

Though the cloud hid Jesus from the sight of His disciples then, and He remains hidden from sight even now, He remains with His people through His Gospel and Sacraments. He comes to us by the word of His apostles, by the promise of His Father and by the power of the Holy Spirit, whom He pours out upon “*the Church, which is his body.*” (*Ephesians 1:22–23*) In this holy Christian Church, we bless God and worship Christ with joy, for in His Church He blesses us with forgiveness, lifts us up in His hands and seats us with Himself “*in the heavenly places.*” (*Ephesians 1:20*) (*lcms.org/lectionary-summaries*)

A READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: Jesus’ Ascension to “the right hand of God” was not about leaving His people behind. It was about departing from sight to fill the whole world while remaining hidden in it amidst His holy Christian Church. There He rules over His people as His Holy Spirit works amongst baptized believers to keep them with Him through His Word and Sacraments.

Our Churches teach that the Word, that is, the Son of God (*ref. John 1:14*), assumed the human nature in the womb of the blessed virgin Mary. So there are two natures – the divine and the human – inseparably joined in one person. There is one Christ, true God and true man, Who was born of the virgin Mary, truly suffered, was crucified, died, and was buried. He did this to reconcile the Father to us and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for all actual sins of mankind. (*Ref. John 1:29*) He also descended into hell, and truly rose again on the third day. Afterward, He ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father. There He forever reigns and has dominion over all creatures. He sanctifies those who believe in Him, by sending the Holy Spirit into their hearts to rule, comfort, and make them alive. He defends them against the devil and the power of sin. The same Christ will openly come again to judge the living and the dead, and so forth, according to the Apostles’ Creed. (*Augsburg Confession, Article 3: The Son of God*)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS, OUR RISEN, ASCENDED AND GLORIFIED SAVIOR! †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: ♪ 212

SERVICE OF THE WORD [PAGES 5 TO 14, FRONT OF HYMNAL]

INTROIT (ENTRANCE INTO THE SERVICE OF THE WORD)

PASTOR: God has gone up with a shout. Alleluia! the Lord with the sound of a trumpet. Alleluia! The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies Your footstool. The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.” The Lord is at Your right hand; He will shatter kings in the day of His wrath. (*Ps. 110:1, 4-5; antiphon Ps. 47:6; with alleluias*)

CONGREGATION: ♪ **Glory be to the Father....**

COLLECT (PRAYER) OF THE DAY

P: O Almighty God, Whose blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that He might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to His promise, He abides with us, His Church on earth, even to the end of the age; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: FIRST LESSON – ACTS 1:1-11

P: ^{1:1} In the first book [St. Luke’s Gospel account], O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen. ³He presented Himself alive to them after His suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the Kingdom of God.

⁴And 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; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked Him, “Lord, will You at this time restore the Kingdom to Israel?”
⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority.
⁸But 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.”⁹And when He had said these things, as they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight.¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,¹¹and 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.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 47

P: Clap your hands, all peoples!

C: Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

P: For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared, a great King over all the earth.

C: He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.

P: He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom He loves.

C: God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

P: Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

C: For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!

P: God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

C: The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.

P: For the shields of the earth belong to God.

C: He is highly exalted!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

SECOND LESSON – EPHESIANS 1:15-23

P: ¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that 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, ¹⁸having 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, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might ²⁰that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far 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. ²²And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the Church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him Who fills all in all.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON – LUKE 24:44-53

C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

P: ^{24:44}Then Jesus said to [His disciples], “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.” ⁴⁵Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His Name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And 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.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: ♪ Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

APOSTLE'S CREED (CONFESSION OF FAITH) [PAGE 12]

