

The Lord Jesus... was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

ST. MARK 16: 19  
FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL  
FOR THE  
ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

## Jesus Sat Down at the Right Hand of God

by Pastor Sutton

**WHY** is it important that Our Lord ascended into heaven? Why should we take time out of our busy schedules to gather again *during the week* (Thursday, May 30, 7pm) around the Word and Sacrament of Our Lord?

As we've done often this year, since we are studying Hebrews in adult Bible class, we will let the inspired writer of the letter to the Hebrews give us his answer:

**But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified** (Hebrews 10.12-14).

Jesus was first crucified, died, and buried for our sake: "...offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins..." And, He has been resurrected and ascended for our sake as well: "...He sat down at the right hand of God..." The resurrection and ascension of Jesus tells us that the Father accepted the single, once for all time offering for sin that Jesus gave on the cross. He has (already done!) therefore "perfected," or "finished," or "completed" for all time those who are being made holy by His blood. That's you, the baptized Christian!

So, we see the promise and hope of the glorious ascension of our own body and soul in Jesus' ascension. One day, we will be sanctified totally, body and soul, resurrected and ascended to rule with Jesus in the heavenly places, to serve with Him as priests before the Father in the heavenly sanctuary. Yet, even now, on His account, you are considered "perfected" or "finished" in Him, the Father sees you as His own Son. In this temporal life, waiting for our own resurrection, God makes us holy day by day, as the very power and kingdom of God are made present and active in the apostles' preaching of the Gospel, the giving of the Lord's means of grace.

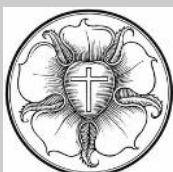
In St. Mark's account of the Ascension of Our Lord (St. Mark 16.14-20), Jesus charges the disciples to "Go into the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." He sends them to preach and baptize in His Name. Then, "He was received up into heaven, and sat at the right hand of God." And indeed, the apostles go out and preach "everywhere" - "the Lord working with them and confirming the Word through the accompanying signs."

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Esprit is the informational and educational newsletter of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church.

*Esprit de corps* indicates a sense of union and of common interests and responsibilities, as developed among a group. Our community of Immanuel is centered in the Lord Jesus Christ as He comes to us in the Holy Scriptures and the Sacraments.

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church is an historic and centrally located parish—called, gathered, and strengthened by Christ's Word and Sacraments—confessional in doctrine, evangelical in orientation, orthodox in liturgy, cosmopolitan in membership; serving the Terre Haute community and the students of Indiana State University and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and reaching out to the nations since 1858 as a parish of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

(Continued from page 1)

St. Luke's Gospel says that when Jesus ascended, the disciples returned to Jerusalem "with great joy." They are not sad that Jesus departed into some unknown, dark corner of the cosmos. No, they are joyful that Jesus is present to them and for them in a new and powerful way, and permanently among them through His Spirit and the Means of Grace.

Christ can now be everywhere for all of His people. This is the definition of being seated at the "right hand" of God the Father. Jesus rules His Church in His "offered for all time" flesh, "working with" the faithful preaching of the apostles. The ascended Christ today stands behind the faithful Christian pastor preaching His Holy Gospel, and giving out His Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins.

St. Paul says in his letter to the Ephesians that all are made one in Christ, through our Baptism into Him. This is the same as Hebrews saying we are "perfected" or are being "sanctified." In Christ, grace is given us "according to the measure of Christ's gift" – where Christ has gone, there we too shall go. More reason to be joyful. We will attain "to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ":

**Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)**

**And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4.7-12).**

The promise of our glorious resurrection and ascension in Christ to come – a promise that gives us comfort for today and a blessed, joyful, and certain hope for every tomorrow! Time to hear this good news and receive the body and blood of Christ once offered on the cross, now risen and ascended to the right hand of the Father! Put Thursday, May 30, at 7pm on your calendar now! See you then!

In Christ, our risen *and ascended* Immanuel,  
Pastor Sutton ✠



## A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

by Kantor Schultz

THE expressive hymn, "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing" (493) is sung at the Ascension Divine Service during the Gospel Procession, as the Gospel book is carried down the aisle, led by the crucifer and torchbearers.

This glorious sight in Divine Service on such a high Feast calls to mind the glorious sight observed by those who saw Christ's Ascension.

