



“They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

~ Acts 1:11

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Ascension of Our Lord – May 17, 2026**

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshiping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Guest information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

*A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service. This room is by the elevator on the lower level. An adult must remain with the child. Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.*

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

***GREETING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps 118:24)

Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving, give thanks and bless God's holy name!

(Psalm 100:4)

***GATHERING HYMN *Open Your Ears O Faithful People* (ELW 519)**



1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo-ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's word.
 2 They who have ears to hear the mes-sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;



O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you.
 they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.

Refrain



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
 God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
 God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
 God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
 God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life. **Amen.**

Creating God, blessed are you. You are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Redeeming God, Jesus Christ, blessed are you. You are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We praise you for joining us in sorrow and joy.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Sustaining God, Holy Spirit, blessed are you. You are the breath of life.

Who calls us, gathers us, and declares us holy.

We ask you to fill us with the breath of peace and break down barriers that divide us.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

People of God, in our baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are joined to Christ and born anew, called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.

Take from me the way of lying; let me find grace through your teaching. I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I have set your judgments before me. I hold fast to your decrees; O Lord, do not put me to shame. (Psalm 119:29-31)

Give us new life, shaped by your grace and emboldened to witness to your resurrection.

Living God, we give you thanks, for in these waters, you promise welcome, forgiveness, and life everlasting. In these waters, you claim us as your beloved children.


I will run the way of your commandments for you increase my heart's capacity. (Psalm 119:32)

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen .


Let us sing for joy at God's victory over death!

*THIS IS THE FEAST


Refrain



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be




peo-ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

Refrain




hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of




vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and




join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.

A reading from Ephesians.

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.


The author of the letter says, "I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus." In what ways are you living your faith so that others may see or hear of your faith in Jesus?

Silence for reflection

***GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL (ELW 164)**

*The cantor will sing the leader part,
the congregation is invited to join in the "all" parts and all group parts.*

Leader



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

All



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

Leader



To God be glo-ry for-ev - er!

All



To God be glo-ry for-ev - er!

Leader



Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!

Leader




Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!

Group 1



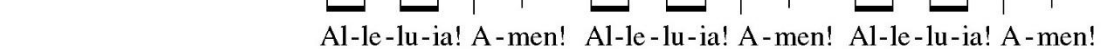
Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!

Group 1, 2



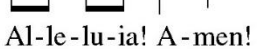
Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!

Group 1



Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!

Group 1, 2



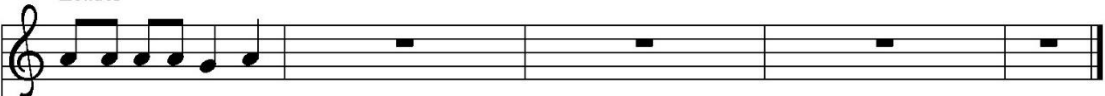
Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!

Group 1, 2




Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!

Leader




Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!

Group 1, 2, 3




Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!

Group 1, 2, 3



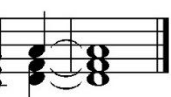
Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!

Group 1, 2, 3



Al-le-lu-ia! A-men!

Group 1, 2, 3



Al-le-lu-ia! A - men!

***GOSPEL READING: Luke 24:44-53**

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁴ [Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

What inspires worship and great joy for you in your relationship with God?

Silence for reflection

***GOSPEL RESPONSE (ELW 172)**

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-14

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

A reading from Acts.

[Luke writes:] ¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ 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.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Where and with whom do you gather for your own spiritual nourishment and encouragement?

Silence for reflection

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY *Before the Ancient One, Christ Stands* (ACS 953)**

(Blue prayer cards are collected)



1 Be - fore the An - cient One, Christ stands, en - robed in cloud and
2 Who was, who is, and is to come as ser - vant lived in
3 Now in the lat - ter days you call, O Christ, and plead the



bright as snow, five wounds im - print his side, feet, hands, and
hu - man sphere; com - pas - sion was his di - a - dem; his
prem - ise clear, that pow - er grasped is none at all, and



thorns, the gar - land on his brow. Yet thrones and
glo - ry was the gen - tle tear; hu - mil - i -
serv - ing shows your Spir - it near. As na - tions



pow'rs fall to the knee and weave a song of maj - es - ty,
ty, his pur - ple garb; the heal - ing hand, his roy - al orb.
clash and wis - dom wanes, as glo - ries tempt and greed sus - tains,



for what the world ad - mires as gain is not the es - sence
Such love drew ire and ire drew death, but God has proved the
you bid us choose in ev - 'ry hour the pow'r of love, the



of Christ's reign, and strength is his, and name and
tru - er strength, and through all space the host pro -
great - est pow'r, that love may her - ald God's do -



might, be - cause he pit - ied hu - mans' plight.
claims the name a - bove all oth - er names.
main, and you, at last, may come to reign.