HYMN OF THE DAY: ♪ 217

BELOW, THE Q/A IS FOR ST. JAMES; THE SERMON WILL BE PREACHED AT HOLY TRINITY

QUESTIONING OF CONFIRMANDS – KORBAN BROWN AND MIRIAM MEYER

- 1) What Book is the only source of Christian Doctrine, or our teaching and belief? **The Bible**
- 2) What is the Bible? **It is Divine Truth, the inerrant Word of God, incapable of being wrong.**
- 3) What is the purpose of God's Law? **The Law reveals our sins, makes us repentant and teaches us how to lead a God-pleasing life.**
- 4) What does the Gospel teach? **The Gospel teaches that God has eternally saved us through the death and resurrection of His Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**
- 5) What is the summary of the First Table of the Law (Commandments 1-3)? **"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37)**
- 6) What is the summary of the Second Table of the Law (Commandments 4-10)? **"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:39)**
- 7) What is the wages of sin? **"The wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23)**
- 8) What Bible verse declares all men to be sinners? **"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)**
- 9) How are we made free from sin and the condemnation of the Law? **By faith alone in Jesus Christ**
- 10) Who is God? **God is spirit. He is eternal, unchangeable, present everywhere, all-knowing, all-powerful, holy, just, faithful, good, merciful and gracious. God is love.**
- 11) Who is the only true God, One God in three persons? **The Holy Triune God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit**
- 12) Why is God called "Father Almighty?" **He is our Creator and the Preserver of all things.**
- 13) What does the Name "Jesus" mean? **Savior**
- 14) Who is Jesus Christ? **The Son of God: true God and true man**
- 15) Why did the Son of God assume the human nature? **For the redemption or salvation of the world**
- 16) From what evils has Jesus died on the cross to save you? **From all sins, from death and from the power of the devil**
- 17) What did Jesus do with your sins in order to free you from them and from death and hell? **He took them upon Himself on the cross and died for me, or in my place.**
- 18) What ransom price did Christ pay for your redemption? **His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death**
- 19) For what purpose has Christ redeemed you? **That I may be His own and live under Him in His Kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness.**
- 20) Did Jesus stay dead after His crucifixion? **No. He rose to life again on the third day so that I, too, will one day be raised from the dead by Him.**
- 21) Who is the Holy Spirit? **The Third Person in the Holy Trinity**
- 22) What can you not do by your own reason or strength? **I cannot believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him.**
- 23) What does the Bible say about the natural state of man? **"You were dead in trespasses and sins." (Ephesians 2:1)**
- 24) What did the Holy Spirit do for you? **He called me by the Gospel, and so gave me faith to believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior**
- 25) What does the Holy Spirit do for you and for all believers in Christ? **He keeps me and all believers in Christ in the one true Christian faith.**

- 26) What do we call all believers when we think of them as one body? **The Christian Church, the communion of saints**
- 27) What daily blessing do you enjoy as a member of the Church? **The forgiveness of sins**
- 28) What does God give to all believers in Jesus Christ? **Eternal life**
- 29) What is prayer? **An act of worship in which we call upon God's Holy Name**
- 30) To whom should we pray? **Only to the true God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**
- 31) What should we ask of God in our prayers? **For spiritual and earthly blessings**
- 32) Which of all prayers is the model prayer? **The Lord's Prayer**
- 33) What is a Sacrament? **A sacred act ordained by God that is visible and which gives God's saving grace in Jesus Christ**
- 34) How many Sacraments are there? **Two: Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper**
- 35) What is the Sacrament of Holy Baptism which Jesus instituted? **It is God's Word joined with water for the forgiveness and salvation of the baptized person.**
- 36) How does the Church make disciples of all nations? **By baptizing them and teaching them the faith**
- 37) How is a person to be baptized? **In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**
- 38) What gift does Baptism give? **Saving faith in Jesus Christ**
- 39) Whose sins are forgiven? **The sins of penitent sinners, or those who are sorry for their sins and believe in Jesus Christ**
- 40) Whose sins are not forgiven? **The sins of impenitent sinners, or those who are not sorry for their sins and refuse God's forgiveness in Jesus Christ**
- 41) What are the two parts of Confession? **That we confess our sins and receive God's absolution or forgiveness for them**
- 42) What does Jesus give us to eat and drink of in the Lord's Supper? **His true body and blood under bread and wine**
- 43) What benefit does the Lord's Supper give to us? **It gives us forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.**
- 44) Who rightly receives the Lord's Supper? **The person who believes all of Jesus' words about His Holy Supper, and who believes the teaching of the Church in which he communes.**
- 45) Why do we go to the Lord's Supper? **We go to the Lord's Supper in order for God to forgive us our sins in the Sacrament and to strengthen our faith in Him so that we live godly lives.**
- 46) What are the Three Means of Grace, or the three means by which God forgives us our sins and saves us? **The Holy Word of God, Holy Baptism and Holy Communion**
- 47) What is the Church? **Holy believers and sheep who hear the voice of Jesus their Shepherd**
- 48) How often are we to attend the worship service, and what occurs in Divine Worship? **We are to worship the Lord weekly, according to His good and holy will. In Divine Worship, God forgives and blesses us through His Means of Grace, and we thank and praise Him for it.**
- 49) What is the chief teaching of our Lutheran Christian faith? **We are saved by God's grace alone, through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone, as declared in Holy Scripture alone and to the glory of God alone.**
- 50) To which Church are we always to remain in and be faithful? **To the Church of the pure Word of God and confession of faith**

