

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 17th, 2026



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EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
St. Louis, MO
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Cover: “The Ascension.” from the Mortiers Bible, 1700.

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.” (Acts 1:11)

THE COMMON SERVICE

Hymn ----- On Christ's Ascension I Now Build

CW 173

1. On Christ's ascension I now build The hope of my ascension.
This hope alone has always stilled All doubt and apprehension;
For where the head is, there as well I know his members are to dwell
When Christ shall come and call them.
2. Since Christ returned to claim his throne, Great gifts for me obtaining,
My heart shall rest in him alone, No other rest remaining,
For where my treasure went before, There all my thoughts shall ever
soar
To still their deepest yearning.
3. Oh, grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Recalling your ascension,
That I may serve you faithfully, Adorning your redemption;
And then, when all my days will cease, Let me depart in joy and peace
In answer to my pleading.

Stand.

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



CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: A - men.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Glory be to God

Gloria in Excelsis

C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,
God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the
sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the
sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of
God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;
you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,
are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Let us pray.

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.



C: A - men.

Be seated.

THE WORD

First Lesson ----- Ezekiel 36:22-28

Therefore, say this to the house of Israel. This is what the LORD God says. I am about to act, O house of Israel, not for your sake, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you have gone. I will sanctify my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the LORD God, when I reveal myself as holy in front of their eyes through you. I

will take you from among the nations. I will gather you from all the lands, and I will bring you to your own soil. I will sprinkle purifying water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your impurity and from all your filthy idols.

Then I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit inside you. I will remove the heart of stone from your body and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my Spirit within you and will cause you to walk in my statutes, and you will

carefully observe my ordinances. Then you will people, and I will be your God.
live in the land I gave your fathers. You will be my

Psalm of the Day ----- Psalm 27

CW p.75

Refrain

**The Lord is my light and my salvation—of whom shall I be afraid, of
whom shall I be afraid?**

Hear my voice when I call, O LORD;*
be merciful to me and answer me.

Do not hide your face from me,*
do not turn your servant away in anger;
you have been my helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me,*
O God my Savior.

Refrain

Though my father and mother forsake me,*
the LORD will receive me.

I am still confident of this:*
I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD;*
be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

**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 ----- 1 Peter 4:7–11

The end of all things is near. So have sound judgment and be self-controlled for the sake of your prayers. Above all, love each other constantly, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining.

Serve one another, each according to the gift he has received, as good stewards of the many

forms of God's grace. If anyone speaks, let him do it as one speaking the messages of God. If anyone serves, let him do it as one serving with the strength God supplies so that God may be glorified in every way through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

Verse of the Day

John 14:18

M: Alleluia. I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. Alleluia.



Stand.

Gospel ----- John 15:26–16:4

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father—he will testify about me. And you also are going to testify, because you have been with me from the beginning.

I have told you these things so that you will not fall away. They will put you out of the synagogues. In fact, a time is coming when anyone

who murders you will think he is offering a service to God. They will do these things because they have not known the Father or me. But I have told you these things so that when their time comes, you may remember that I told them to you. I did not tell you these things from the beginning, because I was with you.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

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 believe 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 ----- O Holy Spirit, Enter In

CW 184

1. O Holy Spirit, enter in And in our hearts your work begin,
Your dwelling place now make us.
Sun of the soul, O Light divine, Around and in us brightly shine,
To joy and gladness wake us
That we May be Truly living, To you giving Prayer unceasing
And in love be still increasing.
2. Give to your Word impressive pow'r
That in our hearts from this good hour
As fire it may be glowing,
That in true Christian unity We faithful witnesses may be,
Your glory ever showing.
Hear us, Cheer us By your teaching; Let our preaching And our labor
Praise you, Lord, and serve our neighbor.
3. O mighty Rock, O Source of life, Let your dear Word, in doubt and strife,
In us be strongly burning
That we be faithful unto death And live in love and holy faith,
From you true wisdom learning.
Your grace And peace On us shower; By your power Christ confessing,
Let us see our Savior's blessing.

Sermon ----- John 15:26–16:4

With the Spirit You Are Going to Testify

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

The minister offers the petitions and the congregation joins with “hear our prayer.”