***NICENE CREED**

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed

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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic 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.

**Or, "who proceeds from the father." The phrase "and the son" is a later addition to the creed.*

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation. *A brief silence for reflection*

Gracious God, your Son Jesus ascended to fill all time and space and is present with all people. By your Holy Spirit, lead your church and its leaders in faith, hope, and love, and in sharing the presence of Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Majestic God, your Son Jesus entrusts his ministry to his followers to care for all you have created. Instill in us a commitment to sustainable ecological practices. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, your Son Jesus sits at your right hand and rules the cosmos. Inspire national and local politicians to lead with equity and fairness, raise up advocates and activists for those seeking justice, and cultivate peace throughout the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, your Son Jesus carries with him the scars of suffering as our wounded healer. Guide with your wisdom the work of surgeons, pharmacists, midwives, and all medical specialists, and bring your healing touch to all who are sick, especially Geneva, Cherry, Henry, Harry, Sally, Debi, Karen, Nan, Beverly, those on our prayer list, all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts and all who suffer in any way. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Caring God, your Son Jesus reveals the depths of your love and gathers all people to himself. Accompany us in our work and play to make your presence known in all that we do. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Life-giving God, by his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus destroyed death forever. With thanksgiving we remember those who rest from the labors, assured of your promise of everlasting life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of place and presence, we offer the prayer we bring into this space on this day (*blue prayer cards are read*). Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love. Use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

You are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcome to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.

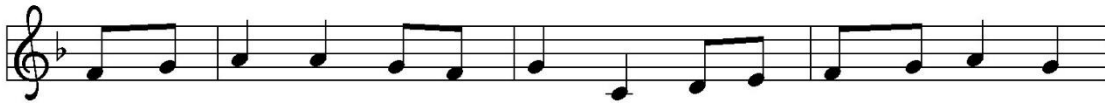
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

COLLECTION OF THE OFFERING

You are invited to share a gift to support the ministries of this congregation during the following song. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Prayer requests, connection cards, and communion records are also collected at this time.

OFFERTORY HYMN *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song* (ELW 403) *Rise on verse 3



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
prayer, with the pow'r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with the church of all times and places and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join the unending hymn:



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer
 You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.
 than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



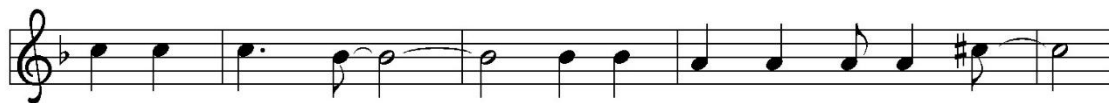
Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
 Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
 to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,
 You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!
 you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,
 Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.
 Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

God, you are indeed holy and wholeness. You give us the gift of faith, surrounding us with such a great cloud of witnesses who accompany us on our baptismal journey, strengthening and nourishing us in word and sacrament.

You come into the space of the locked room and fearful hearts, offering a word of peace and grace. We learn from Thomas and all the disciples to hear your Word. **Amen.**

You meet the disciples along the road, making yourself known in the breaking of the bread. We learn from them to share together in the Lord's Supper. **Amen.**

You are the Good Shepherd who calls us by name and gathers us together. We learn to live among your faithful people in your care. **Amen.**

You emboldened Stephen to care for those in need, even at the expense of his own safety. We learn from Stephen to serve all people following in the example of Christ, striving for justice and peace in all the earth. **Amen.**

You dwelt in Paul as the Spirit of truth as he brought your Gospel to new ears. We learn from Paul to proclaim your Good News in Christ through word and deed. **Amen.**

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people.

