

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND SCHOOL**

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Welcome!

We are glad you are worshipping today!

Fellowship: Refreshments available in the Gathering Hall Sundays 9am-10:45am.

Holy Communion: Celebrated during all Worship Services on the first, third & fifth weekends each month.

Parents With Children: Children's bulletins & Busy Bags are available. There is a quiet room in the back of church.

We Care Cards: Everyone attending is asked to complete a card found in the pew rack and collected during worship.

Volunteers (Acolytes, Live-stream & PowerPoint help): Sign-up at tinyurl.com/SPLsignups.

Traditional Worship

*Saturday 5pm
Sunday 8am
Monday 6:30pm

Contemporary Worship

*Sunday 10:30am

*Live-streamed at:

splgraffton.org/church/livestream &
vimeo.com/event/3215174

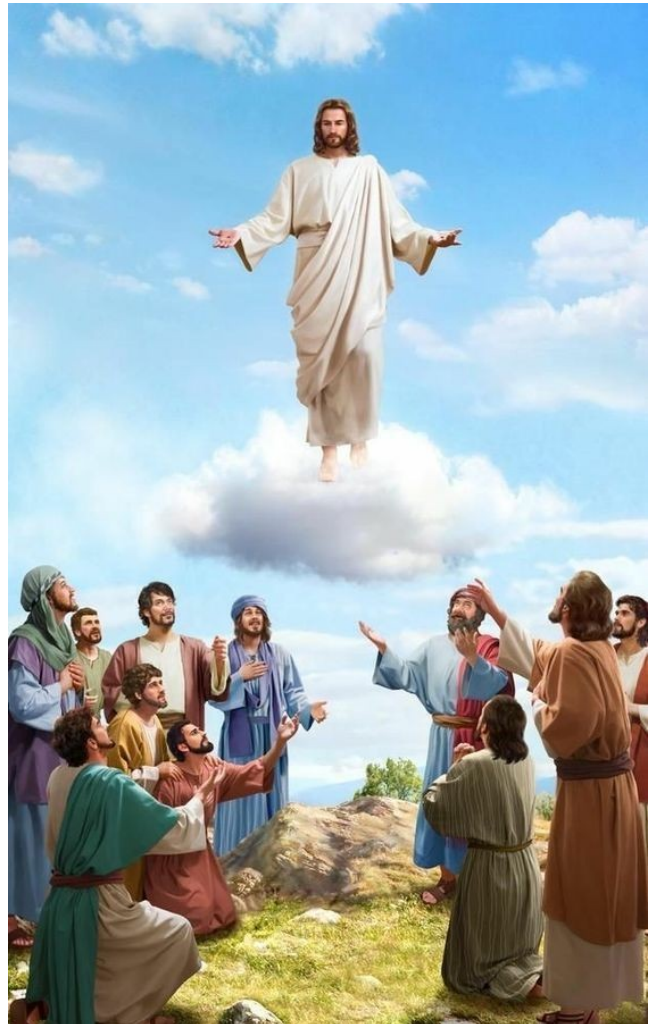
Servant Leaders:

Pastor: Luke Anderson
Pastor: Jacob Schultz
Pastor of Care Ministry: Timothy Maschke
Pastor Emeritus: Larry Prah
Pastor Emeritus: John Suelflow
Pastor Emeritus: Kenton Wendorf
Principal: Michael Yurk
Director of Music: Valerie Bremer
DCE: Tracy Krueger

**EQUIPPING
Every Generation
to *Live Rooted*
in **JESUS****



**ASCENSION THURSDAY
EVENING PRAYER
May 14, 2026**



AS WE GATHER...Ascension Day falls 40 days after Easter. The fact that Christ stayed on earth for these days reminds us that He wants us to live in the world, although not of the world (John 15:19; 17:16). We pause in our busy lives to reflect on our relationship with Him, even as He ascends to the right hand of His and our Father.

ASCENSION WORSHIP SERVICE - 6:30pm

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES and RINGING OF BELLS

WELCOME

SERVICE OF LIGHT *(sung by Pastor Schultz and Congregation)* LSB 243

These opening biblical responses, known as Lucernarium, recall the necessity of Jesus in our lives, especially as we enter the evening hours. The Easter theme is especially evident in the final request, a reminder that this day is still part of "the Great Fifty Days of Easter."

PHOS HILARON LSB 244

This early Christian hymn, literally from the Greek, "Hilarious Light," dates back to AD 350, when it was already called "ancient." It reflects the joy of being God's people gathered together to praise His name, especially the One who gives eternal life and glory. LSB 888 and LSB 891 are alternate hymns from the same text.

