



FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND SCHOOL



The
Ascension
May 17, 2026

Welcome



Worship Series: What Difference Does It Make? May 17, 2026

Life is full of either/or moments. Some of them are of little long-term consequence. I will have either the chicken or the fish. Some of them matter more. I will accept the new job offer or keep my current job. One either/or moment is life-changing for every human being. Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus claimed he would rise from the dead. “The Son of Man must suffer many things. . . be killed and after three days rise again” (Mark 8:31). So if Jesus remains dead, he is both a failure and a fraud. If Christ has not been raised, we are still in our sin.

But Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! It makes all the difference! He lives! The season of Easter is a 50-day celebration of that fact.

Today's Focus: He Lives to Rule All Things for the Church

Without the resurrection of Jesus, we would have to wonder who oversees the world. At times the world seems so chaotic. People claim to be in charge but they have limited power and strange ideas. Many of the ideas are harmful for Christians. Leaders seem to lead without acknowledging Jesus.

But he lives, and it makes a difference. Jesus is head over everything for the Church. At the time of Ascension, he takes his proper place. The Festival of the Ascension is one of the oldest and most joyful celebrations in the Christian Church. It will be observed by Christians until Christ returns to take us to be with him.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

Presiding Minister: Pastor Derek Bartelt | **Preaching Minister:** Pastor Kenneth Frey
Accompanist: Robert Joseph | **Elder:** Dave Schwartz
Projectionist: Gail Michnay | **Altar Guild:** Kelly Schwartz

Opening Hymn

473 Look, Ye Saints, the Sight Is Glorious



1 Look, ye saints, the sight is glo - rious; see the man of
 2 Crown the Sav - ior! An - gels, crown him! Rich the tro - phies
 3 Sin - ners in de - ri - sion crowned him, mock - ing thus the
 4 Hark, those bursts of ac - cla - ma - tion! Hark, those loud, tri -



sor - rows now! From the fight re - turned vic - to - rious,
 Je - sus brings; on the seat of pow'r en - throne him
 Sav - ior's claim; saints and an - gels crowd a - round him,
 um - phant chords! Je - sus takes the high - est sta - tion;



ev - 'ry knee to him shall bow. Crown him! Crown him!
 while the vault of heav - en rings. Crown him! Crown him!
 own his ti - tle, praise his name. Crown him! Crown him!
 oh, what joy the sight af - fords! Crown him! Crown him!



Crowns be - come the vic - tor's brow. Crown him!
 Crown the Sav - ior King of kings! Crown him!
 Spread a - broad the vic - tor's fame. Crown him!
 King of kings and Lord of lords! Crown him!



Crown him! Crowns be - come the vic - tor's brow.
 Crown him! Crown the Sav - ior King of kings!
 Crown him! Spread a - broad the vic - tor's fame.
 Crown him! King of kings and Lord of lords!

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769-1855
 Tune: Kenneth T. Kosche, b. 1947
 Text: Public domain
 Tune: © 1994 Kenneth T. Kosche. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712282

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Dialogue

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.
Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

How majestic is the Lord's name in all the earth!
He has set his glory above the heavens.

For the Lord is the Most High over all the earth.
He is exalted far above all gods.

God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.
God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.

The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble.
He sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.

The throne of our God will last forever and ever.
A scepter of justice will be the scepter of his kingdom.

Praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted.
His splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

Glory to God in the Highest

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Glory to God in the Highest'. It consists of nine staves of music in a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests. The lyrics are: 'Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth, 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'.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to
God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
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.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to

God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,

and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Tune: William Gokelman; David Kauffman
 Tune: © 2010, 2021 GFTSMUSIC Publishing Company, Inc., admin. Music Services. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712282

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day you ascended far above the heavens, and at God's right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that, at your command and by your power, we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

Jesus ascends to rule over all things as his Church serves as his witnesses.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 47



1 All peo - ples, clap your hands, and shout with joy and sing.
2 God has gone up on high, with shout and trum - pet voice;
3 No - bles from all the earth are joined with A - bram's seed;



The LORD Most High is to be feared; he is the earth's great King.
sing praise to God, our glo - rious King, sing praise to him, re - joice!
the rul - ers of the world are God's; he's lift - ed high in - deed!



He brings the na - tions down, sub - dues them in our sight;
For God is King of all. Sing praise with all your skill;
So to the Fa - ther raise, with his as - cend - ed Son,



he choos - es our in - her - it - ance; his love is Ja - cob's might.
he sits up - on his ho - ly throne and rules the na - tions still.
and Ho - ly Spir - it end - less praise, e - ter - nal Three in One.