SERMON *Christ Ascends to Cap Off Your Salvation – Luke 24:44-53*

"While [Jesus] was blessing [His disciples], He left them and was taken up into heaven." (Lk. 24:51) Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. Christ your dear Savior has died for all your sins. Jesus is risen; He's ascended far above all heavens, in order to fill all things. (See Eph. 4:10) Your Savior is coming again for you – soon! Hallelujah!

Forty days following His ascent from the grave, which couldn't possibly hold Him, Jesus also ascends in glory to the right hand of His Father – the position of all power and might – all *"glory and honor, praise, adoration."* (Beautiful Savior:

4) Let's dig into our Lord's ascension on high for us as it's declared to us in Holy Scripture alone – and as we faithfully believe and profess in our *Lutheran Confessions*, our *Book of Concord*. Let's see just how Jesus is Lord not only of the cosmos and all things in existence, but is also our own dear Lord and Savior. Let's hear how He – in His blessed ascension – has all authority in heaven and on earth (see Mt: 28:18) – as Ruler of all. Let's see how He now *"always lives to make intercession for [us,]"* (See Heb. 7:25) His beloved saints. How He's present in His flesh and blood upon all altars that confess Him, and how He has exalted our fallen humanity in His glorified humanity.

In the blessed event in time known as His ascension, our Lord Jesus once more demonstrates that He Himself is our good Lord. St. Peter the Apostle proclaims to all the devout Hebrews assembled on the *Day of Pentecost*, to us and to the whole world: “[*The Lord*] Jesus God raised up [from the dead], and of this we are all witnesses, being therefore exalted at the right hand of God.” (Acts 2:32-33) “Let [it be] therefore know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus Whom you crucified.” (Acts 2:36) Truly, Christ the Son of God is our holy, blessed Lord from eternity! Yet St. Peter declares that – in Jesus’ death for us, in His resurrection from the dead and ascension into heaven for us – God has made Him both Lord and Christ or Messiah, meaning that He’s your Lord in His death, resurrection and ascension for you. This is so since these three combine to accomplish your deliverance from death, devil and hell, granting you eternal life, God as your beloved Father and heaven as your glorious home!

The Rev. Dr. Luther in the *Large Catechism* would have us focus intently on Jesus’ very important title – “Lord” – which we confess in the *Creed*: “[*We believe*] in Jesus Christ, [God’s] only son, our Lord...” Luther says that as our Lord, Jesus is our Redeemer. That is, “*He Who has brought us from Satan to God, from death to life, from sin to righteousness.*” Luther declares that all the points which are to be found in the *Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed* express nothing other than the redemption that our Lord Jesus has won for us. How that redemption was accomplished, how much is cost the Lord Jesus, “*and what He spent and risked that He might win us and bring us under His dominion*” (*Large Catechism, Art. 2 of the Creed, 31*) – that is our faith; that is our life, our salvation, our joy!

According to Luther, what we confess in the *Creed* is: “*Namely, that [the Son of God]...suffered, died and was buried, that He might make satisfaction for [us] and pay what [we] owe, not with silver nor gold, but with His own precious blood. And all this, in order to become [our] Lord; for He did none of these for Himself, nor had He any need of it. And after that He rose again from the dead, swallowed up and devoured death, and finally ascended into heaven and assumed the government at the Father’s right hand, so that the devil and all powers must be subject to Him and lie at His feet, until finally, at the last day, He will completely part and separate us from the wicked world, the devil, death, sin, etc.*” (*LC, Art. 2 of the Creed, 31*)

Jesus’ ascension therefore completes the “circuit of our salvation,” ushering in His glorious rule and reign and assuring His Final Return. That the Lord Jesus assumes the government at the Father’s right hand means that all “*blessing and honor and glory and might*” (Rev. 5:13) has been bestowed on Him by His Father forever! Christ the Lord has authority over all things, especially His dear Church: “*With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.*” (*The Church’s One Foundation: 1*)

