



Christ's Ascension – God is in Control

When you watch the news, it may seem that the world is out of control. That's not true. In Ephesians 1:20b-23 we hear that God the Father **“raised [Christ] 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.”**

Since His ascension into heaven, Jesus is above every rule, authority, power, and dominion, and above every name that is named. At His Ascension, Jesus did not abandon us or take a vacation to let us figure things out on our own. He is ruling over all of creation. There is nothing in this world that is outside of His control.

Since Jesus is in control, what is His plan? Our culture seems to be moving away from Our Lord and His gifts into chaos and sin and rebellion. What is going on?

We only see part of the picture. We see what is before our eyes. We are like someone whose nose is pressed up against an enormous pain. We see only a small part of it and not the whole picture. God, on the other hand, knows and sees the whole of human history.

What does He want, then, in all this? Does He reveal anything to us of His will?

In short, He wants you. God **“desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”** (1 Timothy 2:4). He desires your salvation and the salvation of all. God's intent was and still is that people be saved from hell, which is separation from Him forever. And in order for you to be

Church May 2023 News



saved, your sins, which separated you from God, needed to be forgiven.

So what is He doing to save people from hell, forgive their sins, make them holy and give them eternal life? Before His Ascension, Jesus laid out the plan to His apostles, **“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.”**

The God of the universe had a plan written down in Scripture for the salvation of the world. Jesus would suffer, die, and rise from the dead. Then, repentance and forgiveness would be proclaimed in Jesus' Name to all nations. The Apostles bore witness to this by their preaching and the New Testament Scriptures. The church continues to proclaim the witness of the apostles. What's more, the church continues to proclaim in Word and Sacrament, repentance and forgiveness of sins in Jesus' Name. Despite the spiritual forces of evil opposed to our Lord and the forgiveness and new life He comes to bring, our Ascended Lord continues to govern this world so that His church continues to give out His forgiveness. No authority, rule, power, or dominion has completely stopped the Gospel because our Ascended Lord is over every power and rule and dominion preserving His Word and providing for the preaching of His forgiveness throughout the world. Thanks be to God

for our Lord's Ascension and His rule.

Come and join us at 7 pm on May 17 to celebrate the Eve of the Ascension of Our Lord and experience His gracious rule of His church as we once again receive the forgiveness of sins. This forgiveness, given out through the spoken Word and delivered in the Lord Supper is the way in which our Lord graciously rules, feeds, and sustains His church so that we may not fall away from Him in the midst of the trials of this world, but remain in Him unto life everlasting.

– Pastor Burfiend

Sunday School Teachers are needed. Please sign up on the sheet in the gym.

Celebrate Christ's Ascension – Join us for a Divine service on Wednesday, May 17 at 7 pm (the Eve of the Ascension of Our Lord).

May 19-20 Rummage Sale – Donations are welcome! Please drop them off in the conference room before May 11 or in the gym beginning May 11.

Greeters Needed! Please sign up in the gym if you are willing to greet members and visitors at the main doors.

Service Time Change – On June 4, we begin our summer service schedule. The Divine Service will take place at 9 am followed by Bible study at 10:45 am.

From the Finance Board:

YTD Income: \$46,939

YTD Expenses: \$49,295

(Income does not include donations toward the mortgage)

All Scripture quotes taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

MAY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>30 Easter 4 Is. 40:25-31 1 Peter 2:11-20 John 16:16-22</p> <p>Bible Study: 8:45 Divine Service: 10 NT Class: 11:30</p>	<p>1</p> <p><i>St. Philip and St. James Day</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:30 am Bible Study, Wells County Courthouse.</p> <p>Pre-k Zoo field trip</p> <p>Bible Study 7pm</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Mary Martha, 10 am</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 Easter 5 Is. 40:25-31 1 Peter 2:11-20 John 16:16-22</p> <p>Bible Study: 8:45 Divine Service: 10 NT Class: 11:30</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Board of Education, 6:30 pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Pre-K graduation, 6:30 pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30 am Bible Study, Wells County Courthouse.</p> <p>Pre-k chapel, 11:10 am</p> <p>Bible Study, 7pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8-11 am Rummage Sale setup. Donations may be dropped off in the gym.</p> <p>Council, 6:30 pm</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 Easter 6 Is. 40:25-31 1 Peter 2:11-20 John 16:16-22</p> <p>Bible Study: 8:45 Divine Service: 10 NT Class: 11:30 Mother's Day</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 7:30 am Bible Study, Wells County Courthouse.</p> <p>Eve of the Ascension of Our Lord <u>7:00 pm Service</u> Acts 1:1-11 Ephesians 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53</p>	<p>18</p> <p><i>Ascension Day</i></p>	<p>19</p> <p>Rummage and Bake Sale, 8 am – 6:30 pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Rummage and Bake Sale, 8 am – 1 pm</p>
<p>21 Easter 7 Is. 40:25-31 1 Peter 2:11-20 John 16:16-22</p> <p>Bible Study: 8:45 Divine Service: 10 Voters' Meeting, 11:30</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:30 am Bible Study, Wells County Courthouse.</p> <p>Bible Study, 7pm</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 Pentecost Is. 40:25-31 1 Peter 2:11-20 John 16:16-22</p> <p>Bible Study: 8:45 Divine Service: 10 NT Class: 11:30 Church Picnic?</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Memorial Day</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:30 am Bible Study, Wells County Courthouse.</p> <p>Bible Study, 7pm</p>	<p>Upcoming Events: June 4 – Summer service schedule begins (9 am Divine Service, 10:45 Bible study)</p>		