Blessed are you, Lord God, for coming near in this bread and wine.
Alleluia! Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray:

**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**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Every one of us are invited to the table God has prepared before us just as we are. For here we are gathered with the cloud of witnesses of all times and places, here we are fed with the body and blood of Christ, here we know God's overflowing grace for us. Now come. Not because you must, but because you can. Come. Taste and see that the Lord is good. This meal is for you. **Thanks be to God!**

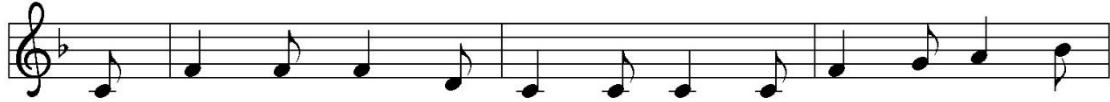
Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God* (ELW 198)



O Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us. O Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. O Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace.

COMMUNION HYMN *I Come with Joy* (ELW 482)



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

COMMUNION HYMN *As the Grains of Wheat* (ELW 465)



As the grains of wheat once scat - tered on the hill were



gath - ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo - ple from



all the ends of earth be gath - ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
 2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
 all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in grace.
Amen

*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise* (ELW 207)



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

**Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me. (Psalm 31:3)**

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*BLESSING

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

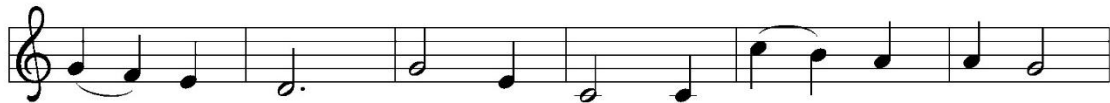
May the Creator of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.

Alleluia! Amen.

***SENDING SONG *Lord, You Give the Great Commission* (ELW 579)**



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis-sion: "Heal the sick and
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea-sure: "Fa - ther, what they
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,
 this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,



and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness
 life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new
 dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the
 all that you so free - ly give. May your care and
 may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the



to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
 fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
 world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:
 mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
 cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:



Refrain
 With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

***DISMISSAL**

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it! (Psalm 118: 23-24)

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Go forth in joy to love and serve the risen Christ!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

**The flowers on the altar were supplied by Janet Senka in memory of
George and Josephine Senka.**

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Valerie C.

Young Reader: Abby C.

Acolyte: Lydia M.

Offering: Jose W. and Cate S.

Attendance last week: 62 + 3 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

We often cast our eyes upward to look for God. When we are feeling lonely or misunderstood, we raise our hands to ask why, or shake our fists in gestures of prayer, anguish, or praise. While the scriptures promise that God is king of all the earth, sitting on his holy throne (Psalm 47), we need not only look up for God's action in our lives. Our ascended Lord lives in the heavens, but Jesus does not leave his disciples—or us—to fumble while he naps in the clouds. Before he ascends, Jesus promises that we are clothed with the Holy Spirit's power, witnesses "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

"Why do you stand looking up toward heaven?" the two men in white robes asked the witnesses remaining after Jesus ascended. Why do we stand still in our lives? Is it that we just saw God (Look!

Up there! Did you see?), so we expect God to arrive in the same way again? Can God be that expected and predictable? This story of Jesus ascending to the heavens after his time with us on earth gives us mixed feelings: we know he's returning to where he belongs—out of this world full of brokenness and sin to holiness and glory. Still, our longing is intense: Lord, we want to see you! How will we know it is you when you come again?

Ascension Day could be explained as the cynical "I'm outta here" of a God weary of us self-centered, broken humans, but that explanation would be short-sighted because it leaves out the important stop on the cross. Instead, Jesus' departure is accompanied with the promise of the Spirit's presence remaining among us. We look up to the skies for help, then return our gaze to those among us in need of our care, to the body of Christ and the wind of the Spirit among the baptized, preparing for the time when Jesus comes again to gather us in.

Today's Music

Open Your Ears O Faithful People. Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version, Music: Hasidic tune. OCP (Oregon Catholic Press) / Public Domain / Augsburg Fortress.

Before the Ancient One, Christ Stands. Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, 1953-2021, Music: Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950. Augsburg Fortress.

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song. Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, Music: Peter Cutts, b. 1937. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP).

I Come with Joy. Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936, Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP) / Public Domain.

As the Grains of Wheat. Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950, Music: Marty Haugen. GIA Publications, Inc.

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise. Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927. Augsburg Fortress.

Lord, You Give the Great commission. Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934, Music: Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP).

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Next Week's Readings

Numbers 11:24-30 *The Spirit comes upon the elders of Israel*

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b *Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. (Ps. 104:30)*

Acts 2:1-21 *Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds*

John 20:19-23 *The Spirit poured out*