

May 17, 2026

Ascension of our Lord

THEME: Stories That Matter – Living the Sequel

10:15 AM Worship

Descriptor for front of bulletin:

The season of Easter, or Eastertide, is a time of embracing the promise and hope of Resurrection. It is a time of leaning into the stories that matter. Come and gather around the stories of those who wrestled with the Easter event and some of the words of preparation that Jesus gave to help us live the reality of eternity now. It is clear from these stories that Jesus wanted to equip us to thrive in a season of Easter promise. Ascension marks the completion of Christ's work and the beginning of ours. Today's service frames worship as blessing—receiving Christ's promise and responding with praise

Graphic for bulletin:



+ GATHERING +

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

PRELUDE Prelude and Fugue in D Minor - J.S. Bach

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Easter people, in this season of Eastertide, we remember the blessings God gives us—the blessings of Resurrection, salvation, and new life in Christ.

We come to praise God for the blessings of Easter!

We recall the blessings of creation—of clean air and water, of food and shelter, of beauty and awe.

We come to praise God for the blessings of creation!

We share in the blessings of community—of family and friends, of church and home, of help that is given and received.

We come to praise God for the blessings of community!

Easter people, we gather today to remember Christ's Ascension, when Jesus was taken up into heaven while blessing his disciples, marking not the end but the next chapter of God's salvific work among us.

We come to bless God with our praise as God continues to bless us with all that we need to live as God's Resurrection people. Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN ELW 392 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus vs 1-3

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

While we claim to celebrate the ascension of our Lord, the way we live proclaims our lack of faith in his power to deal with the world. Let us confess the incongruity between our faith and practice. Let us pray:

We come, O Lord, on this day of glory to confess our lack of trust. While we sing of your lordship over all creation, we have too often acted as though you are powerless in the face of today's events. Help us to live with confidence in your presence today and in hope for life with you forever. Amen.

Jesus promised his disciples that they would not be alone – that he would be with them to the end of the age. May this promise of the resurrected and ascended Lord remind us that God not only promises presence but forgiveness. You are forgiven by a merciful God who loves you.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PRAISE same as May 10

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, 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.

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The musical score consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo and meter are not explicitly stated. The lyrics are 'Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system also ends with a double bar line.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53

At the beginning of the reading:

The holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the reading:

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 430 Rejoice, for Christ is king!

NICENE CREED

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each prayer petition will end with the phrase:

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor - setting by Larry Shackley

OFFERTORY – *if you can find the bulletin from Jan 18, this same offertory was used – we want the one that just has verses 1 and 3.*



1 We place up - on your ta - ble, Lord, where you by
2 With - in these sim - ple things there lie the height and
3 Ac - cept them, Lord; they come from you; we take them



grace have bid us dine, these to - kens of our dai - ly
depth of hu - man life: our pain and tears, our thoughts and
hum - bly from your hand; put these your gifts to high - er



work, the food of life, the bread and wine.
toils, our hopes and fears, our joy and strife.
use: the ho - ly meal that you com - mand.

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessing God of Presence, even as Christ ascended, you did not leave us alone. While he was blessing them, you were preparing us to carry the story forward, to be your witnesses, to live in hope and power. In this sacred act of giving, we return a portion of what you have entrusted to us. May these gifts be a blessing to others, as Christ has been to us. Clothe us with courage.

Remind us that your Spirit goes with us. And send us, renewed and ready, to be your church in the world. In the name of Christ, we pray **Amen.**

THE 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 God thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
Our Father...

LAMB OF GOD - same as May 3

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF COMMUNION - continuous on the floor

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION ELW 494 For the Bread which You have broken

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

+ SENDING +

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

May God bless you
with the understanding, wisdom, and grace
to follow the way of Christ,
that in all things,
your life may be a blessing of praise to God.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW 392 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus vs. 4-5

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Postlude on "Blaenwern" (Love Divine, all Loves excelling) - Ian Higginson

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