



THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

MAY 17, 2026 | 9:30 AM

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH; CONCORDIA, MO

ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

Alleluia! Christ is risen! During the Easter Season, we celebrate resurrection—the resurrection of Jesus as well as our own. We are God’s new creation, filled with the undying life of our Savior. As the Spirit fills the Church on Pentecost, this life invigorates God’s people for mission and ministry. *This is Part 5 of a year-long series, “A Year in Matthew.”*

P Pastor **C** Congregation/All

✠ All may make the sign of the cross to remember their baptism.



Led by the Holy Spirit, we gather for worship.
We are prepared for worship through Confession and Absolution.

PRELUDE, WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION AND INTRODUCTION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, for forty days we have been celebrating with joyful hearts the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, His bursting from the tomb and His defeat of the power of sin and death. He appeared to His disciples many times and told them about the kingdom of God. Today we recall how He left this earth and returned to His Father, ascending into heaven to take His throne over all dominions and powers. Trusting in His reign over all creation, and submitting to His kingly yet loving rule, let us hear the story of His parting.

ASCENSION READING *Acts 1:1–11*

Before His ascension into heaven, Jesus promises His followers the powerful gift of the Holy Spirit and tells them how they will be His witnesses throughout the earth.

[Saint Luke writes:] In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³He presented himself alive to them

after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from

me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria,

and to the end of the earth.” ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

- P** God has gone up with a shout,
- C** **the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.** (*Psalm 47:5*)
- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 495 *“Look, Ye Saints, the Sight Is Glorious”*

BAPTISM OF FAITH ELIZABETH OEHLSCHLAEGER *See page 268.*

CONFESSION OF SINS & FORGIVENESS *1 John 1:8–9*

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE “*This Is the Feast*”

Revelation 5:12–13; 19:5–9; for text and tune, see page 155.

Refrain: (sing) **This is the feast of victory for our God.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

C **Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God.** *Refrain*

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
And honor, blessing and glory are His.** *Refrain*

**Sing with all the people of God,
And join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
Be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.** *Refrain*

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign.
Alleluia.** *Refrain*

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P 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.

VERSE OF THE MONTH *Psalms 95:1–2*

C Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

A little while
and you shall
see me
no longer;
ALLELUIA!
and again
a little while
and you shall
see me,
because I go to the Father;



We hear God's Word read and proclaimed,
and we respond with our prayers and praise, tithes and offerings.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 1:15–23*

The risen Christ is seated at God the Father's right hand in heaven.

¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of

his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far 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 one to come. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE *John 6:68; for text and tune, see page 156.*

C (sung) Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 24:1–14*

Jesus describes the signs of the end times.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. ²But he answered them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” ³As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and

what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. ⁵For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. ⁶And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁷For nation will rise against nation, and

kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

⁹“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. ¹⁰And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one

another. ¹¹And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. ¹²And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ¹⁴And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN 348 “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns” (choir: v. 2)

SERMON *Called to Live: “Living in the Meantime”*

GATHERING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

All may sign the friendship register found in each pew.

Music during the offering:

ANTHEM “Christ Is with Me”

by Gerald Patrick Coleman (Joyful Sounds Choir)

During the gathering of the offerings, all may bring forward their Together: Faith+Mission+Life Commitment Card and place it in the box in the front of the sanctuary.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

G hear our prayer.



We receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation as we share the Sacrament of the Altar.

The service continues with the Preface on page 160 in the hymnal.

We believe that in the Lord's Supper our Lord gives to us His true body and blood with the bread and the wine for the forgiveness of our sins. We recognize the charge that St. Paul offers in 1 Corinthians 11:27–28 that those who come to receive the Lord's Supper ought to examine themselves so that they do not eat and drink in an

unworthy manner. Therefore, out of concern for those who have not been instructed in the faith or who hold to a different confession, we ask that only members of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations receive the Sacrament. If you would like to learn more about what our congregation teaches, to inquire about becoming a member or have questions about our practice, please speak to one of the pastors. Adults and children who have not yet been baptized or instructed in the Christian faith are invited to come forward and receive a spoken blessing at the altar rail; please indicate this by crossing your arms across your chest.

For those who require it, diluted wine is found in the purple glasses in the center of the tray of individual cups; gluten free wafers are available upon request.

Music during distribution:

VOLUNTARY “All Creatures of Our God and King”

setting by Valerie Stephenson (Handbells)

HYMN 491 “Up through Endless Ranks of Angels” (You may remain seated for v. 4.)

