



8 & 10:45 AM

May 17, 2026

7th Sunday of Easter



**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 Today...**

Message:

Pastor Brad Stoltenow

Worship Assistant:

10:45 Rod Sweeney

Musicians:

Susan Shoaf, organ  
Mary Brown, piano  
Shepherd's Chorale



This past Thursday, we celebrated the Ascension of Our Lord. 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.

We rejoice that our Lord has gone to be with His Father in heaven, yet we wish He would still be here on earth with us. Jesus reassured His disciples, and He reassures us:

*I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth.... You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*

~John 14:16-17

*Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you. Receive the Holy Spirit.*

~John 20:21-22

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!*

**✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠**

*Please quiet voices as we prepare to worship.*

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**PRELUDE** On Eagles' Wings

*You are invited to join the choir in singing the Refrain: Hymn # 727*

**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!**

**PROCLAMATION OF HOPE AND FAITH**

*Matt. 28:6; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:6, 34; Rev. 22:20b*

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

**ALL: AMEN. Come, Lord Jesus!**

**CONFESSION OF SINS**

*Psalm 124:8; 130:3-4; Luke 18:13*

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 and call upon Him in prayer and praise, 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.**

**ABSOLUTION ~ FORGIVENESS OF SINS**

*John 20:19-23*

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!**

**SALUTATION**

P: The Lord be with you!

**C: And also with you!**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: We pray: O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen!**

### Psalm 68:1-10

God shall arise,  
His enemies  
shall be scattered;  
and those who hate Him  
shall flee before Him!  
As smoke is driven  
away, so You  
shall drive them away;  
as wax melts before fire,  
so the wicked shall  
perish before God!  
But the righteous  
shall be glad; they  
shall exult before God;  
they shall be  
jubilant with joy!

Sing to God, sing  
praises to His name;  
lift up a song  
to Him who rides  
through the deserts;  
His name is the LORD;  
exult before Him!  
Father of the fatherless  
and protector of widows  
is God  
in His holy habitation.  
God settles the solitary  
in a home;  
He leads out the  
prisoners to prosperity,  
but the rebellious  
dwell in a parched land.

O God,  
when You went out  
before Your people,  
when You marched  
through the wilderness,  
the earth quaked,  
the heavens poured  
down rain, before God,  
the One of Sinai,  
before God,  
the God of Israel.  
Rain in abundance,  
O God,  
You shed abroad;  
You restored  
Your inheritance  
as it languished;  
Your flock found  
a dwelling in it;  
in Your goodness,  
O God,  
You provided  
for the needy.

### HYMN OF PRAISE

# 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.*

*Please be seated.*

**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!*



**CHILDREN'S CHAT** *Sam Scheck*

*Children's Bulletins are available on the Usher Stands as you enter the Sanctuary.*

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

**FIRST READING** Acts 1:12-26

After Jesus' ascension, the disciples 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 and sisters.

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers and sisters (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.

### RESPONSE

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

**EPISTLE READING** 1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good....

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after

you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To Him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

### RESPONSE

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

*Please stand for the Alleluia and Verse and the reading of the Holy Gospel.*

**ALLELUIA AND VERSE** # 465:4 "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

Δ Adoring praises now we bring and with the heav'nly blessed sing:

"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"

Be to the Father and our Lord, to Spirit blest, most holy God,

All the glory, never ending!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

### ACCLAMATION

A: The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 17th chapter.

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

**THE HOLY GOSPEL** John 17:1-11

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."

### RESPONSE

A: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** # 655 "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word; curb those who by deceit or sword

Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son and bring to naught all He has done.

Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known, for You are Lord of lords alone;

Defend Your holy Church that we may sing Your praise eternally.

O Comforter of priceless worth, send peace and unity on earth;

Support us in our final strife and lead us out of death to life.

**MESSAGE** "Standing Firm in Faith When the Lion Roars" text: 1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11



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

This Sunday is the final Sunday in the **Easter Season** of the Church Year. During the Easter Season, the first Lesson is from New Testament History - the book of Acts - instead of an Old Testament passage. These readings from the Acts of the Apostles emphasize that the Church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, is the best witness to the resurrection of Jesus and the work of God in Christ in the world. Jesus said to His disciples and He says to us: *You will be My witnesses...to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8*

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm, with the:

- +belt of truth+
- +breastplate of righteousness+
- +shoes of the gospel of peace+
- +shield of faith+
- +helmet of salvation+
- +sword of the Spirit (the word of God)+
- +constant prayer+
- ~from Ephesians 6

A **Creed** is a statement of faith or belief. We confess our Christian faith using the words of this ancient creed, dating in history to the 2nd century. The Apostles' Creed is connected from ancient times with Baptism and with those receiving instruction in the Christian faith.

In this Divine Service, by faith the Holy Spirit has opened our hearts and minds to receive His graces. We now leave this house of worship to share the love of Jesus and **HIS**tory!



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!

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

### STATEMENT OF FAITH ~ THE APOSTLES' CREED

**ALL:** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen!

*Please be seated.*

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*1 Timothy 2:1-4*

*In May, we pray with open hearts for our Armed Forces, their families, and military chaplains.*

*Please stand for the Lord's Prayer and Blessing.*

### 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!

### BENEDICTION ~ GOD'S GOOD-CREATING WORD OF BLESSING

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ☩ give you peace.

**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!

*Please be seated.*

### HYMN # 660 "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, ye soldiers of the cross.

Lift high His royal banner; it must not suffer loss.

From vict'ry unto vict'ry His army He shall lead

Till ev'ry foe is vanquished, and Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus; the trumpet call obey;

Stand forth in mighty conflict in this His glorious day.

Let all His faithful serve Him against unnumbered foes;

Let courage rise with danger and strength to strength oppose.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus; stand in His strength alone.

The arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own.

Put on the Gospel armor; each piece put on with prayer.

Where duty calls or danger, be never wanting there.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus; the strife will not be long;

This day the din of battle, the next the victor's song.

The soldiers, overcoming, their crown of life shall see

And with the King of Glory shall reign eternally!

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### POSTLUDE

### ☩ TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY! ☩



You are invited to wear something **RED** next Sunday when we celebrate the **Festival of Pentecost**, the birthday of the Christian Church.

Jews celebrated the Feast of Weeks — a celebration of the end of the grain harvest, the giving of the Law, and the founding of the Jewish faith community. That festival in Jerusalem, which took place ten days after Jesus ascended to heaven, was not their usual celebration, however. Learn more about **Pentecost** and the gift of the **Holy Spirit** next week!