See with what holy ardor and affection the Lord pleads for us, His beloved Church, while still on earth! And if He prays so fervently prior to His ascent into heaven, how much more does He now always live to make intercession for us whom He’s saved and has drawn to God! (See Heb. 7:25) During His earthly ministry, our Lord prayed for all those whom His Father would give Him, that we and all our fellow Christian saints would be united as one in the Christian faith even as Jesus and His heavenly Father are forever united as one God, one Lord, together with the Holy Spirit. And so our Lord Jesus pleads for His disciples, for us and for all God’s people. He pleads for you still before His Father and yours in His ministry of intercession for His dear Bride, the Church! What does He plead for on your behalf? That you continue to always be set apart by God as holy and righteous in His sight. On what basis? On the basis of His self-sacrifice alone for you! His holy, precious blood shed for you; His sacred body given unto death for you.

Christ’s sanctifying mercy which He works in you is driven home in the *Lutheran Confessions*: “*He...truly rose again the third day; afterward He ascended into heaven that He might sit on the right hand of the Father, and forever reign and have dominion over all creatures, and sanctify them that believe in Him, by sending the Holy Spirit into their hearts, to rule, comfort, and [enliven] them, and to defend them against the devil and the power of sin.*” (*Augsburg Confession, Article 3*)

“*He Who descended is the very One Who [also] ascended above all the heavens, in order to fill all things.*” (Eph. 4:10) Our risen and ascended Lord is more-than-able to be present everywhere He desires in His humanity according to His divine majesty. Truly, the vast expanse of earth can’t contain He Who built the starry skies (See, *Amid the Winter’s Snow: 2*); He Who’s enthroned above the cherubim! (See Is. 37:16) “[*We*] also believe, teach, and confess that it was not a mere man who suffered, died, was buried, descended to hell, arose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and was raised to the majesty and almighty power of God for us, but a man whose human nature has such a profound [close], [inexpressible] union and communion with the Son of God that it [has become] one person with Him.” (*Formula of Concord: Epitome*) “*Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.*” (*Augsburg Confession: par. 28*)

Given this wondrous truth, we believe from Holy Scripture that our Lord is present with us and active in our faith-lives in and through His Holy Word as well as His Holy Sacrament of the Altar. So that, according to the power of

His divine nature, He's able to be, and is truly, bodily present upon His altar, feeding us His own precious body and blood from there for our forgiveness, life and salvation.

Lastly, by His own exaltation in the flesh in His resurrection and ascension, your Lord Jesus also exalts you in your body! He says to you, *"Because I live, you will live also."* (Jn. 14:19) Exalted before the Father in your blood-bought body by your risen, ascended, glorified Savior, you can confidently declare: *"I shall not die [and perish eternally in hell,] but I shall live, and proclaim what the Lord has done!"* (Ps. 118:17) So live day-by-day in Jesus, very well-prepared, eagerly awaiting His return, for *"Christ shall openly come again to judge the [living] and the dead..., according to the Apostles' Creed."* (Augsburg Confession, Article 3) Amen. *The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.*

OFFERTORY (ANTHEM PRECEEDING THE OFFERING OF TITHES) [PAGES 22-23]

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH – LITANY FOR THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

P: O Lord, have mercy. **C:** O Christ, have mercy. **P:** O Lord, have mercy.

P: God the Father in heaven, **C:** have mercy.

P: God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **C:** have mercy.

P: God the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, **C:** have mercy.

P: Holy Trinity, one God, **C:** have mercy.

P: Be gracious to us. **C:** Spare us, good Lord.

P: Be gracious to us. **C:** Help us, good Lord.

P: From all sin, from all error, from all evil; from the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death; from disease and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion; from lightning and storm; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death: **C:** Good Lord, deliver us.

