

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

May 14th, 2026



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Cover: “The Ascension”, by Theodore Galle, after Peter Paul Reubens, 1614

ORDER OF SERVICE

Stand and face the crucifix as it processes forward.

Hymn ----- A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

CW 171:1-3

1. A hymn of glory let us sing! New songs throughout the world shall ring:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ, by a road before untrod, Ascends unto the throne of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
2. The holy apostolic band Upon the Mount of Olives stand,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
And with his followers they see Their Lord ascend in majesty.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
3. To them the shining angels cry, "Why stand and gaze upon the sky?"
Alleluia! Alleluia!
"This is the Savior," thus they say. "This is his glorious triumph day."
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Stand.

M: In the name of the Father, and of the Son †, and of the Holy Spirit,

C: Amen.

DIALOGUE

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

M: Indeed, let this attitude be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. Though he was by nature God,

C: he did not consider equality with God as a prize to be displayed,

M: but he emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant.

C: When he was born in human likeness,

M: and his appearance was like that of any other man, he humbled himself

C: and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

M: Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

C: so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

M: and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,

C: to the glory of God the Father.

Hymn ----- A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

CW 171:4-6

4. “You see him now, ascending high Up to the portals of the sky.”
Alleluia! Alleluia!
“Hereafter Jesus you shall see Returning in great majesty.”
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
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!

Prayer of the Day

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Let us 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: A - men.

Be seated.

THE WORD

First Lesson ----- 2 Kings 2:5-15

Then the sons of the prophets who were in Jericho approached Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD is taking your master away from you?”

He said, “Yes, I know. Be quiet.”

Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here because the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.”

But he said, “As surely as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on.

Then fifty men from the sons of the prophets

came and stood and watched them from a distance, while the two of them were standing at the Jordan. Elijah took his cloak, folded it together, and struck the water. The water divided to the right and to the left. Then the two of them crossed on dry land.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask me for whatever I can do for you before I am taken from you.”

Then Elisha said, “Let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.”

He said, "You have asked for a difficult thing. If you see me being taken from you, it will surely be yours. But if not, then it will not."

While they were walking and talking, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire came and separated them. So Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha was watching and crying out, "My father! My father! Israel's chariot and its charioteers!" Then he did not see him anymore. He grabbed his clothing, and he ripped it into two pieces.

Then he picked up Elijah's cloak, which had

fallen from him. He returned and stood at the edge of the Jordan. He took Elijah's cloak, which had fallen from him, and he struck the water and said, "Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah? Yes, where is he?" As soon as he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left so that Elisha could cross.

When the sons of the prophets, who were watching him from Jericho, saw this, they said, "Elijah's spirit is resting on Elisha." They went to meet him and bowed down to the ground in front of him.

Psalm of the Day ----- Psalm 47

CWS p.47

Refrain

God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.

Clap your hands, all you nations;
shout to God with cries of joy.

How awesome is the LORD Most High,
the great King over all the earth!

God reigns over the nations;
God is seated on his holy throne.

Refrain

God has ascended amid shouts of joy,
the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

For God is the King of all the earth;
sing to him a psalm of praise.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Second Lesson ----- Acts 1:1–11

I wrote my first book, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began doing and teaching until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After he had suffered, he presented himself alive to the apostles with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and told them things about the kingdom of God.

Once, when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for what the Father promised, which 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 were together with him, they asked, “Lord, is this the time when you are going

to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

He said to them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set 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, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

After he said these things, he was taken up while they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight. They were looking intently into the sky as he went away. Suddenly, two men in white clothes stood beside them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Anthem ----- Why Do You Peer into the Skies?

Choir

Why do you peer into the skies,
Staring with open, wond’ring eyes?
See and believe that Christ came down,
Now claims again His holy crown:
Dying that all should be fulfilled,
Living as God the Father willed.

Why are you waiting on this hill?
 This is no time for standing still.
 Soon to receive the Spirit's pow'r,
 Pray and prepare for that great hour.
 Filled with the Word, go out and tell:
 Jesus defeated death and hell.

The reign of Satan now dispelled,
 The reign of God is still upheld.
 Shout to the Lord great songs of joy;
 Reaching new ears, all fears destroy.
 When trumpets sound, the great surprise:
 He will return, and we will rise.

Verse of the Day

Matthew 28:20

M: Alleluia. Surely I am with you always until the end of the age. Alleluia.



Stand.

