



7 PM

May 14, 2026

The Ascension of Our Lord



CONNECT CARDS

Guests and members, please:
 ♦ fill out a Connect card, or
 ♦ scan the QR code to connect with us online
 Cards are in the pew racks in front of you. These methods include a space to share prayer requests with our pastors.
 We look forward to praying for and connecting personally with YOU!

Serving Tonight...

Message:
Pastor Ben Oesch

Liturgist:
Pastor Brad Stoltenow

Musicians:
Gail Black
Shepherd's Chorale



✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

Divine Service, Setting 4 ~ LSB p. 203; Matthew 28:19b

Pastor (P): We call on the name of the Triune God—the name into which we have been baptized: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): Amen!

THE ACCOUNT OF THE ASCENSION Acts 1:1-11

In 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, the apostles asked Jesus, “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 Jesus 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.”

RESPONSE AND PROCLAMATION Matt. 28:7; Heb. 2:7; Psalm 8:6; Ascension antiphon, Roman Rite

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

P: 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. Sing to the Lord, who ascended above the heaven of heavens, to the Sunrising!

ALL: Alleluia! Alleluia!

PROCESSIONAL HYMN # 493:1 & 6 “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”

A hymn of glory let us sing! New hymns throughout the world shall ring: Alleluia, alleluia! Christ, by a road before untrod, ascends unto the throne of God. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

▲ **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!**

▲ *The delta symbol indicates a stanza that praises the Triune God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit.*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS Psalm 124:8; 130:3-4; Luke 18:13; John 20:19-23

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P: 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.

C: Amen!

P: The Lord be with you!

C: And also with you!

Christ's **Ascension** is a major church festival which celebrates the completion of the earthly phase of Jesus' work of salvation. His ascension is a simple yet powerful action—one that affirms His Kingship over earth and heaven.

Responding to His might and His majesty, we affirm that the kingdom, the power, and the glory are His, stated each time we pray the Lord's Prayer: *Thy kingdom come.... For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever!*

BIBLE: Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth



In His life
Christ is an example
showing us how to live;
in his death,
He is a sacrifice
satisfying our sins;
in His resurrection,
a conqueror;
in His ascension,
a king;
in His intercession,
a high priest.
~Martin Luther

PRAYER FOR ASCENSION

P: We pray: 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.

C: **Amen!**

Please be seated.

HYMN OF PRAISE # 549:1, 6 & 7 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;

Bring forth the royal diadem and crown Him Lord of all.

Bring forth the royal diadem and crown Him Lord of all.

Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe, on this terrestrial ball

To Him all majesty ascribe and crown Him Lord of all.

To Him all majesty ascribe and crown Him Lord of all.

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng we at His feet may fall!

We'll join the everlasting song and crown Him Lord of all.

We'll join the everlasting song and crown Him Lord of all!

GUESTS AND MEMBERS CONNECT *Please fill out the white Connect Card, either by hand or with the QR code. You may also add prayer requests to your information. Thank you!*

OFFERING *For giving options: ShepherdHillsChurch.org/Give*

VOLUNTARY When All Your Mercies, O My God

PRAYER

EPISTLE READING Ephesians 1:15-23

For 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 a 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.

RESPONSE

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Please stand for the reading of the Holy Gospel.

ACCLAMATION

A: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 24:44-53

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Then Jesus led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands He blessed them. While He blessed them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

RESPONSE

A: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ!**

Please be seated.



HYMN "Yet Not I, But Through Christ In Me"

*Choir: What gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer. There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom, my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold: My hope is only Jesus. For my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: All is mine! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.
The night is dark, but I am not forsaken, for by my side the Savior, He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing, for in my need, His power is displayed.
To this I hold: My Shepherd will defend me. Through the deepest valley He will lead.
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.
No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven, the future sure, the price, it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, and He was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold: My sin has been defeated. Jesus now, and ever, is my plea.
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

**Congregation/Choir: With ev'ry breath I long to follow Jesus, for He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day I know He will renew me until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold: My hope is only Jesus. All the glory evermore to Him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.**

Choir: When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat: Yet not I, but through Christ in me....

MESSAGE "Jesus Is Still Here" text: Ephesians 1:15-23

The ascended Christ is not absent, but fully present and drawing near to you.

Please stand as we recite the Creed, stating our faith and encouraging one another in that faith.

