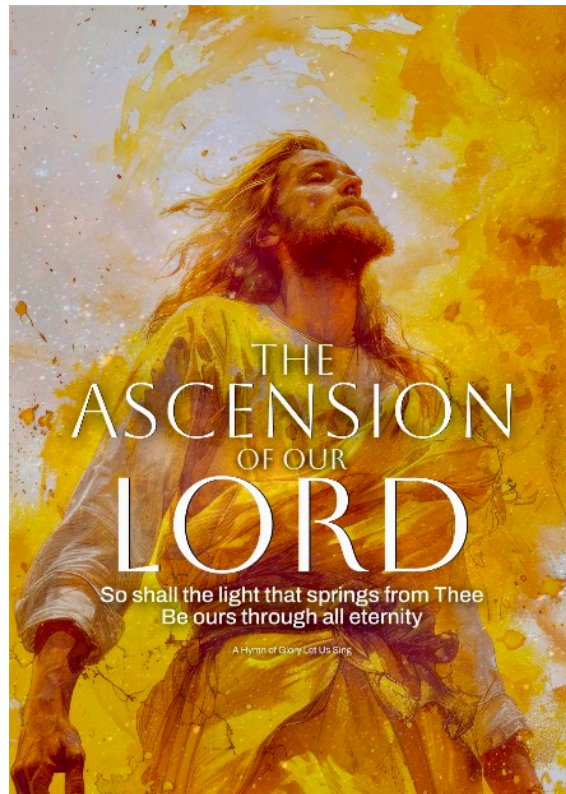


# The Ascension of Our Lord (Observed)



May 17, 2026

St. John's Lutheran Churches

[stjohnslutheranjc.com](http://stjohnslutheranjc.com)

**Schubert**

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**About This Service:** The heart of Christianity is not what we do for God but what God has done for us in Christ Jesus. We call our service the "Divine Service" because the Divine One, our Lord Jesus, promises to be present to serve us by His Word and with His body and blood.

**Are My Children Welcome?** Our Lord says, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14). Yes, your little ones are more than welcome! We are delighted to have them with us in the service!

**Visitors:** Welcome to St. John's! If you have not already done so, please fill out the visitor's book outside of the sanctuary. If you don't yet have a church home, or have any questions about what we believe, teach, and confess, feel free to speak with Pastor; he would be happy to talk with you!

**Communion:** We ask that all visitors speak with Pastor before the service and prior to coming up for communion. We invite those who are communicant members of the LC-MS to commune with us. If you are not a communicant member of the LC-MS, please cross your arms when you come up to the communion rail to receive a blessing.

## Ringling of the Bell

### Prelude

### Welcome

### Opening Hymn TLH 221 "Hark! Ten Thousand Harps and Voices"

Hark! ten thousand harps and voices Sound the note of praise above;  
Jesus reigns, and heaven rejoices,— Jesus reigns, the God of Love.  
See, He sits on yonder throne; Jesus rules the world alone.

Come, ye saints, unite your praises With the angels round His throne;  
Soon, we hope, our God will raise us To the place where He is gone.  
Meet it is that we should sing, "Glory, glory, to our King!"

Sing how Jesus came from heaven, How He bore the cross below,  
How all power to Him is given, How He reigns in glory now;  
'Tis a great and endless theme, Oh, 'tis sweet to sing of Him!

Jesus, hail! Thy glory brightens All above and gives it worth;  
Lord of Life, Thy smile enlightens, Cheers, and charms Thy saints on earth.  
When we think of love like Thine, Lord, we own it love divine.

King of Glory, reign forever; Thine an everlasting crown.  
Nothing from Thy love shall sever Those whom Thou hast made Thine own,  
Happy objects of Thy grace, Destined to behold Thy face.

Savior, hasten Thine appearing; Bring, oh, bring, the glorious day  
When, the awe-full summons hearing, Heaven and earth shall pass away;  
Then with golden harps we'll sing, "Glory, glory, to our King!" Amen.