P: O Jesus, King of Glory, Jesus, Lord and Christ, Jesus, God and Savior, Jesus, blessed and mighty One, Jesus, incarnate, crucified, risen Lord, Jesus, Who ascended into heaven, Jesus, Who ascended far above the heavens to fill all things, now present everywhere, Jesus, Who ascended to Your Father and our Father, to Your God and our God, Jesus, Who led a host of captives, Jesus, Who plundered principalities and powers, triumphing over them. Jesus, You Who are exalted at the right hand of God, Jesus, You Who are exalted far above all principalities and powers, Jesus, to Whom all power is given in heaven and on earth, Jesus, You Who are crowned with glory and honor, Jesus, You Who are glorified with the glory which You had with the Father from eternity, Jesus, You Who are glorified in Your humanity at the right hand of the Majesty on high, Jesus, Who must reign until You have put all things under Your feet, Jesus, Whose throne and Kingdom is forever and ever, Jesus, You Who are adored by all the angelic host, Jesus, You Who are anointed with the oil of gladness beyond Your companions, Jesus, You Who are the Joy of the blessed, Jesus, in Whose presence is life, Jesus, Who has entered into heaven itself for us, Jesus, Who has opened the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers, Jesus, the Mediator of the New Testament, Jesus, our High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek, Jesus, Who always lives to make intercession for us before the Father, Jesus, You Who are able to save forever those who come unto the Father by You, Jesus, Who gives gifts to men, Jesus, Head over Your Body, the Church, Jesus, Who sent down the Holy Spirit upon Your Apostles and Your Church, Jesus, Who promises that whatever we ask the Father in Your Name He will grant us, Jesus, Who has gone up into heaven and yet is present with us in Your Holy Word, Your Baptismal grace and in Your body and blood upon Your altar, Jesus, Who has gone to prepare a place for us, Jesus, Who will come again for us in the same manner in which You departed, Jesus, Who has promised us a new heaven and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells, Jesus, Who lives forever, Jesus, only-begotten Son of the Father, **C:** we poor sinners implore You to hear us, O Lord.

P: That we may seek the things that are above and not the things that are on earth, that You would cleanse our consciences from dead works to serve the living God, that we would live the rest of our days seeking to accomplish the will of God rather than pursuing the vain desires of men, that You would always make Your home with us, dwelling in our hearts through faith, that we would hold resolutely to the confession of our hope without wavering, that You would pour down Your blessings upon Your Church, that You would order all things for the good of all those who love You, that You would draw all people unto You, that You would come again and take us to Yourself, so that where You are, we are also, that when You appear, we would receive a never-fading crown of glory, that we

behold Your glory, that in Your light we see light, that You would speed the day of Your appearing, and that You would hear us from Your holy throne above. Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, **C: we implore You to hear us.**

P: That Your healing mercies would be extended to those for whom we pray – _____ – and that You would bless them all. Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, **C: we implore You to hear us.**

P: O Christ the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world: **C: Have mercy upon us.**

P: O Christ the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world: **C: Have mercy upon us.**

P: O Christ the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world: **C: Grant us Your peace.**

P: O Christ, **C: Hear us.**

P: O Lord, have mercy. **C: O Christ, have mercy. P:** O Lord, have mercy. **C: Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: ♪ 214

CONCLUDING COLLECTS

P: O Jesus Christ, Son of the Most High God, Who, having left Your earthly humility, are seated at the right hand of Your Father as Lord over all things: We implore You to send us Your Holy Spirit, give us faithful ministers of the Gospel, preserve Your Word in our midst, curb Satan and every tyrant, and mightily uphold Your Kingdom on earth until Your enemies are all laid at Your feet and we, through You, are victorious over sin, death and all things; in Your most Holy Name we pray.

C: ♪ Amen.

P: O King of glory, Lord of heavenly hosts, Who ascended in triumph far above all heavens, we beseech You, do not leave us comfortless, but send to us the Spirit of Truth, promised by the Father; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: ♪ 216

† TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY †

OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY

	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	39	34	16	\$1,880.00
St. James	43	32	5 9	\$2,420.00

Sunday Offerings—Trinity, Fedor

	Operating	Building	Missions	Cemetery	Week
Goal	26,802.00				
Actual	30,382.87		3,075.00		18
Last Week	1,200.00		680.00		

Sunday Offerings—St. James, Lexington

	Operating	Mission	Future Development	Total	Week
Goal	47,430.00			47,430.00	
Actual	39,063.25	20.00	90.00	39,173.25	18
Last Week	2,380.00		40.00	2,420.00	

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THIS WEEK

TODAY

+Elders (Holy Trinity) following the service
 *Questioning of the Confirmands (at St. James)

