

The Ascension of Our Lord/  
Seventh Sunday of Easter  
May 17, 2026 – Setting One  
The Ascended Lord Jesus Is with Us  
Always in His Church on Earth

After He rose from the dead, the Lord Jesus presented Himself alive to the apostles, “appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God” (Acts 1:3). When He ascended to the right hand of the Father, He did not orphan His Church, but He fills all things in heaven and on earth and gives gifts to His disciples. Even now, through His Church, He continues “to do and teach” (Acts 1:1), preaching “repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Luke 24:47) even “to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

The apostolic witness of His cross and resurrection (Acts 1:21-22) gathers disciples together “with one accord” into the one Body of Christ (Acts 1:14). “Devoting themselves to prayer,” they wait upon the Lord in “the upper room” (Acts 1:13-14), the place of His Holy Supper. Strengthened by the Gospel, Christians bear the cross of Christ in patience and peace, rejoicing to share in His suffering, in order that they “may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed” (1 Peter 4:13). 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” (Eph. 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” (Eph. 1:20)

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Welcome  
We are thankful you have joined us today!

Hymn

Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels | 491

Please stand.

Confession & Absolution

☩ In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

☩ Amen. [Matt 28:19b; 18-20]

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** [1 John 1:8-9]

Quiet time for self-examination and confession.

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father. **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** [John 20:19-23]

Lord, Have Mercy (Chanted)

[Mark 10:47, Setting 1]

☩ In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

☩ For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

☩ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

☩ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

☩ Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. ☩ A - - men

## Hymn of Praise-Gloria

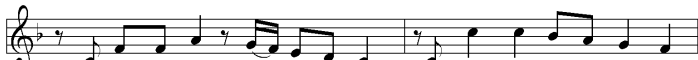
[Luke 2:14, John 1:29]



♩ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



♩ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



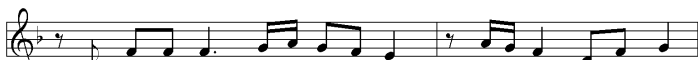
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

## Prayer of the Day



♩ The Lord be with you. ♪ And al - so with you.

Let us pray...[silence for individual prayer] Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Readings from God's Word

The First Reading is from Acts:

**I**n the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

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

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

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry."

Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood. "For it is written in the Book of Psalms, 'May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it'; and 'Let another take his office.' So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles. [Acts 1:1-26]

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Easter Gradual

[Matt. 28:7; Heb. 2:7; Psalm 8:6]

Christ has risen from the dead.

**[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.**

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

**he has put all things under his feet.**

The Epistle Reading is from Ephesians:

**F**or this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that 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, having 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, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 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. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. [Eph 1:15-23]

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand to greet the Gospel reading singing the Alleluia verse. [John 6:68]*

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

The Holy Gospel according to St. John:

☩ Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. "I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. [John 17:1-11]

☩ Praise to you, O Christ.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*Please sit.*

**Children's Message**

*The children are invited forward for a message led by Pastor Fitch.*

**Hymn**

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus | 821

**Sermon**

**Our Confession of Faith**

*Please stand to confess the Nicene Creed printed on the inside back cover of the hymnal.*

**Prayer of the Church**

...let us pray to the Lord; **Lord, have mercy.**

*Please be seated.*

**Offering**

In Person | Mail to Church | Bank Bill Pay



## Offertory Hymn

☩ What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all his ben - e - fits to me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal - va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all his peo - ple, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

## Sacrament of the Altar

[2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136]

☩ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so 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 him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who after His resurrection appeared openly to all His disciples and in their sight was taken up into heaven that He might make us partakers of His divine life. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:

## The Holy, Holy, Holy

[Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9]

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na. 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.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as he bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To you alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.** [Matt 6:9-13]

**The Words of Our Lord**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat: this is my + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

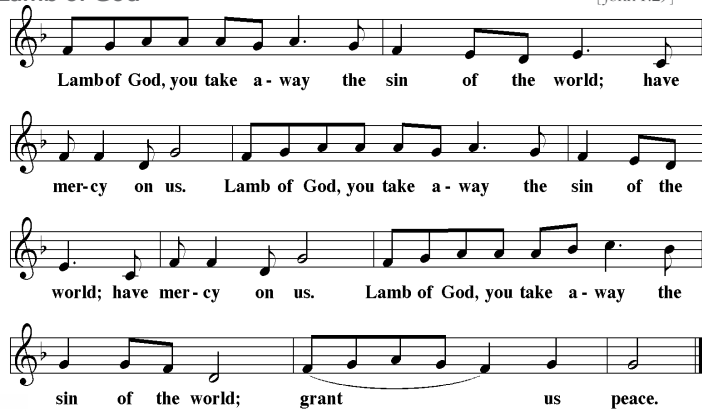
In the same way also he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always. (*chanted*)



**Lamb of God**

[John 1:29]



**Faith Lutheran Church, Preschool & Extended Childcare**

*A Member Congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*

The purpose of this congregation shall be to serve its members and community and to spread the Kingdom of God by preaching the Word of God, by the administration of the Sacraments and by the religious instruction of youth and adults, according to the confessional standard of the Lutheran Church, and to foster Christian fellowship and charity. It shall also be the purpose and the responsibility of this congregation to provide a Christian and parochial education for its children to the best of its ability.

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*Please be seated and come forward at the direction of the ushers.*

**Distribution of Holy Communion/Hymns**

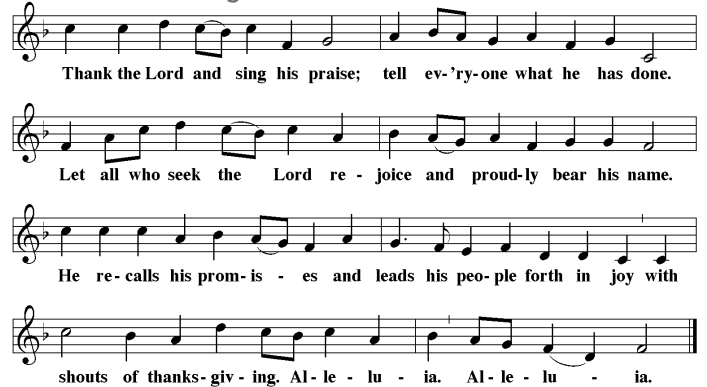
*The Lord's Supper is a meal for disciples of Jesus who have been baptized and taught (as our Lord says in Matthew 28). Those who have confessed their sins, acknowledge Jesus as their Savior from sin, believe that with the bread and the wine Christ truly gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, desire to commit themselves to Him in loving obedience, and share the faith confessed at this altar, are welcome to participate. If you have any doubts or questions about the gift of the Lord's Supper, we ask that you consult with the pastor or an elder. Children are invited to come to the altar with their parents to receive a blessing.*

**Hymns On Christ's Ascension I Now Build | 492**

**Crown Him with Many Crowns | 525**

*When all have communed, please stand.*

**Post Communion Song**



**Post Communion Prayer**

Let us pray...one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor  
and give you + peace. **Amen.** [Numbers 6:24-26]

**Hymn A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing | 493 (1, 4-6)**

**Sending**

Go in peace and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

**Postlude**

*Acknowledgments— Artwork: Photo—Christ the Redeemer by Robert Nyman. All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. The order of service is from Lutheran Service Book, © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted under oneLicense.net #A-710394. 2026 Bulletins (Year A) Ascension 7ojE May 17 2026 (1)*

