

## GATHERING

### WELCOME

- Welcome to worship! Welcome to all those joining us via our Live Stream and our Listen to Church Service
- Welcome to our OSL Bell Choir and to our High School graduates.
- If you are joining us from home, I invite you to gather some bread and wine/juice so you can join us in celebrating Holy Communion this evening.

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

**Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.**

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

**At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.**

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,**

and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

**Shower us with your Spirit,**

and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### GATHERING HYMN **Earth and All Stars! 731:1, 2, 4, 5**

1 Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing  
snowstorm!

Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

*Refrain*

God has done marvelous things.

I too sing praises with a new song!

2 Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos!

Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

4 Classrooms and labs! Loud boiling test  
tubes!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Athlete and band! Loud cheering people!

Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

5 Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding  
wisdom!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Daughter and son! Loud praying members!

Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

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## GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray,

Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## WORD

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

### GOSPEL Luke 24:44- Acts 1:11

The holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>44</sup> [Jesus said to the eleven and those with 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, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,<sup>46</sup> and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day<sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.<sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things.<sup>49</sup> And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

<sup>50</sup> Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup> and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

[Luke writes] <sup>1</sup> In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach <sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Pastor Sarah Miller**

**HYMN OF THE DAY Go to the World ACS 991**

<p>1 Go to the world! Go into all the earth. Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth, baptizing as the sign of our rebirth. Alleluia. Alleluia.</p>	<p>3 Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray; the nights of tears give way to joyous day. As servant church, you follow Christ's own way. Alleluia. Alleluia.</p>
<p>2 Go to the world! Go into ev'ry place. Go live the word of God's redeeming grace. Go seek God's presence in each time and space. Alleluia. Alleluia.</p>	<p>4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send, for I am with you till the age shall end, when all the hosts of glory cry, Amen!" Alleluia. Alleluia.</p>

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

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**GRADUATION BLESSING** *Sarah and Denise***Denise**

Life presents us with significant milestones that set the stage for the next phase in our earthly journey. Graduation from high school is one of these milestones. Today we honor the class of 2023 as they move through this special time of accomplishment, transition, and change.

Graduates, I invite you to stand and hear these words from the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>11</sup> For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. <sup>12</sup> Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. <sup>13</sup> When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, <sup>14</sup> I will let you find me, says the LORD.

**Pastor Sarah**

Graduates: At this special time in your life we, the members of OSL, rejoice with you and want you to know of our pride and excitement for you as you move from this accomplishment into the next phase of your life. We also want you to know that wherever you go and whatever you do, you are going forward with our prayers for God's continued guidance, power, protection, and strength. Today we give you a pillowcase as a sign of our love and as a reminder of the comfort of the Holy Spirit. On those nights when we cannot wrap you in our arms, rest your head on your pillowcase and know that you are loved. And we have a book of poems and prayers written especially for graduates for all the moments in your life.

*I invite the congregation to stand and for parents and families to lay hands on their graduates in blessing.* Loving God, we give you thanks for these young men and women and for all their accomplishments. Throughout their life you have surrounded them with love and grace and helped them grow in faith. You have shared in their laughter and wiped away their tears. In times of confusion, you have offered direction. In times of sorrow, you have offered hope. In times of doubt your Holy Spirit has lifted them up. As they now go forth into the future, pour out your blessing upon them. Guide their steps and encourage them to use their gifts and resources in service to the world. **Amen.**

**Denise:**

Graduates as you leave today:

Go out into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve our God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*Let us congratulate our OSL graduates.*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, your Son Jesus ascended to fill all time and space and is present with all people. By your Holy Spirit, lead your church and its leaders in faith, hope, and love, that through their witness Christ may be made known in all the world. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Creator God, the earth is yours and all that is in it. Through your Son, Jesus, you entrust to us the care of creation. Instill in us a commitment to sustainable ecological practices, Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus sits at your right hand and rules the cosmos. Inspire national and local politicians to lead with equity and fairness, raise up advocates and activists for those seeking justice, and cultivate peace throughout the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Caring God, your Son Jesus carries with him the scars of suffering. By your wisdom, guide the work of surgeons, pharmacists, midwives, and all medical specialists. Send your healing Spirit to rest upon all who are sick or in need this day, *especially* Charles Freeman, Kelly Warfel, Richard Ninas, Tom Lawrence, Gordon Smith, Bill Miller and Erica Peterson. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of new life, you prepare a future of hope for your beloved ones. Bless the class of 2026 as they prepare to graduate. Accompany them in their work and in play and give them confidence that wherever they go, you will be with them. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Life-giving God, by his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus destroyed death forever. With thanksgiving we remember those who rest from the labors, assured of your promise of everlasting life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.  
**Amen.**

### SHARING THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### BRIEFING THE MINISTERS

## MEAL

OFFERING      NEED TITLE – OSL Bells

OFFERTORY    **Let us Talents and Tongues Employ      674:1**

1 Let us talents and tongues employ,  
reaching out with a shout of joy:  
bread is broken, the wine is poured,  
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

*Refrain*

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

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**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray,

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus your anointed. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for the Spirit poured out on all nations.