Gospel ----- **Mark 16:14–20**

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Later, he appeared to the Eleven themselves as they were reclining at the table. He rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, be-

cause they did not believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

He said to them, "Go into all the world and

preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

“These signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons. They will speak in new languages. They will pick up snakes. And if they drink any deadly poison, it will not harm them. They will lay their hands on the sick, and they will get well.”

Then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to

them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

(The Paschal Candle is extinguished)

Those who went out preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Nicene Creed

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We be-

lieve in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day ----- Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels

CW 172

1. Up through endless ranks of angels, Cries of triumph in his ears,
To his heav'nly throne ascending, Having vanquished all their fears,
Christ looks down upon the faithful, Leaving them in happy tears.
2. Death destroying, life restoring, Proven equal to our need,
Now for us before the Father As our brother intercede;
Flesh that for the world was wounded, Living, for the wounded plead!
3. *(Choir)* To our lives of wanton wand'ring Send your promised Spirit-guide;
Through our lives of fear and failure With your pow'r and love abide;
Welcome us, as you were welcomed, To an endless Eastertide.
4. Alleluia, alleluia! Oh, to breathe the Spirit's grace!
Alleluia, alleluia! Oh, to see the Father's face!
Alleluia, alleluia! Oh, to feel the Son's embrace!

Sermon ----- Mark 16:14-20

Jesus Ascended to Broadcast the Gospel

Stand.

After the sermon, the congregation sings:

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Be seated.

Offering

Stand.

Prayer of the Church

M: Blessed Jesus, you ascended to
the right hand of your Father's majesty, power, and glory and now reign as
eternal King of kings and Lord of lords.

C: We praise you for your victory over sin, death, Satan, and hell.

M: O ascended Prophet, equip your Church to proclaim the precious gospel
message of God's love for all the world.

C: Give courage to our hearts, power to our words, and success to our ef-
forts.

Online giving option:
mluther.org/give



Offerings support the spread
of the Gospel here and around the world.

M: O ascended High Priest, represent us before the Father as his own dear children and heirs. Defend us against Satan's every accusation. Ask for the Father's rich blessings in our everyday lives.

C: **Plead for his mercy and grace on our behalf.**

M: O ascended King, direct the affairs of governments and nations that they may serve the best interests of your Church.

C: **You are our Lord, Master, and King.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: As the disciples lifted their eyes to watch your ascension, so lift our eyes daily to look for your coming again in glory.

C: **Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

C: **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 SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



C: **And al - so with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus



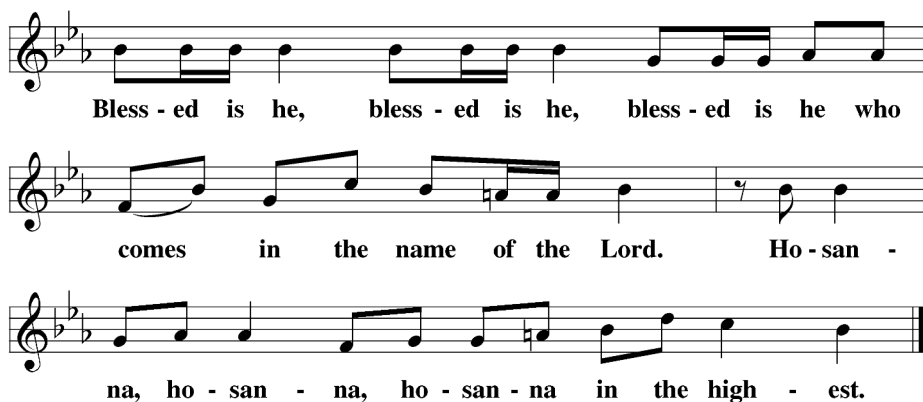
C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

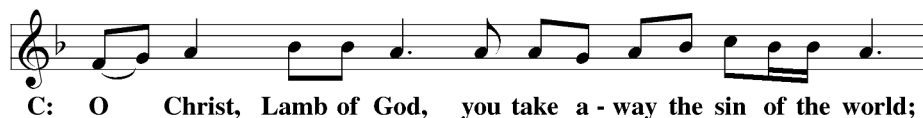
The peace of the Lord be with you always.