Text: Christopher L. Webber
Tune: George J. Elvey
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Tune: Public domain

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15–23

Jesus ascended to fill all creation with his presence and power for a very specific purpose.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day

472 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New songs through-
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the
 3 To them the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and
 4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the



out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Mount of Ol - ives stand, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 gaze up - on the sky?" Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 por - tals of the sky." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Christ, by a road be - fore un - trod, as - cends un -
 and with his fol - low - ers they see their Lord as -
 "This is the Sav - ior," thus they say. "This is his
 "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall see re - turn - ing



to the throne of God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 cend in maj - es - ty. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 glo - rious tri - umph day." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 in great maj - es - ty." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

5 Be now our joy on earth, O Lord,
and be our future great reward.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Then, throned with you forever, we
shall praise your name eternally.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6 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!

Text: The Venerable Bede, 673–735, abr.; tr. Composite Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Köln, 1623 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty. From there 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.**

Prayer of the Church

Confident of our Lord's return, let us approach our Father's throne of mercy on behalf of the Church and of all people.

Gracious Lord God, amid shouts of joy we celebrate your Son's ascension into heaven where he is now seated in majesty at your right hand. Grant your Church steadfastness in these gray and latter days that she may hold to the truth and boldly confess the saving name of Jesus.

As the devil, the world, and our sinful nature seek to silence our witness, grant us courage to believe and confess that Jesus is Lord.

Even as your beloved Son intercedes on behalf of his Church, so has he commanded us to pray for others.

Hear us, O Lord, as we implore you to show mercy to those in need:

to the sick, the lonely, and the depressed grant relief;
to the dying and those who mourn bring comfort;
to the hungry, the homeless, and the unemployed send your help;
to the elderly, give joy for living life to the full;
to the young, send patience to wait for the fuller life to come;
to husbands and wives and their families and to single parents who raise their children alone grant wisdom and strength.

Bestow your blessings to all who depend on your power and grace.

Almighty Father, you are the good Giver of all that we have. In your mercy continue to grant us daily bread, supplying us with what we need before we even ask.

Teach us to be thankful and content, whether we have plenty or are in need.

Come with your guidance, O Lord, and pour out your blessings on all who have gathered here to proclaim your love in speech, song, and symbol. May our worship enrich us so that our work for others adorns your love among them.

Lead us to praise you as we joyfully wait for your return.

O Lord, heavenly Father, we remember the sufferings and death of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Praising his victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from his ascension before you, where he always intercedes for us as our own high priest. 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.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

To you alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Offering

Hymn

700 Draw Us to Thee



1 Draw us to thee, for then shall we walk in thy
2 Draw us to thee, Lord, lov - ing - ly; let us de -
3 Draw us to thee; O grant that we may walk the
4 Draw us to thee that al - so we thy heav'n - ly
5 Draw us to thee un - ceas - ing - ly; in - to thy



steps for - ev - er and has - ten on where thou art
part with glad - ness that we may be for - ev - er
road to heav - en! Di - rect our way lest we should
bliss in - her - it and ev - er dwell where sin and
king - dom take us. Let us for - e'er thy glo - ry



gone to be with thee, dear Sav - ior.
free from sor - row, grief, and sad - ness.
stray and from thy paths be driv - en.
hell no more can vex our spir - it.
share; thy saints and joint heirs make us.

Text: Friedrich Funcke, 1642-1699; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.
Tune: As hymnodus sacer, Leipzig, 1625
Text and tune: Public domain

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

549 Across the Lands



1 You're the Word of God the Fa - ther from be - fore the
2 Yet you left the gaze of an - gels, came to seek and
3 With a shout you rose vic - to - rious, wrest-ing vic - t'ry



world be - gan. Ev-'ry star and ev - 'ry plan - et has been
save the lost, and ex - changed the joy of heav - en for the
from the grave, and as - cend - ed in - to heav - en, lead - ing



fash - ioned by your hand. All cre - a - tion holds to -
an - guish of a cross. With a prayer you fed the
cap - tives in your way. Now you stand be - fore the



geth - er by the pow - er of your voice. Let the skies de -
hun - gry, with a word you calmed the sea, yet how si - lent -
Fa - ther, in - ter - ced - ing for your own; from each tribe and



clare your glo - ry, let the land and seas re - joice!
ly you suf - fered that the guilt - y may go free!
tongue and na - tion you are lead - ing sin - ners home!

Refrain



You're the au - thor of cre - a - tion, you're the Lord of ev - 'ry



man, and your cry of love rings out a - cross the lands.



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JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

SUNDAYS

Worship | 9:00am

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OUR MISSION

As a family of believers, the mission of First Evangelical Lutheran Church is to glorify God by growing in the faith of our Savior Jesus Christ and by sharing the good news of His Word with others.

OUR INVITATION

It is a privilege for us to share with you the assurance Jesus offers about how imperfect people like us can enjoy a right relationship with our holy Creator.

Our church services are designed to be Christ-centered worship and include three main elements: God speaks to us in His Word, we respond with praises and prayers, and we encourage each other.

We are eager to have you learn more about the Triune God and about our church. If you are looking for a spiritual family in which you can be at home, please speak with our pastor.