*In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

With your holy ones of all times and places, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

*Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

### COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

#### Be Known to Us Lord Jesus



### A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing 393

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1 A hymn of glory let us sing!<br/>New hymns throughout the world shall ring:<br/>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br/>Christ, by a road before untrod,<br/>ascends unto the throne of God.<br/>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br/>Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</p> | <p>Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</p>   |
| <p>2 The holy apostolic band<br/>upon the Mount of Olives stand,<br/>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br/>and with his faithful foll'wers see<br/>their Lord ascend in majesty.<br/>Alleluia! Alleluia!</p>  | <p>3 To whom the shining angels cry,<br/>"Why stand and gaze upon the sky?"<br/>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br/>"This is the Savior!" thus they say,<br/>"this is his glorious triumph day!"<br/>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br/>Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</p> |
| <p></p>   | <p>4 "You see him now, ascending high<br/>up to the portals of the sky."<br/>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br/>"Hereafter Jesus you shall see</p>  |

returning in great majesty."  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 5 O risen Christ, ascended Lord,  
all praise to you let earth accord:

Alleluia! Alleluia!  
You are, while endless ages run,  
with Father and with Spirit one.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Bede, 673-735; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
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### Rise Up, O Saints of God 669

- 1 Rise up, O saints of God!  
From vain ambitions turn;  
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts  
with nobler zeal might burn.
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God!  
Despair engulfs earth's frame;  
as heirs of God's baptismal grace,  
the word of hope proclaim.
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God!  
The kingdom's task embrace;

- redress sin's cruel consequence;  
give justice larger place.
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God!  
Creation cries in pain;  
stretch forth your hand of healing now,  
with love the weak sustain.
- 5 Commit your hearts to seek  
the paths which Christ has trod;  
and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r,  
rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936  
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### POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray,

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

## SENDING

### BENEDICTION

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
✠ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

SENDING SONG Crown Him with Many Crowns 855:1, 4, 5

- 1 Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne;  
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns  
all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless king  
through all eternity.
- 4 Crown him the Lord of life,  
who triumphed o'er the grave  
and rose victorious in the strife  
for those he came to save.
- His glories now we sing,  
who died and rose on high,  
who died, eternal life to bring,  
and lives that death may die.
- 5 Crown him the Lord of years,  
the potentate of time,  
creator of the rolling spheres,  
ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
For thou hast died for me;  
thy praise and glory shall not fail  
throughout eternity.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts. 1-3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### **POSTLUDE**

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

Charles Freeman (father of Kim Holten), Kelly Warfel (sister of Kim Holten), Richard Ninas, Tom Lawrence (Jane Kingzett's son-in-law), Gordon Smith (brother of Donna Lark), Bill Miller (Glen Miller's brother), and Erica Peterson (Granddaughter of Cheryl Merrill)

**IN SUPPORT**

Patrick & Jacqueline Bencke, missionaries in Japan

Kasungu Central, Our Malawi Sister Parish

**THIS WEEK AT OSL**

Sunday, May 17	Worship with graduation blessing, 9:00am Coffee Fellowship, 10:15am
Monday, May 18	Women in Action, 8:00am
Tuesday, May 19	
Wednesday, May 20	Writers group, 1:00pm Reading Group, 1:00pm
Thursday, May 21	Quilting Queens, 9:00am Bells Rehearsal, 6:30pm
Friday, May 22	
Saturday, May 23	

**Congratulations to our Graduates!** This week we honor the students in our congregation who are graduating. As you move forward—whether to new schools, new jobs, or new adventures—know that your church family is cheering you on and praying for you.

*Thank you to the OSL Bell Choir for sharing your gifts and enlivening our worship.*

**Thank you for your participation in the flower basket sales for the National Youth Gathering!**

**Vacation Bible School is coming in June and we need helpers—ages 6th grade to adult!** See the Messenger, the website, or the volunteer sign-up under the skylight. VBS dates: June 9-12. See Denise for additional details on helping.

Kwik Trip cards are still available by request. See Denise for cash & carry cards.

**Mission Endowment Fund—**The next MEF meeting will be held on June 2nd. Grant proposals are due by Thursday, May 28th.

Thank you to every single person who helped make the thrift sale happen! From donations to sorting, set up, clean up, and everything in between, the sale was a success because of you!

**Farewell Tribute for Michaela**  
We are creating a tribute for Michaela and would love for you to be part of the video. Stop by the church library today and record your video! We will have a laptop available and someone to help guide you through the process.

Summer Canoe Trip down Namekagon—Register with a \$100 deposit to secure your spot! See Denise for details.

**A little pantry. A big God. Five faithful years.** Our Ramen pile is growing! Help celebrate the Little Free Pantry's 5 year anniversary by bringing 5 packets of Ramen and help us fill the pantry for our neighbors!

Little Church funds collected in May go to The Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity.



Ascension of Our Lord

May 17, 2026

9:00am Service

**COUNCIL MEMBER ON DUTY***Beth Mason***READER***Becky Kneer***POWER POINT***Loren Barker***USHERS***Dave Bergstrand**Joy Bergstrand***SOUND SYSTEM***Jean Enyeart***COMMUNION ASSISTANTS***Susan Zavada**Linda Rundle**Tom Rundle***CAMERA***Jeff Vick***FINANCIAL UPDATE**

	<b>Mar-Apr</b>	<b>April</b>
Income	\$63, 476.79	\$25,140.08
Expenses	\$54,866.12	\$26, 389.16
Over/short	<b>\$8,610.67</b>	<b>(\$1,249.08)</b>

*By attending any service you give consent that your image and the image of all of the people in your group may be portrayed in the livestream and recording. We will not use your likeness in any other promotional material.*

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9am—3pm, Mon thru Thurs

***Listen to Church******715-430-2720***

Dial in to listen live to our 9am worship.