

# Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

**Our Mission: To share Christ's love with the greatest number of people.**

Ascension of Our Lord, May 17, 2026  
The Service at 8:30 and 11 am



*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

### PRELUDE

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Please stand.*

Pastor In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Congregation **Amen.**

Pastor Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hid:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Congregation **Amen.**

Pastor Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Pastor Most merciful God,  
Congregation **have mercy on us.**  
**We confess that we are in bondage to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**  
**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.**  
**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.**

Pastor God, who is rich in mercy,  
loved us even when we were dead in sin,  
and made us alive together with Christ.  
By grace you have been saved.  
In the name of + Jesus Christ,  
your sins are forgiven.  
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,  
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.  
Congregation **Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN: ALLELUIA! SING TO JESUS #392

*We invite you to turn and face the cross (as you are comfortable). Please turn to the front of the sanctuary after the cross has passed you. All sing.*

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,  
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in  
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our  
4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -  
5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,

his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the  
sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -  
food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to  
tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your  
his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the

vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful  
lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -  
you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of  
foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you  
vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful

Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus  
ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our  
sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the  
en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on  
Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus

out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."  
hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"  
songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.  
earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.  
out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs with an-gels round the throne;  
2 “Wor- thy the Lamb that died,” they cry, “to be ex- alt- ed thus!”  
3 Je- sus is wor- thy to re-ceive hon- or and pow’r di- vine;  
4 Let all cre- a- tion join in one to bless the sa- cred name



ten thou-sand thou- sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.  
“Wor- thy the Lamb,” our lips re- ply, “for he was slain for us!”  
and bless-ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for- ev- er thine.  
of him who sits up- on the throne, and to a- dore the Lamb.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748  
Music: NUN DANKET ALL, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor           Let us pray. 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.  
Congregation   **Amen.**

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

### THE WORD

#### 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:] <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.”

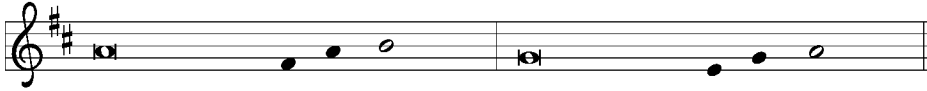
Reader

Word of God, word of life.

Congregation   **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 47

*Congregation sings words in bold.*



- <sup>1</sup> Clap your hands, | all you peoples;  
shout to God with a | joyful sound.
- <sup>2</sup> **For the LORD Most High is | to be feared:**  
**a great king over | all the earth,**
- <sup>3</sup> who subdues the | peoples under us,  
and the nations un- | der our feet;
- <sup>4</sup> **who chooses our inheri- | tance for us,**  
**the pride of Jacob, | whom God loves.**
- <sup>5</sup> God has gone up | with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound | of the ram's horn.
- <sup>6</sup> **Sing praises to | God, sing praises;**  
**sing praises to our | king, sing praises.**
- <sup>7</sup> For God is king of | all the earth;  
sing praises | with a song.
- <sup>8</sup> **God reigns o- | ver the nations;**  
**God is en- | throned on high.**
- <sup>9</sup> 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 high- | ly exalted.

### 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.*

<sup>15</sup> I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup> 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, <sup>18</sup> 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, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup> 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, <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Reader            Word of God, word of life.  
Congregation   **Thanks be to God.**