M: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

M: Lord God, You have given boldness to Your children through the resurrection of Your Son from the dead. Free us from fear of the world, its temptations, its ways and its power, and fix our eyes on Christ alone, that we may be faithful to Him even to death. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Online giving option:

mluther.org/give



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

- M: O God, strengthen Your Holy Church to give witness to Christ, to bear persecution and to live in the confidence that if You are for us nothing can separate us from You. Strengthen the ministers of Your Holy Church, especially Mark Schroeder, our synod president, Dennis Klatt, our district president, and our pastor. Send laborers into Your harvest, and sustain those You have sent. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: Heavenly Father, You blot out transgressions and wash away iniquity. Sustain the families of Your Church, that husbands, wives and children would be cleansed from their sins and live together in peace. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: O Lord, You have shown Your face to us in Your Son, Jesus Christ. Answer those who cry out in His name [*including _____*]. Be their stronghold, and preserve them unto eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: Almighty God, fill us with joy as we approach Your altar to receive the body and blood of Christ. Give us the peace that surpasses understanding, the gladness no man can take from us, and the hope that does not fade away. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: Merciful Lord, You promised the land of Canaan to our fathers of old. Now You promise a new creation to all Your saints. In their fellowship, sanctify us to do Your will in this life and at last to receive eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: Lord God, heavenly Father, we give You thanks that through Your Holy Spirit You have appointed us to bear witness to Your dear Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Since the world cannot endure this testimony and persecutes us in every way, encourage and comfort us, we implore You, that we would not be offended by these crosses, but continue steadfast in Your testimony and be found always among those who know You and Your Son until we obtain eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,

who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: 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."

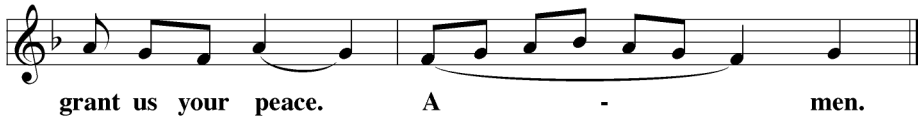
The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
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:

Hymn ----- At the Name of Jesus
CW 344

1. At the name of Jesus Ev'ry knee shall bow,
Ev'ry tongue confess him King of glory now;
'Tis the Father's pleasure We should call him Lord,
Who from the beginning Was the mighty Word.
2. At his voice creation Sprang at once to sight,
All the angel faces, All the hosts of light,
Cherubim in heaven, Stars upon their way,
All the heav'nly orders In their great array.
3. Humbled for a season To receive a name
From the lips of sinners Unto whom he came,
Faithfully he bore it Spotless to the last,
Brought it back victorious When from death he passed;

4. Bore it up triumphant With its human light,
Through all ranks of creatures To the central height,
To the throne of Godhead, To the Father's breast,
Filled it with the glory Of that perfect rest.
5. In your hearts enthrone him; There let him subdue
All that is not holy, All that is not true.
Crown him as your captain In temptation's hour;
Let his will enfold you In its light and pow'r.
6. Christians, this Lord Jesus Shall return again
In his Father's glory, With his angel train;
For all wreaths of empire Meet upon his brow,
And our hearts confess him King of glory now.

Hymn ----- Hail, O Once-Despised Jesus

CW 351

1. Hail, O once-despised Jesus! Hail, O Galilean King!
You have suffered to release us, Hope to give and peace to bring.
Hail, O universal Savior, Bearer of our sin and shame;
By your merits we find favor; Life is given through your name.
2. Paschal Lamb, by God appointed, All our sins on you were laid;
By almighty love anointed, You have full atonement made.
Ev'ry sin has been forgiven Through the power of your blood;
Open is the gate of heaven; We are reconciled to God.
3. Jesus, heav'nly hosts adore you, Seated at your Father's side.
Crucified this world once saw you; Now in glory you abide.
There for sinners you are pleading, And our place you now prepare,
Ever for us interceding Till in glory we appear.

4. Worship, honor, pow'r, and blessing You are worthy to receive;
 Loudest praises, without ceasing, Right it is for us to give.
 Help, O bright angelic spirits, All your noblest anthems raise;
 Help to sing our Savior's merits; Help to chant Immanuel's praise.

After the distribution is finished the congregation stands and sings:

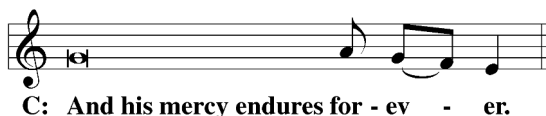
Song of Simeon

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.



Be seated.

Hymn ----- Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor

CW 352

1. Lord, enthroned in heav'nly splendor, Mighty Firstborn from the dead,
 You alone, our strong Defender, You lift up your people's head.
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Jesus, true and living Bread! Jesus, true and living Bread!
2. Though the lowliest form once veiled you As of old in Bethlehem,
 Here as there your angels hail you, Branch and Flow'r of Jesse's stem.
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
 We in worship join with them; We in worship join with them.

3. **Paschal Lamb, your off'ring, finished Once for all when you were slain,
In its fullness undiminished, Shall forevermore remain,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Cleansing souls from ev'ry stain; Cleansing souls from ev'ry stain.**
4. **Life-imparting heav'nly Manna, Stricken Rock with streaming side,
Heav'n and earth with loud hosanna Worship you, the Lamb who died.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Ris'n, ascended, glorified! Ris'n, ascended, glorified!**