The hymn reminds us that this is more than just remembering a historical event. This history is important for us, as we are joined together with Christ as He is present to teach us in His Word and feed us His Supper at Divine Service. Stanzas 1-4 recall the history as presented in Acts 1, and that He will return again: "Hereafter Jesus you shall see, Returning in great majesty." We recall Christ's presence for us at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us.

Stanza 5 then connects this message to us. This is our hope for life now, even as we wait for eternal life with Christ in heaven:

"Be now our joy on earth, O Lord,  
And be our future great reward...  
Then, throned with You forever, we,  
Shall praise Your name eternally, alleluia!"

It is history, to be sure, but it is more than that: it is our life in Christ!

One stanza omitted from our hymnal continues this theme, connecting our life to Christ's ascension:

"Oh, grant us thitherward to tend,  
And with unwearied hearts ascend,  
Unto Thy kingdom's throne, where Thou,  
As is our faith, art seated now."

This hymn connects us with Christians a millennia ago, and all of those who have sung it since. The oldest copy of the hymn is from the



eleventh century with the first line "*hymnum canamus gloriae.*" It is ascribed to be authored by the Venerable Bede (673-735). Bede spent most of his life as a monk in Jarrow, England, where he studied and taught history and theology. He is best known for

his *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*. His collection of hymns, *Liber hymnorum diverso metro sive rhythmo*, no longer survives, although fourteen of his hymn texts do.

As we sing this hymn together on Ascension Day, think of what Good News Christ's Ascension is for us now, even as we look forward to being in His presence in heaven! ✠

## Confession: An Act of Humility

by Vicar Cornwell

**I**N our world, admitting one's failures and mistakes is seen as a sign of weakness. We are more prone to cast the blame on others or to deny any accusation.

The reason for this is found in the account of our first parent's fall into sin. If you remember, right after eating the fruit that they were forbidden to partake of, God asks Adam what he had done.

Adam's response is to cast blame upon Eve and even God Himself: "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate" (Genesis 3.12). He has forgotten very quickly how just before this he had extolled God for such a great gift: "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh" (Genesis 2.23).

Eve falls into the same trap, as she casts blame upon Satan. It calls to mind that famous saying: "The Devil made me do it!"

So we can see one result of sin: that it now causes our first reaction to be that of casting blame upon others. Just watch one episode of any court television show and you will quickly realize this sad reality.

However, there is another downside of sin, which is that it brings shame. In reality, this is most likely why one is wont to cast blame upon someone else before taking it upon himself or herself.

Adam and Eve's initial reaction after sinning was an attempt to cover themselves up: "Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths" (Genesis 3.7).

Furthermore, when they hear the sound of God walking in the cool of the day, they hide themselves (Genesis 3.8)! The sound that in the past would have brought nothing but delight and joy now caused fear and shame.

Adam and Eve knew that they could not stand before a holy God. They were doomed. Their attempts to cover themselves and hide from God were futile. Once confronted with their sin, their failure, the blame game begins (Genesis 3.9-13).

This sad effect of sin has its roots in us as well. Next time you make any mistake and someone confronts you with it, pay attention to your gut-reaction. Most likely, it will be to either run or blame someone else.

So what is the solution to this problem? The solution is found in the practice of Confession and Absolution. I am not suggesting that every time we sin we seek Private Confession and Absolution with the pastor, since we would shortly realize, as did Luther, that this would comprise our whole day.

Nevertheless, I am suggesting that when we sin against others, instead of trying to hide or cover up these failures we admit them and ask for forgiveness. That we daily repent in our prayers to God for our countless sins (Psalm 19.12).

Lastly, that we start to make Private Confession and Absolution a habit. Perhaps we start with once a month (third Thursdays of the month, 5-6pm). Then we can work our way up to once a week, in preparation to receive our Lord's body and blood.

Confession is an act of humbling oneself. We will be humbled one way or another. Just as God found Adam and Eve despite their

attempts to hide, so we will also have to answer one day to God for what we have done. But why would we hide and try to cover ourselves up with pathetic fig leaves when our Lord offers a better garment?

For just as God covered Adam and Eve with animal skins (showing that a death would finally cover their nakedness and shame) so too our Lord, Jesus Christ was stripped of His

clothing and shamefully nailed to a cross. Thereby obtaining for us a garment that allows us to stand before God unashamed and confident.

This confidence has been given to you in your Baptism. You now have Christ's righteousness. Continue to use it! Confess daily and receive the abundant forgiveness won through the suffering and death of our Lord, Jesus Christ. ✕

## Vacation Bible School 2019

VACATION Bible School will be June 17-21. We will need volunteers to help with teaching, crafts, snacks, and recreation activities. Please let Vicar Cornwell know how you can help.