## **The Order of Worship, Page 15 TLH**

**Invocation:** *TLH Page 15 [Responses Sung]*

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

C: **Amen.**

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: **Who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C: **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

**Confession of Sins** *TLH Page 16*

ALL: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**Absolution** *TLH Page 16*

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

C: *[Sung]* **Amen.**

**Introit** (P: Pastor C: Congregation) *Psalm 110:1, 4–5; antiphon: Psalm 47:5*

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

**C: The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand,  
until I make your enemies your footstool.”**

P: The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind,  
“You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”

**C: The Lord is at your right hand;  
he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.**

**Gloria Patri:** *TLH Page 16 [Sung]*

**C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

**The Kyrie:** *TLH Page 17 [Sung]*

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**The Gloria in Excelsis:** *TLH Pages 17-19 [Sung]*

**C: Glory be to God on high; And on earth peace, good will toward men.  
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,  
We glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.  
O Lord God, heav’nly King, God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.  
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.  
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Salutation and Collect**

*TLH Page 19*

P: The Lord be with you!

**C: And with thy spirit!**

*(prayed together)* – **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.**

**Response: [Sung] Amen.**

### **First Reading – Acts 1:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

<sup>4</sup>And 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; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup>He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But 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.” <sup>9</sup>And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup>and 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.”

### **Epistle Reading – Ephesians 1:15-23**

<sup>15</sup>For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup>that 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, <sup>18</sup>having 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, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup>that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>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 one to come. <sup>22</sup>And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

**Gradual** (*Pastor speaks, congregation responds with “Hallelujahs!”*)

P: Christ has risen from the dead.

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

he has put all things under his feet.

**C: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

*As the Gospel reading is announced, the congregation sings...*     **C: GLORY BE TO THEE, O LORD!**

### **Gospel Reading – Luke 24:44-53**

<sup>44</sup>Then [Jesus] said to 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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

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

*The Gospel ended, the congregation sings...*

**C: PRAISE BE TO THEE, O CHRIST!**

**The Nicene Creed** *TLH Page 22*

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Sermon Hymn** *TLH 212 "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"*

**A hymn of glory let us sing; New songs thro'out the world shall ring: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ, by a road before untrod. Ascendeth to the throne of God. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**The holy apostolic band Upon the Mount of Olives stand; Alleluia! Alleluia!  
And with His followers they see Jesus' resplendent majesty. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**To whom the angels, drawing nigh, "Why stand and gaze upon the sky? Alleluia! Alleluia!  
This is the Savior," thus they say; "This is His noble triumph-day." Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**"Again shall ye behold Him so As ye today have seen Him go. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
In glorious pomp ascending high Up to the portals of the sky." Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Oh, grant us thitherward to tend And with unwearied hearts ascend, Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Unto Thy kingdom's throne, where Thou, As is our faith, art seated now. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Be Thou our Joy and strong Defense, Who art our future Recompense: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
So shall the light that springs from Thee Be ours through all eternity. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**△ O risen Christ, ascended Lord, All praise to Thee let earth accord, Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Who art, while endless ages run, With Father and with Spirit One. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.**

**The Sermon**

**Offertory**

*TLH Pages 22-23 [Sung]*

**C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; And uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

**Prayers**

*TLH Pages 23-24*

## **ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**The Preface:** *TLH Page 24 [Responses Sung]*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And with thy spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

**C: It is meet and right so to do.**

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to Thee, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God ... therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee and saying:

**The Sanctus:** *TLH Page 26 [Sung]*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory;**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, Blessed is He,**

**Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

**The Lord's Prayer:** *TLH Page 27*

**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;**

*[Sung]* **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**The Words of Institution:** *TLH Page 27*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

After the same manner also He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**The Pax Domini:** *TLH Page 27*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: *[Sung]* **A - - - - men.**

**The Agnus Dei:** *TLH Page 28 [Sung]*

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, Grant us Thy peace. A - - - - men.**

**The Distribution** *(We invite those who are communicant members of the LC-MS to commune with us.)*

**Distribution Hymns TLH 219 “The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns”**

**The Head that once was crowned with thorns Is crowned with glory now;  
A royal diadem adorns The mighty Victor's brow.**