STATEMENT OF FAITH ~ THE NICENE CREED *Please turn to the back cover, inside page, for the text.*

Please be seated.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

One should examine himself before he eats the bread and drinks the cup; one who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1Corinthians 11:2-29

Since those who take Christ's body and blood without understanding His true presence do so to their harm, and since the sacrament of Holy Communion is a faith statement confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or hold a confession differing from that of this church and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and wish to receive the sacrament are asked first to speak with a pastor.

HOLY COMMUNION ~ PROPER PREFACE FOR ASCENSION

2 Timothy 4:22; Psalm 47

P: The Lord be with you!

C: **And also with you!**

P: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

C: **The LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth!**

P: God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises!

C: **For God is the King of all the earth. He is highly exalted! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!**

P: 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:

SANCTUS # 940:1, 2 & 4 "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" *Rev. 7:9-14; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 Cor. 15:20-23*

Holy God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we bow before Thee.

All on earth Thy scepter claim, All in heav'n above adore Thee.

Infinite Thy vast domain, Everlasting is Thy reign.

Hark! The glad celestial hymn Angel choirs above are raising;

Cherubim and seraphim, In unceasing chorus praising,

Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord: Holy, holy, holy Lord! ----->>>>>

You Are Not Alone!

When Jesus came to earth from heaven at His birth, we called Him Immanuel, God-With-Us. Now, though He visibly and physically ascends into the heavenly places, He is still Immanuel, still God-With-Us. After all, Jesus has promised His children, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." *Hebrews 13:5*

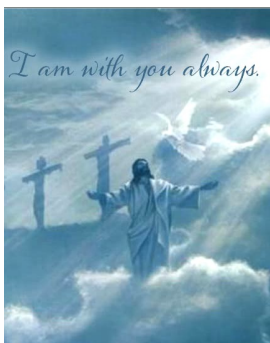
"Yet Not I, But Through Christ In Me"
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Come, Lord Jesus!

Even though we may wish Jesus were physically present with us on earth, we can be joyful at His promise to be with us always—a promise fulfilled through Word and Sacrament as the Holy Spirit comes to us with His gifts. We also look forward to our own ascension to heaven, into God's glorious presence!
AMEN

*Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ!
~Philippians 3:20*



Ancient believers ate the sacrificial lamb at the Passover. We partake of Christ, who was sacrificed for us to make full atonement for all our sins. Christ is here with us—His body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine.



In this Divine Service, by faith the Holy Spirit has opened our hearts and minds to receive His graces. As Jesus told His disciples (John 20:21), so He tells us: *Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you!* We now leave this house of worship to share the love of Jesus and HISTORY!

Lord, lay some soul upon my heart and love that soul through me; and may I gladly do my part to win that soul for Thee. Amen!

Thou art King of Glory, Christ; Son of God, yet born of Mary.

For us sinners sacrificed, as to death a Tributary,*

**one who pays a tribute/debt that is owed*

First to break the bars of death, Thou hast opened heav'n to faith!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

ALL: 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!

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19,20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

PAX DOMINI ~ PEACE OF THE LORD, AND AGNUS DEI ~ LAMB OF GOD

John 20:19; 1:29

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

C: **And also with you!**

P: Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world.

ALL: Have mercy on us and give us Your peace! Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

◆ You will be ushered forward for Communion.

◆ When receiving the bread, please extend your hand palm up.

◆ If you are not communing but wish to come up and receive a blessing, you may keep your hands folded.

◆ Wine without alcohol is in the center of each tray; gluten-free wafers are in the center of the wafer trays.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

547 "The Lamb" # 492 "On Christ's Ascension I Now Build"

NUNC DIMITTIS ~ SIMEON'S SONG AND POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Luke 2:29-32

P: We bless God with the same joy Simeon did when he met his Savior, the infant Jesus:

ALL: Lord, now You let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a Light for revelation and for glory!

P: God the Father, fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen!

BENEDICTION ~ GOD'S GOOD-CREATING WORD OF BLESSING

Jude 24-25

P: Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ ✠ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever.

C: Amen!

PROCLAMATION OF HOPE AND FAITH

Matthew 28:6; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:6, 34; Revelation 22:20b

P: Alleluia! Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

ALL: AMEN. Come, Lord Jesus!

HYMN # 525:1, 4 & 5 "Crown Him With Many Crowns"

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.

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.

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, enthroned in worlds above,

Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n the wondrous name of Love.

Crown Him with many crowns as thrones before Him fall;

Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, for He is king of all!

POSTLUDE

✠ TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY! ✠