HYMN 492 “On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build”

HYMN 494 “See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph”

HYMN 512 “At the Name of Jesus” (You may remain seated for v. 7.)



Even as this time of worship ends, we go out of the church into the worship of our everyday lives, ready to be God’s witnesses and do His will.

The service concludes with the Post-Communion Canticle (“Thank the Lord”), Post-Communion Collect, and Benediction on pages 164–166.

EASTER GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

RECESSIONAL HYMN 493 “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”

SENDING & POSTLUDE

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

This week’s takeaway: Living in the meantime, between Jesus’ ascension and return

on the Last Day, is a confusing and challenging time marked by worldly brokenness and spiritual struggle. However, Christians can endure to the end by relying on Christ's abiding presence while we boldly proclaim the Gospel of God's kingdom.

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Liturgist*

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Preacher*

Katie Drefs, *Organist*

Kathryn Oetting, *Accompanist*

Louisa Lehenbauer, *Violin*

Hannah Bingham, Anthony Brandt, Emma Cooper, Titus Drefs,
Michael Heins, Madie Kuecker, Clairra Martens, Rachel Martens,

Mark Oetting, Owen Wasson, *Brass Ensemble*

Jonah Virus, *Crucifer*

Quinn Marsh, Emma Cooper, *Acolytes*

Joe & Janice Blackburn, *Greeters*

John Beerman, Andy Jones, Mark Schelp, *Elders on Duty*

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please contact the church office to keep our prayer list up-to-date.

Our pastor "on call" number in case of emergency is (660) 580-5483.

New: Joe Connell, Bridget Kageman, Addie Ziegelbein, Rollie Beerman, Virgil Gramenz, Hudson Kloos, Nicole Maxwell, Alan Luebbert, Lisa Arnett, Ron Roepe, Joyce Kroll, Rev. Dr. Les Mitkos, Susan Reeves

Ongoing: Donald Dedeke, Richard Cordes, Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan, Diane Stumpenhous, Ken Wodrich, Les Bruns, Wilmer Bredehoeft, Melba Poese, Paul Brackman, Baby Felix, Gene Virus, Harry Rehkop, Nolan Kirby, Jon Spells, Roger Kammeyer, Ledrue Brandt, Alyssa Pfannkuch, Alice Hildebrand, Donnie Fiene, Rev. Perry Copus, Darla Wolters, Vickie Greene, Amy Gerdts, Tim Bergman, Amy Backus, David Rehmsmeyer, Lari Huntze, Kelly Meyer, Shirley Kimball

Nation and World: the people of Tajikistan

Partners in Mission: St. Paul Lutheran Church; California, MO and Rev. Evandro Kopper, Sr; Lutheran Braille Workers

Birthdays: (5/17) Emerson Rankin; (5/18) Ledrue Brandt, Delisa Cogburn, Carol Inman, Robert Meineka; (5/19) Wayne Lindeman, Keaton Marsh, AJ Page, Ari Shafer, Vonda Urban; (5/20) Steve Beerman, Andy Jones, Sam Moore, Tim Schnakenberg; (5/21) Waylon Frerking, Terry Gerdts, Quentin Jones; (5/22) Emily

Aversman, Nancy Deatherage, Harrison Hegeman, Royce Herndon, Mark Schnakenberg; (5/23) Tom Burrow, Bodhi Hunter, Wess Murray, Barbara Peuster, Jerry Poese
Anniversaries: (5/18) Charles & Melissa Koonce; (5/21) Bart & Brenda Brackman

FAMILY FOOTNOTES

Gina Martens, Family Life Director

Logic screams *impossible*, and faith whispers *with God all things are possible*. God's will does not always add up in our human calculations. Sometimes we let the *how* get in the way of *what* God wants us to do. Pray, pray, pray. My prayer is that God would guide us, step by step, through this day and that we would have willing ears and a heart that listens. If you are in a season of life when the thought of a day simply overwhelms you, know that Jesus is taking your hand and leading you step by step. You don't have to focus on the entire day. Focus on Him to lead you right at this very second. It could be that you are hesitant about moving forward or you have huge decisions to make and you just aren't sure which way to go. I once read something to the effect that God has already equipped me with what I need to handle today. I find great comfort in that. It might come in the form of an encouraging word from a friend, a person praying for me, something that I read, a passage from my devotion for the day, and the list goes on. Never underestimate God's power! "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP

Numbers 11:24–30; Acts 2:1–21; Matthew 12:22–37

Hymns (*Lutheran Service Book*): 501, 834, 498, 496 (*My First Hymnal* 76), 503, 500



"Making a Christ-centered difference in our community and world today and for eternity."

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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