**The highest place that heaven affords Is His, is His by right,  
The King of kings and Lord of lords, And heaven's eternal Light;**

**The Joy of all who dwell above, The Joy of all below  
To whom He manifests His love And grants His name to know.**

**To them the cross, with all its shame, With all its grace, is given;  
Their name an everlasting name, Their joy the joy of heaven.**

**They suffer with their Lord below, They reign with Him above,  
Their profit and their joy to know The mystery of His love.**

**The cross He bore is life and health, Though shame and death to Him:  
His people's hope, His people's wealth, Their everlasting theme. Amen.**

**TLH 256 “Around the Throne of God a Band”**

**Around the throne of God a band Of glorious angels ever stand;  
Bright things they see sweet harps they hold, And on their heads are crowns of gold.**

**Some wait around Him, ready still To sing His praise and do His will;  
And some, when He commands them, go To guard His servants here below.**

**Lord, give Thy angels every day Command to guide us on our way  
And bid them every evening keep Their watch around us while we sleep.**

**So shall no wicked thing draw near To do us harm or cause us fear;  
And we shall dwell, when life is past, With angels round Thy throne at last. Amen.**

**Nunc Dimittis** *TLH Pages 29-30 [Sung]*

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy Word,  
For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation: which Thou hast prepared before the Face of all people,  
a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

**The Thanksgiving:** *TLH Page 30*

P: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good. C: *[Sung]* **And His mercy endureth forever.**

**The Thanksgiving Prayer:** *TLH Pages 30-31*

P: ...through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God,  
world without end.

C: *[Sung]* **A- - - - men.**

**The Benedicamus:** *TLH Page 31*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *[Sung]* **And with thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord.

C: *[Sung]* **Thanks be to God.**

**The Benediction:** *TLH Page 31*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto  
you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: *[Sung]* **Amen, Amen, Amen!**

**Closing Hymn TLH 216 “On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build”**

**On Christ’s ascension I now build The hope of mine ascension;  
This hope alone has ever stilled All doubt and apprehension;  
For where the Head is, there full well I know His members are to dwell  
When Christ shall come and call them.**

**Since He returned to claim His throne, Great gifts for men 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.**

**Oh, grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Recalling Thine ascension,  
That I may ever walk with Thee, Adorning Thy redemption;  
And then, when all my days shall cease, Let me depart in joy and peace  
In answer to my pleading. Amen.**

**Silent Prayer - Announcements**

***Have A Blessed Week!***

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**Cover pic artwork:** Allan Forbis

**The Lutheran Hymnal:** St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, © 1941.

Hymn #221: Scripture: Hebrews 1:6; Hark! Ten Thousand Harps and Voices; Author: Thomas Kelly (1806, ab.); Tune: Neander; Composer: Joachim Neander (1680).

Hymn # 212: Scripture: Acts 1:11; Htmnum canamus gloriae; A Hymn Of Glory Let Us Sing; Author: The Venerable Bede († 735); Translator: Benjamin Webb (1854, alt.); Tune: Lasst uns erfreuen; Source: “Geistliche Kirchengsang” Cologne, 1623

Hymn #219: Scripture: Hebrews 2:10; Author: Thomas Kelly (1820); Tune: “St. Magnus”; Composer: Jeremiah Clarke (1709).

Hymn #256: Scripture: Psalm 91:11; Author: John M. Neale (1842, cento); Tune: Winchester New; Source: “Musikalisches Handbuch”, Hamburg, 1690.

Hymn #216: Scripture: John 14:30; Auf Christi Hummelfahrt allein; On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build; Author: Josua Wegelin (1636); Translator: William M. Czamanske (938); Tune: Nun freut euch; Source: “Ellich Christliche Lieder” Wittenberg, 1524.

**Bible Readings:** The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

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**Daily Bible Reading:**

- **Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>:** Genesis 26
- **Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>:** Genesis 27
- **Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>:** Genesis 28
- **Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>:** Genesis 29
- **Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Genesis 30
- **Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Genesis 31
- **Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>:** Genesis 32

**Catechism Recitation for the Week:**

**Confession: What sins should we confess?**

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord’s Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.