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT LSB 245

This proclamational prayer of praise recalls God's enlightening presence in the pillars of cloud and fire as God guided the people of Israel (Exodus 13:21-22) and as embodied in Christ Himself (John 1:14).

PSALMODY AND PRAYER Psalm 141 *(Pastor & Congregation)* LSB 245-247 (I=Pastor, II=Pastor, C=Congregation)

The selected verses of this traditional evening psalm offer an opportunity for us to seek divine forgiveness and protection in our daily living. The refrain reminds us that our prayers are indeed incense to God and will be part of our heavenly worship (Revelation 8:4). The congregation will sing the refrain and the leader will sing the stanzas, joining together on the Glory be to the Father. The concluding prayer repeats the fact that our prayers ascend to God and, because of Jesus, we can approach His heavenly throne with peace, joy, and hope through Christ's forgiving grace.

OFFICE HYMN "Up through Endless Ranks of Angels" LSB 491

Our hymn this evening, "Up through Endless Ranks of Angels" is one of several Ascension hymns which lifts our hearts and minds to things above. We stand for the final stanza.

FIRST READING Acts 1:1-11 *The Promise of the Holy Spirit. (Holy Bible p. 1156)*

¹ In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ 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; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ 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." ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ 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."

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING Ephesians 1:15-23 *Thanksgiving and Prayer.* (Holy Bible p. 1241)

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ 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, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that 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 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. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

MUSICAL REFLECTION "O Worship the King," Male Choir

HOLY GOSPEL FOR THE ASCENSION Luke 24:44-53 *The Ascension.* (Holy Bible p. 1126)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

People: (spoken) Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁴ 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." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ 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." ⁵⁰ And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Pastor: In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

People: But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

SERMON HYMN "I'm But a Stranger Here"

LSB 748

SERMON "Heaven— My Hope and My Home," by Pastor Maschke

CANTICLE

MAGNIFICAT "Song of Mary" (Congregation (refrain) & Valerie Bremer)

LSB 248

Mary's song from Luke 1 is the traditional canticle (a biblical song) for Vespers and Evening Prayer and is a composite translation which includes the congregational refrain with a soloist.

PRAYERS

LSB 249-251

The Litany is a prayer form sometimes called the "Deacon's Prayer," since the worship leader, traditionally a deacon, invites the congregation to pray for specific needs. The Collect for Peace and the Lord's Prayer follow.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

Pastor: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:

People: 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.

BENEDICAMUS

LSB 252

The service concludes with an invitation to "bless the Lord." The word "bless" comes from the Greek word (from which we get our English word, "eulogy") for speaking a good word, so the congregation responds with thanksgiving and the pastor speaks God's blessing upon the congregation.

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "On Christ's Ascension I Now Build"

LSB 492

Worship Leaders

Liturgist : Rev. Jacob Schultz

Preacher: Rev. Timothy Maschke

Organist: Ms. Valerie Bremer

WAYS TO GIVE AT ST. PAUL

Visit splgraffton.org/church and Look for the **Give Now! Button**

- **IN-PERSON:** Offerings may be placed in a collection box near the exits.
- **MAIL/DROP-OFF:** 701 Washington Street, Grafton, WI 53024. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8am to 4pm.
- **VENMO:** Search for: @SPL-Grafton. Please note for: Offering; Last 4 Digits: 0360
- **VANCOONLINE ELECTRONIC GIVING:** Visit splgraffton.org/church/giving (then click Online Giving).
- **VANCO MOBILE APP:** Vanco Mobile is a mobile giving app that enables you to make one-time or recurring gifts from your smartphone. Visit the Apple App Store or Google Play and search for "Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement" to download the app.
- **TEXT-TO-GIVE:** Text the dollar amount you wish to contribute to 855.927.0750 (example: 25 for \$25). You will be sent a registration link. After registering, you will receive a text verification and an emailed receipt. For future giving, text the amount you wish to give, and text "repeat" to make it a recurring donation.
- **TEXT-TO-GIVE DIRECTLY TO THE EVERY GENERATION FAITHFUL TOGETHER MINISTRY EXPANSION FUND:** Text the dollar amount you wish to contribute followed by the letters EGFT, to 855.927.0750. For example, text "25 EGFT" to contribute \$25. You will be sent a registration link. After registering, you will receive a text verification and an emailed receipt. For future giving, text the amount you wish to give, and text "repeat" to make it a recurring donation. Every contribution sent to this number will go directly to the Every Generation Faithful Together fund.

Thank you for supporting St. Paul. If you have questions, contact St. Paul Finance Office at 262- 377-4659.