

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH:

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Executive Director - Joel Landskroener (952) 657-2251

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 29, 2011

WELCOME to all who are visiting today! Our greatest desire is to share that wonderful message of forgiveness and eternal salvation for all in Jesus' name. We pray you will be drawn closer to Christ as the Holy Spirit nurtures us through God's Word in this service. Before you leave, please, take time to sign our guest register in the entrance way, and we hope you will join us every week as we gather as God's family in worship.

8:00am
WELCOME

HYMN: #23 "Hallelujah! Let Praises Ring"

INVOCATION

ASCENSION READING: Acts 1:1-11

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." 6 So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

CONFESSION OF SINS: (Based on parts of Psalm 14,47, and 68)

- P. Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place?
- C. ONLY HE WHO HAS CLEAN HANDS AND A PURE HEART, WHO DOES NOT LIFT UP HIS SOUL TO AN IDOL OR SWEAR BY WHAT IS FALSE.
- P. Lord, only those who have hearts that are pure from sin, and hands and lives that are unstained by sin may come and approach you and dwell in your holy presence.
- C. KNOWING THIS, WE BOW BEFORE YOU IN SORROW AND GRIEF. ALL OF US HAVE FALLEN SHORT OF YOUR GLORY, AND THE RIGHTEOUS DEMANDS OF YOUR LAWS. NONE OF US HAVE CLEAN HEARTS OR LIPS OR LIVES. NONE OF US, AS A RESULT OF OUR SIN, ARE WORTHY TO ASCEND INTO YOUR HOLY PRESENCE.
- P. Yet there is one who is worthy to do so – Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Free of sin himself, he gave himself over to death to redeem us from our sin.
- C. HAVING PAID THE PENALTY FOR SIN, HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD, AND ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN, SO THAT ALL WHO TRUST IN HIS NAME MAY RECEIVE FORGIVENESS.
- P. Risen and ascended Christ, in your name we ask for forgiveness of all our sin.
- C. CLEANSE US WITH YOUR BLOOD, THAT YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS MAY BECOME OUR OWN, AND THAT WE MAY BE MADE WORTHY TO ASCEND TO HEAVEN AND LIVE IN YOUR GLORY AND PRESENCE FOREVER. AMEN.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE:

- P. People of God, trusting in Jesus as your Savior, your sins are all forgiven! Therefore clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy!
- C. PRAISE BE TO THE LORD, TO GOD OUR SAVIOR, WHO DAILY BEARS OUR BURDENS. OUR GOD IS A GOD WHO SAVES; FROM THE SOVEREIGN LORD COMES ESCAPE FROM ETERNAL DEATH!
- P. Our God Jesus has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets!
- C. SING PRAISES TO GOD; SING PRAISES TO OUR KING. GOD IS THE KING OF ALL THE EARTH; SING TO HIM A PSALM OF PRAISE. GOD REIGNS OVER THE NATIONS; GOD IS SEATED ON HIS HOLY THRONE! AMEN.

SONG: "Heal Our Land" (2 Chronicles 7:14)

- 1. If my people will humble themselves, humble themselves and pray, If they seek My face and humble themselves and turn from their wicked ways; I will hear from heaven and forgive their sin, I will hear from heaven and heal their land.

Chorus: Lord, heal our land, Father, heal our land, hear our cry and turn our nation back to You; Lord, heal our land, hear us, O Lord, and heal our land, forgive our sin and heal our broken land.

2. Lord, we bow our knee, we humble ourselves, humble ourselves and pray, Lord, we seek Your face, we humble ourselves and turn from our wicked ways; Father, in Your mercy, forgive our sin, Father, in Your mercy, come, heal our land.

Chorus: Lord, heal our land, Father, heal our land, hear our cry and turn our nation back to You; Lord, heal our land, hear us, O Lord, and heal our land, forgive our sin and heal our broken land.

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EPISTLE READING: 1 Peter 3:15-22

15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 17 It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. 18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, 19 through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison 20 who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, 21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

GOSPEL READING: John 14:15-21

15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21 Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

HYMN: #296 "Speak, O Lord, Thy Servant Heareth"

SERMON: Acts 17:22-31 **"Being Religious is Not Enough!"**

(A sermon outline with the Scripture reading is printed in the bulletin to aid your meditation on God's Word)

OFFERING + RITE OF FELLOWSHIP

(Please sign fellowship book at end of pew.)

RECOGNITION OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

SPECIAL PRAYERS

MEMORIAL DAY PRAYER:

- P. Heavenly Father, we cannot adequately express our gratitude for the service the men and women of our military have given to provide safety and security to our nation.
- C. WE CAN HOWEVER ASK FOR YOUR DIVINE PROTECTION AS THEY FACE ADVERSITY IN PLACES OF CONFLICT.
- P. Eternal God, as veterans return to their homes, many bear physical, emotional and spiritual wounds and scars.
- C. WE ASK YOU TO PROVIDE SPECIAL CARE FOR THEM, AND HEALING THROUGH YOUR SON JESUS CHRIST.
- P. Gracious Lord, grant wisdom, strength and courage to our military chaplains as they serve in various military branches.
- C. LET YOUR CHANGELESS GOSPEL SHINE IN THE DARK CORNERS OF OUR WORLD AND IN THE MIDST OF STRIFE, THAT PEACE MAY PREVAIL IN OUR HEARTS AND IN OUR WORLD.
- P. This we ask through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, and has taught us to pray...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

HYMN: #577 "God Bless Our Native Land"

ANNOUNCEMENTS + POSTLUDE
PRAISE BAND SCHEDULE FOR MONTH OF JUNE:
June 12th and 26th

Acts 17:22-31

"Being Religious is Not Enough!"

22 Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you. 24 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. 27 God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 28 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' 29 "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by man's design and skill. 30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."

1. What makes us look religious?
2. How do we tend to view religious activity?
3. What do we typically believe about religious buildings?
4. Where does God really dwell?
5. What do all misguided religious statements made today promise?
6. God doesn't need us, but we _____.
7. We don't _____ God. God _____ us.
8. How do God's blessings come to us?
9. Why is God willing to give us his blessings when we've done nothing to deserve them?



**“The God who made the
world and everything in it is the
Lord of heaven and earth and
does not live in
temples
built by hands**

Acts 17:24