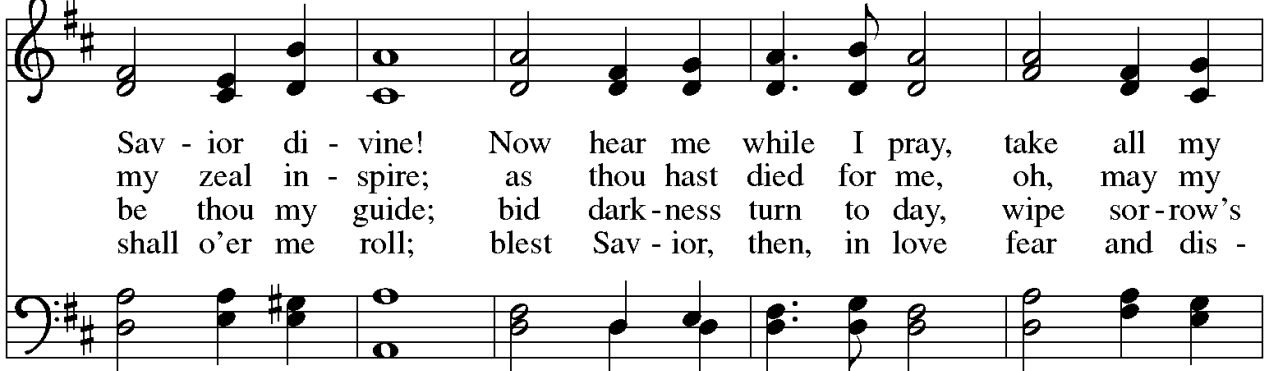


# HYMN OF THE DAY: MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE #759

*Please stand and sing.*



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,  
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,  
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my  
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my  
be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's  
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!  
love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!  
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.  
trust re - move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887

Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

Asst. Min. With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Congregation **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## **PRAYERS**

*Prayers are included for the whole Church, the nations, those in need, the parish and special concerns.*

*After each portion of the prayers:*

Asst. Min. Merciful God  
Congregation **receive our prayer.**

*At the end of the prayer:*

Pastor Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,  
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
Congregation **Amen.**

## **THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor The peace of Christ be with you always.  
Congregation **And also with you.**

*The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say, "Peace be with you" or similar words.*

## **OFFERING**

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Our offerings to God are first of all just that – offerings of thanksgiving to God. As you are able please continue to support our ministry with your financial gifts.*

*Please sign the red attendance book and pass it down the pew.*

## **OFFERTORY**

*"The Secret of Christ" by Richard Shepard*

## COME TO THE TABLE

**OFFERTORY SONG**  
*Please stand and sing.*

### Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Asst. Min.  
Congregation

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.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor  
Congregation

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Pastor  
Congregation

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

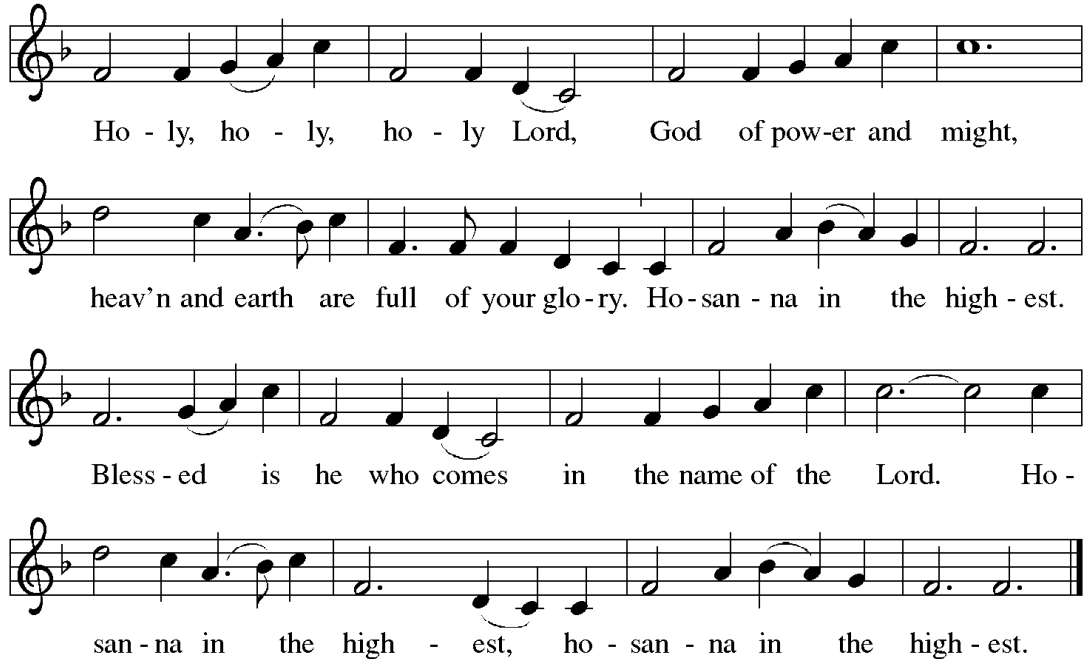
Pastor  
Congregation

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor

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, the true Paschal Lamb  
who gave himself to take away our sin;  
who in dying has destroyed death,  
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.  
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,  
with earth and sea and all their creatures,  
with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*All sing.*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Congregation