This year's theme is "We All Believe." What the Father abundantly promises, Jesus the Son graciously provides in His death and resurrection for you, and then the Spirit joyfully brings all that to you in the Word and Gifts of Jesus. That's what the Apostles Creed confesses from the Holy Scriptures.

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to attend. Free registration will be available on our website. ✕



**We All Believe**  
Vacation Bible School

## Thank You to Our Musicians

by Kantor Schultz

THANK you to those who have sung in the Adult Choir or served as soloists recently: Peter Bertermann, Colleen Davis, Joe Eckardt, Faith Fenner, Rachel Gibbens, Arlington Hayne, Emily Royer, Kristin Schulz, Karie Sutton, Jodi Tate, Kathy Todd, Conner Walts, and Hannah Wineinger.

Thanks also to those who have played instruments: Rigo Barrozo, *cello*; Karie Sutton, *clarinet*; Conner Walts, *flute*; Adam Sutton, *piano*; Pearson Tate, *timpani*; Ron Dunbar, Arlington Hayne, Noah Sutton, *trumpet*.

The choir is an enjoyable way to assist in the proclamation of the Gospel at Immanuel as we sing about the life and work of Christ for our salvation. We are in need of more singers! Now is a good time to join us as we prepare to sing for the remainder of the Easter season, including the feasts of Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity. Rehearsals begin again on Wednesday, May 1 at 7pm. ✕

## Update from Seminarian Kyle Mullins

DEAR brothers and sisters in Christ at Immanuel,

I hope all is well. I wanted to extend my thanks to you for the support you have provided my family and me as well as give a short update on things here at the seminary.

I am now in the middle of my third quarter here. I am currently enrolled in nineteen credit hours, but thanks to your support a significant amount of monetary stress has been taken away, allowing me to devote more time and attention to my studies.

With the increase in class work, I have also been blessed with many new opportunities at the seminary and at my field work church. I was recently elected to the student body

council for next year, and have signed on to assist my field work church over the summer by teaching the children's Sunday School and assisting with shut-in visits.

In terms of personal life, our son, Simeon, is now going on five months old and has recently found his voice! Thankfully he has started sleeping through the night, giving us some much needed rest. Nicola and I are currently saving up to take a trip to visit my in-laws this summer so that they can spend some time with their grandson. This would not be possible without your assistance in supporting my seminary costs.

Again, thank you so much for the support you provide for my family and me.

In Christ,  
Kyle Mullins ✝

*Please join in the celebration as we honor our Confirmands*

*Noah Schulz  
Juniper Stephens*

*Confirmands' Banquet  
Saturday, May 4, 2019  
6pm*

## Council of Deacons Report

by Richard Monday

THE April 13 meeting opened with meditation on the Word of God, in which Pastor led a prayer for the congregation, followed by the study of the Lutheran Confessions, the Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration, Article VII on the Lord's Supper.

Pastor Sutton reported no membership changes since the last meeting. Pastor discussed upcoming events in the congregation's calendar, and led a discussion on building use and wedding policies. Vicar Cornwell highlighted the District Men's Retreat in early April at Camp Lakeview. The Deacons discussed possible re-arranging of their assigned areas of responsibility.

In ongoing business, Kris Wineinger updated planning for the new front lawn landscaping.

Kris Bilyeu reported on the progress of the new church library and conference room.

Board Reports:

- **Education:** Vacation Bible School is set for the week of June 17-21. The curriculum has been obtained.

The next regular meeting of the Council of Deacons is Saturday, May 4, at 7am in the Parish Center. Other communicant members who wish to meet with the Council of Deacons to discuss special concerns, needs, or requests should make arrangements with the Chairman of the Council of Deacons prior to a scheduled meeting. ✕

