
✠ ASCENSION SUNDAY ✠

ORDER OF WORSHIP • MAY 17, 2026 • 9:00 AM

✠ *Indicates the congregation should stand as able.*

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

✠ GATHERING HYMN LOOK, THE SIGHT IS GLORIOUS
LBW #156

✠ INVOCATION

WL: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

WL: Christ is risen!

All: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

✠ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

WL: Since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. Trusting in God's promise, let us confess our sin.

All: **Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. In ascending into heaven you promised to be with us to the end of the age, and called us to wait to be clothed with power from on high. We confess that we have not always waited, Lord, for your Holy Spirit and your power. We have been quick to act according to the spirit and the powers of this world. We remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

WL: Brothers and sisters in Christ, hear the good news: Death has been swallowed up in victory. Through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, all our sins have been forgiven. We are washed clean by the blood of the Lamb and are renewed and empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve with joyful hearts.

WL: Christ is risen!

All: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

✠ PRAYER OF THE DAY

WL: Let us pray. O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

ACTS 1:1-11

R: The First lesson for this Ascension Sunday is from the first chapter of Acts.

In my former book, *Theophilus*, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON

EPHESIANS 1:15-23

R: The Second lesson is from the first chapter of Ephesians.

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

✠ VERSE

BE NOT AFRAID!

Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

✠ HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 24:44-53

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord!

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

TODAY'S MESSAGE

✠ MESSAGE HYMN

ALLELUIA! SING TO JESUS
LBW #158, STANZAS 1 & 2

✠ PROFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

WL: Let us boldly confess our faith, with the words of 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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

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ANTHEM BY THE PARISH CHOIR

STAY WITH US
BY WALTER PELZ

*Stay with us, till night has come: our praise to you this day be sung.
Bless our bread, open our eyes: Jesus, be our great surprise.*

*Walk with us, our spirits sigh: hear when our weary spirits cry,
feel again our loss, our pain: Jesus, take us to your side.*

*Walk with us, the road will bend: make all our weeping, wailing end.
Wipe our tears, forgive our fears: Jesus, lift the heavy cross.*

*Talk with us, till we behold a joyful life you will unfold:
heal our eyes to see the prize: Jesus, take us to the light.*

*Stay with us, till day is done: no tears nor dark shall dim the sun.
Cheer the heart, your grace impart: Jesus, bring eternal life.*

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

✠ PREFACE

WL: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

WL: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

WL: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

✠ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

WL: As Jesus taught His disciples to pray, so we pray together:

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.**

✠ PAX DOMINI

WL: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION HYMN THINE THE AMEN, THINE THE PRAISE
LSB #680

- 1 **Thine the amen thine the praise
alleluias angels raise
thine the everlasting head
thine the breaking of the bread
thine the glory thine the story
thine the harvest then the cup
thine the vineyard then the cup
is lifted up lifted up.**

- 2 **Thine the life eternally
thine the promise let there be
thine the vision thine the tree
all the earth on bended knee
gone the nailing gone the railing
gone the pleading gone the cry
gone the sighing gone the dying
what was loss lifted high.**

- 3 **Thine the truly thine the yes
thine the table we the guest
thine the mercy all from thee
thine the glory yet to be
then the ringing and the singing
then the end of all the war
thine the living thine the loving
evermore evermore.**
- 4 **Thine the kingdom thine the prize
thine the wonder full surprise
thine the banquet then the praise
then the justice of thy ways
thine the glory thine the story
then the welcome to the least
then the wonder all increasing
at thy feast at thy feast.**
- 5 **Thine the glory in the night
no more dying only light
thine the river thine the tree
then the Lamb eternally
then the holy holy holy
celebration jubilee
thine the splendor thine the brightness
only thee only thee.**

✠ THE DISMISSAL

WL: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.

All: Amen.

✠ CLOSING PRAYER

WL: 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,

All: Amen.

✝ BLESSING

WL: 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.

All: Amen.

✝ SENDING HYMN

JESUS SHALL REIGN
LBW #530

✝ SENDING

WL: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

WL: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new.

All: Thanks be to God!

SOLI DEO GLORIA
TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY

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Liturgy from Lutheran Service Book.

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BE NOT AFRAID

Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community

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THINE THE AMEN

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Music: Carl F. Schalk

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