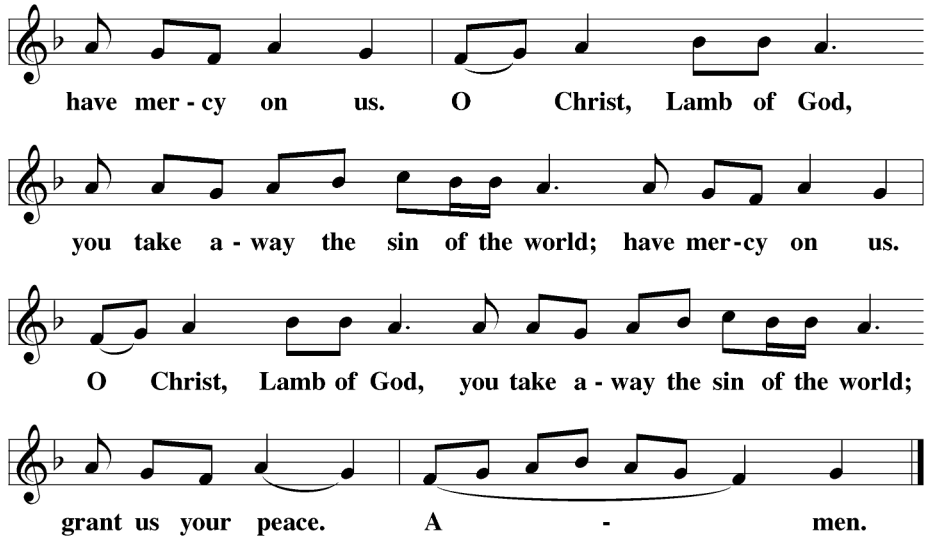
C: A - men.

O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

In Holy Communion we believe that Jesus gives us his own body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins. We ask that, in keeping with God's Word, only confirmed members who are in confessional unity with our church (WELS and ELS) would come forward to receive this sacrament. If you have any questions or are interested in communicant membership, please speak with the pastor.

During the distribution, the congregation sings the following hymns:

Hymns ----- Draw Us to Thee

CW 170

1. Draw us to thee, For then shall we
 Walk in thy steps forever
 And hasten on Where thou art gone
 To be with thee, dear Savior.

2. Draw us to thee, Lord, lovingly;
Let us depart with gladness
That we may be Forever free
From sorrow, grief, and sadness.
3. Draw us to thee; Oh, grant that we
May walk the road to heaven!
Direct our way Lest we should stray
And from thy paths be driven.
4. Draw us to thee That also we
Thy heav'nly bliss inherit
And ever dwell Where sin and hell
No more can vex our spirit.
5. Draw us to thee Unceasingly;
Into thy kingdom take us.
Let us fore'er Thy glory share;
Thy saints and joint heirs make us.

Hymns ----- Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

CW 169

1. Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation Has redeemed us by his blood."
2. Alleluia! Bread of heaven, Here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! Here the sinful Flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners, Earth's Redeemer, hear our plea
Where the songs of all the sinless Sweep across the crystal sea.

3. Alleluia! Not as orphans Are we left in sorrow now;
 Alleluia! He is near us; Faith believes, nor questions how.
 Though the cloud from sight received him When the forty days were o'er,
 Shall our hearts forget his promise: "I am with you evermore"?

After the distribution is finished the choir sings:

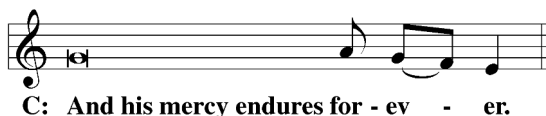
Song of Simeon

Nunc Dimittis



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
 to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
 pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
 Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



M: 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.



Remain standing. Face the crucifix while it recesses during the last stanza.

Hymn ----- See, the Conqueror Mounts in Triumph

CW 174

1. See, the conqu'ror mounts in triumph; See the King in royal state,
Riding on the clouds, his chariot, To his heav'nly palace gate.
Hark! The choirs of angel voices Joyful alleluias sing,
And the portals high are lifted To receive their heav'nly King.
2. Who is this that comes in glory With the trump of jubilee?
Lord of battles, God of armies, He has gained the victory.
He who on the cross did suffer, He who from the grave arose,
He has vanquished sin and Satan; He by death has crushed his foes.

3. While he lifts his hands in blessing, He is parted from his friends;
While their eager eyes behold him, He upon the clouds ascends.
He who walked with God and pleased him,
 Preaching truth and doom to come,
He, our Enoch, is translated To his everlasting home.
4. He has raised our human nature On the clouds to God's right hand;
There we sit in heav'nly places, There with him in glory stand.
Jesus reigns, adored by angels; Man with God is on the throne.
By our mighty Lord's ascension We by faith behold our own.

Be seated.



The Ascension, from "The Small Passion," Albrecht Dürer, ca. 1510.