## Sunday Adult Bible Study — 9am

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|--------|------------------|---|
| May 5  | Hebrews 11.1-31  | <b>People of Faith</b> <i>(continued)</i><br><i>Now faith is the basis of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen..." We will review with the inspired author of Hebrews the divinely attested people of faith from the foundational story of God's people in the Old Testament. Three cases from the journey of Israel into the promised land as types of deliverance.</i>   |
| May 12 | Hebrews 11.32-40 | <b>The Achievements and Suffering of Faithful People</b><br><i>Hebrews makes a passionate appeal to Christians to regard themselves imaginatively as part of a heroic community with divine backing, rather than a despised minority of contemporary society, and to identify themselves emotionally with all the host of the named and nameless people of faith who bear witness to God both by what they achieved and suffered.</i> |
| May 19 | Hebrews 12.1-2   | <b>All Eyes on Jesus</b><br><i>Hebrews appeals to the imagination of Christians by painting a vivid scenario of them as runners in a race with the support of an appreciative crowd of spectators, and with Jesus, the only runner who has reached the end of the race.</i>   |
| May 26 | Hebrews 12.3-17  | <b>Participation in God's Holiness</b><br><i>The members of the Christian congregation are depicted as students who are instructed by God and trained by Him with His word, so that they can run the race of faith with endurance.</i>  |

**DIVINE SERVICE** is celebrated every Sunday at 10:30am and on Feast Days as announced.

**DIVINE OFFICE: LAUDS** (MORNING PRAYER) is prayed at 9:30am Tuesday–Thursday, and Feast Days as announced; **VESPERS** (EVENING PRAYER) is prayed as announced.

**PRIVATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** is offered the third Thursday of the month (*May 16; June 20*) from 5-6pm, or anytime by appointment. Vespers is prayed at 4:30pm prior to Confession.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE STUDY** are at 9am.

**UNIVERSITY STUDENT BIBLE STUDY** with dinner is on Sundays at 5:30pm.

**ADULT CHOIR** rehearses on Wednesdays from 7-8:30pm, and on Sundays from 9:45-10:20am.

**“WORSHIP ANEW,”** produced by Lutheran Media Ministries of Fort Wayne and supported by Immanuel’s special gift collection, airs every Sunday morning on WTWO at 8am.

**WESTMINSTER BIBLE STUDY** meets on the last Friday of the month at 1:30pm except when there is a holiday at the end of the month. All members are invited to attend. The next meetings will be May 24 and June 28.

**ESPRIT DEADLINE** for July/August is Saturday, June 15. Volunteers are needed to help with the mailing. Watch the *Parish News* for the date.

### Serving in May and June at Divine Service

Altar Guild – *May:* Stacy Gibbens; Nancy Rouch; *June:* Sara Latta; Leslie Bilyeu

Tellers – *May:* Jim & Marsha Stewart; Brian & Georgianna Milner; *June:* Joanne Beleslin; Beth Beel; Jamie Thomas

Ushers – *May:* Marvin Gradert; Ron Dunbar; Jay Christopher; *June:* Mike Latta; Jim Latta; Kris Wineinger; Jasen Gibbens

Acolytes: *May 5:* Tony Altvater; Noah Sutton | *May 12:* Ian Crucitti; Levi Altvater

*May 19:* Austin Fitzgerald; Tony Altvater | *May 26:* Evan Pound; Ian Crucitti

*May 30 (Thurs):* Connor Howard; Austin Fitzgerald; Eli Gibbens; Adam Sutton; Noah Sutton

*June 2:* Kole Mullins; Adam Sutton | *June 9:* Evan Pound; Connor Howard; Kole Mullins; Pearson Tate

*June 16:* Noah Sutton; Kole Mullins; Noah Schulz; Levi Altvater | *June 23:* Pearson Tate; Tony Altvater

*June 24 (Mon):* Tony Altvater; Ian Crucitti; Austin Fitzgerald; Eli Gibbens | *June 29 (Sat): Volunteers Needed*

*June 30:* Ian Crucitti; Connor Howard

### Schedule of Divine Liturgies for May and June

May 5	Misericordia Domini – Third Sunday of Easter, 10:30am	Divine Service
May 12	Jubilate – Fourth Sunday of Easter, 10:30am	Divine Service
May 19	Cantate – Fifth Sunday of Easter, 10:30am	Divine Service
May 26	Rogate – Sixth Sunday of Easter, 10:30am	Divine Service
May 30	(Thurs) Ascension of Our Lord, 7pm	Divine Service
June 2	Exaudi – Sunday after Ascension, 10:30am	Divine Service
June 9	Feast of Pentecost, 10:30am	Divine Service
June 16	Feast of the Most Holy Trinity, 10:30am	Divine Service
June 23	First Sunday after Trinity, 10:30am	Divine Service
June 24	(Mon) Nativity of St. John the Baptizer, 10:30am	Divine Service
June 29	(Sat) St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles, 10:30am	Divine Service
June 30	Second Sunday after Trinity, 10:30am	Divine Service