

Traditional Worship

May 17, 2026

Observance of the Ascension of Our Lord

In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

We Thank Thee, Jesus, Dearest Friend

I. J. G. Walther – II. Dietrich Buxtehude – III. J. S. Bach

*We thank Thee, Jesus, dearest Friend,
That Thou didst into heaven ascend.
O blessed Savior, bid us live
And strength to soul and body give.
Hallelujah!*

*Ascended to His throne on high,
Hid from our sight, yet always nigh;
He rules and reigns at God's right hand
And has all power at His command.
Hallelujah!*

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL *

As the bell is rung the assembly stands for the Opening Hymn.

*A * in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*

WELCOME *

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

Assembly: **And also with you.**

OPENING HYMN #855 *

Crown Him with Many Crowns

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS *

Leader: In the name of the Father,
and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Assembly: Amen.

Leader: Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: Risen and ascended Lord,
you draw all things to yourself,

Assembly: yet we cling to what passes away.

Leader: You send your church into the world,

Assembly: yet we shrink from your mission.

Leader: You reign in glory at the right hand of the Father,

Assembly: yet we fail to trust your power and promise.

**Forgive us, renew us, and lift our hearts to where you reign,
that we may bear witness to your gospel
and serve our neighbors in love;
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

Leader: Hear the good news:

The crucified and risen Christ has ascended on high
and fills all things with mercy and peace.

Through the grace of the risen and ascended Christ,
we are forgiven of all of our sins.

Assembly: Alleluia! Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE *

This is the Feast



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *

Leader: Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens
and in your presence intercedes for us.
Receive us and our prayers for all the world,
and in the end bring everything into your glory,
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Assembly: Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

[Luke writes:] ¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ 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. ⁴ 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; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ 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.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ 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.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 47

*The Cantor sings the refrain and then the Assembly joins in the refrain.
The Cantor chants the verses and then the Assembly joins in the refrain as indicated.*



- ¹ Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with a joyful sound.
- ² For the LORD Most High is to be feared:
a great king over all the earth,
- ³ who subdues the peoples under us,
and the nations under our feet;
- ⁴ who chooses our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob, whom God loves...*Refrain*
- ⁵ God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of the ram's horn.
- ⁶ Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our king, sing praises...*Refrain*
- ⁷ For God is king of all the earth;
sing praises with a song.
- ⁸ God reigns over the nations;
God is enthroned on high.
- ⁹ The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted...*Refrain*

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

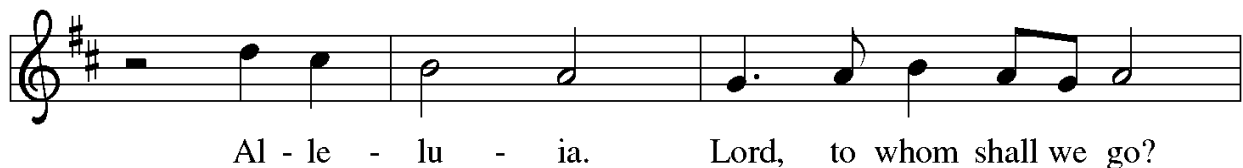
The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him 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 age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *



HOLY GOSPEL*

Luke 24:44-53

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

Assembly: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁴ [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.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ 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 ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ 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.”

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.

⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #654 *

The Church's One Foundation

NICENE CREED *

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

PRAYERS *

The assembly responds to each petition ending in “Merciful God,”

Assembly: receive our prayer.

The assembly responds to the final petition ending with “Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.”

Assembly: Amen.

PEACE *

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

Assembly: And also with you!

*The assembly greets each other with
“peace be with you...and also with you.”*

You’re invited to share God’s peace with those around you.

If you’re worshipping on Facebook, you may also greet one another in the comments.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

In Christ’s body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

OFFERING

As we respond to hearing God’s Word and prepare to feast at God’s table we contemplate the many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.

Offering plates will be passed among the assembly by the ushers.

Gifts can also be given electronically using this QR Code.



8:00 – *Jesus, My All, to Heaven Is Gone* – arr. K. Lee Scott

*Jesus, my all, to Heaven is gone, I'll never turn back no more;
He whom I fix my hopes upon, I'll never turn back no more.*

*His path I see, and I'll pursue, I'll never turn back no more;
The narrow way, till him I view, I'll never turn back no more.*

11:10 – *Look, Ye Saints, the Sight is Glorious* – arr. Max Sinzheimer

*Look, ye saints, the sight is glorious, see the Man of Sorrows now;
From the fight returned victorious, every knee to Him shall bow;
Crown Him, crown Him! Crowns become the Victor's brow.*

*Crown the Savior, angels, crown Him! Rich the trophies Jesus brings.
In the seat of power enthrone Him, while the vault of heaven rings;
Crown Him, crown Him! Crown the Savior King of kings.*

*Sinners in derision crowned Him, mocking thus the Savior's claim;
Saints and angels crowd around Him, own His title, praise His name;
Crown Him, crown Him! Spread abroad the Victor's fame.*

*Hark, those bursts of acclamation! Hark, those loud triumphant chords!
Jesus takes the highest station; O what joy the sight affords!
Crown Him, crown Him! King of kings and Lord of lords!*

OFFERTORY *

Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give thanks to the



ris-en Lord. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, give praise to his Name.

Verse



Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.



He is the King of cre - a - tion.

GREAT THANKSGIVING *

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

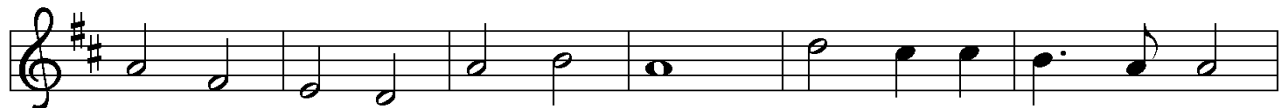
Assembly: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Leader: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ;
who, enthroned forever at your right hand,
intercedes for us as our great high priest.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

Pastor: 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.

We pray as our Lord has taught us...

LORD'S PRAYER *

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD *



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION

All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.

You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.

Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available

in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.

You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of the cups and packaging after the service.

“Bread from the Lord’s Table” and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.

Pastor: Come to the table of new life.
 Receive the risen Lord.

As you are served communion:

Communion Server: The body of Christ, given for you.
 The blood of Christ, shed for you

Communion Receiver: Amen.

Music at Distribution – *Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus*

8:00 & 11:10 - Organ – J. S. Bach

11:10 - Hymn #501

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Leader: The body and blood of the risen Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace,
 now and forever.

Assembly: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION & SERVICE

BLESSING *

Leader: The God of resurrection power,
 the Christ of ascended glory,
 and the Spirit of promised hope
 ✠ bless you now and forever.

Assembly: Amen.

SENDING HYMN #825 *

You Servants of God

DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go in peace.

Serve the Lord the risen and ascended Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *

The Church's One Foundation – arr. Janet Linker

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SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor
Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor
Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family
Brian Timm, Lector & Communion Assistant 8:00
Jane Baldwin, Lector & Communion Assistant 11:10
Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music
Robin Terschak, Cantor
Jane McFadden, Chancel Choir Accompanist

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FLOWER DEDICATION:

The altar flowers are given in memory of her son, Calvin Jenei, by Karen Jenei.

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