv - ing stones, a tem - ple for God's praise.  
 Lift up your face; in you my light will shine.  
 You are my bride; come to the mar - riage feast.

*Martin Luther reminds us in his Small Catechism that the power of the Sacrament is not our "eating and drinking . . . but the words 'Given' and 'poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins.'" This hymn underscores the powerful and creative Word of our Savior.*

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