**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.**

*All sing.*



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNE

## COMMUNION

***All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.***

*Communion will be offered by intinction.*

*For those not comfortable receiving from those who are distributing the elements, a separate tray is available.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

*Anyone not comfortable receiving the bread or the wine is invited to come forward for a blessing.*

*To receive a blessing, please cross your arms.*

*You are an important part of our faith community.*

*In Holy Communion we receive the true body and blood of Christ.*



COMMUNION HYMN: LOVING SPIRIT #397

1 Lov - ing Spir - it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—  
2 Like a moth - er you en - fold me, hold my life with - in your own,  
3 Like a fa - ther you pro - tect me, teach me the dis - cern - ing eye,  
4 Friend and lov - er, in your close - ness I am known and held and blessed:  
5 Lov - ing Spir - it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—

you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.  
feed me with your ver - y bod - y, form me of your flesh and bone.  
hoist me up up - on your shoul - der, let me see the world from high.  
in your prom - ise is my com - fort, in your pres - ence I may rest.  
you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931  
Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. hymnal version  
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Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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*Please stand.*

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

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Asst. Min. 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,  
Congregation **Amen.**

**THE SENDING**

**BLESSING**

Pastor 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.  
Congregation **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN: O GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING #880**

*Please follow the cross, turning toward the cross as it passes by your pew. As the cross leads, so Christ leads us out into the community to share Christ's love.*



1 O God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor-ship you to - day  
2 The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly die,  
3 Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;  
its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;  
that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,  
but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown-  
and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with - out num - ber and mer-cies with - out end:  
though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav-en's gar - den grown:  
we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,  
for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,  
to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,



we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.  
and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.  
and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

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**DISMISSAL**

Asst. Min.  
Congregation

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE**

## **God Gives More than Enough**

We often cast our eyes upward to look for God. When we are feeling lonely or misunderstood, we raise our hands to ask why, or shake our fists in gestures of prayer, anguish, or praise. While the scriptures promise that God is king of all the earth, sitting on his holy throne (Psalm 47), we need not only look up for God's action in our lives. Our ascended Lord lives in the heavens, but Jesus does not leave his disciples—or us—to fumble while he naps in the clouds. Before he ascends, Jesus promises that we are clothed with the Holy Spirit's power, witnesses "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

"Why do you stand looking up toward heaven?" the two men in white robes asked the witnesses remaining after Jesus ascended. Why do we stand still in our lives? Is it that we just saw God (Look! Up there! Did you see?), so we expect God to arrive in the same way again? Can God be that expected and predictable? This story of Jesus ascending to the heavens after his time with us on earth gives us mixed feelings: we know he's returning to where he belongs—out of this world full of brokenness and sin to holiness and glory. Still, our longing is intense: Lord, we want to see you! How will we know it is you when you come again?

Ascension Day could be explained as the cynical "I'm outta here" of a God weary of us self-centered, broken humans, but that explanation would be short-sighted because it leaves out the important stop on the cross. Instead, Jesus' departure is accompanied with the promise of the Spirit's presence remaining among us. We look up to the skies for help, then return our gaze to those among us in need of our care, to the body of Christ and the wind of the Spirit among the baptized, preparing for the time when Jesus comes again to gather us in.

# Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

**Children** are welcome in our worship. There is a children's worship bulletin for them. If you prefer, a nursery and/or childcare is available for children up to age 3 during all worship services.

**Hearing help available:** We have personal hearing amplification units available for your use. Please speak with the person at the sound board.

**Church Phone: 703-356-3346**

**Email: [church@redeemermclean.org](mailto:church@redeemermclean.org)**

## ***Sunday Services***

***8:30 and 11:00 am for the traditional service and 9:45 am for the contemporary service***

### Next Sunday's Scripture:

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 20:19-23

*The flowers are given to the glory of God.*

*Today we are using Setting 10 from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal.*

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