TUESDAY

+Elders (St. James) following the service

9:00AM: Circuit Pastor's Conference

6:30PM: Ladies Aid (Holy Trinity)

WEDNESDAY

9:00AM: LWML Quilting (at St. James)

FRIDAY

+Pastor's Day Off

NEXT SUNDAY

*The Rite of Confirmation (at St. James)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

+++**We remember in our prayers:...** at Holy Trinity... *Eldor Brade, Dorothy Schimank, Monroe Brade, Carolyn Nitsche;*... at St. James... *Dolores Sullivan, Della Biehle, Bernice Lay, Lois Turner, Darvin Drosche, Lillie Mae Boettcher, Tom Kleinschmidt, Ronnie Iselt, Egor Raines, Genell Boettcher, David Roensch, Ernest Biehle, Charles Kaiser, Ginger Clifford, Walter Dube Jr., Lorine Lerche, Ruth Siegmund* [friend of St. James members], *JoAnne Meyer* [mother of Pastor Meyer], *Carole Heller* [mother of Juanita Clifford (St. James)], *Amber Brockenbush* [friend and relative of St. James members], and *all of our sick and shut-ins*.

*****Ingathering Collection:** As part of the Ingathering for the TX District LWML Convention in Corpus Christi this summer, St. James LWML will be collecting toiletries for Rainbow Rooms, an emergency resource center that helps CPS case workers meet the critical needs of abused and neglected children. We are collecting full-size body wash, shampoo, and toothpaste for this purpose. Please place your items in the box in the narthex beginning in May. Thank you for helping these children!

+++St. James LWML would like to ~~THANK~~ everyone who donated and helped with our Noodle Making this past Wednesday!!! Thank you for your support!

*****Baby Bottle Drive:** It's time for the annual baby bottle campaign to raise money for Place of Hope Pregnancy Center in Rockdale! This fundraiser runs from Mother's Day to Father's Day. Pick up your baby bottle in the church narthex and use it at home to collect loose change. Thanks in advance for supporting life!

*****Graduation Party:** Pastor and Ruth would like to invite you to Timothy's graduation party, which is

Sunday, May 26, from noon until 3:00 at St. James Parish Hall. Thanks to everyone who has supported and encouraged him in his education thus far. Come celebrate with us as he graduates high school and begins a new chapter in his life!

+++**St. James**...we have a variety of cards...check out our display of **Confirmation, Graduation and Mother's Day cards** on the table in the hallway by the offices...available individually or by the box...see either Ruth Meyer or Sandra Lay!

*****SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS**...St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians is the subject of our Sunday morning Bible Class (Holy Trinity: 8-8:24AM; St. James:10-10:24AM). All are welcome to attend.

+++Devotional book available: Copies are available in the office of Ruth Meyer's book, "**Truth Notes**", as well as her other books [*Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Hope Alone, and Stand Alone* (\$12.00)]. This devotional is based on her past blog post and point to God's timeless truths in a changing world. Books are \$15 each. See either Sandra Lay or Ruth Meyer to purchase yours!

*****ST. JAMES**...how about **YOU!** We are looking for **Sunday School teachers** to teach either every other Sunday or just once a month. **YOU** can do it...just contact the church office!!!

+++Knitting & Crocheting Group...a group of ladies from Immanuel, Giddings, have been making warm hats and scarves for the needy. They're all created from donated yarn, however, now they are very low on yarn skeins and colors. If anyone would have left over yarn that they may put it in a bag and mark it "Knitting & Crocheting Group" and drop it off at the church office.

*****QUILTING UPDATE**...St. James LWML will be quilting every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 9-12!!!

+++**THE FLOWER CHARTS**...are posted in the Narthex at both Holy Trinity and St. James...sign up for birthdays, anniversaries, or "just because".

*****BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Aleece Moerbe, 14; Milton Ender, 17;...St. James-Cameron Christian, today; Dolores Sullivan, today; Ryan Clifford, 14; Sandra Cass, 15; Hannah Brade, 16; Jaelyn Kolacek, 16; Suzanne Rudd, 16; Patrick Jatzlau, 17; William Dowdy, 18.

+++**ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Wayne & Diane Walch, 18;...St. James-Todd & Raegan Fritsch, today; Shane & Katie Johnson, 16; David & Juanita Clifford, 17.