



# St. John's Lutheran Churches Babbtown & Schubert, MO

May 25, 2025

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
THE SUNDAY BEFORE ASCENSION DAY

May 25, 2025

Order of Worship: Printed below  
(with P for Pastor, C for Congregation)

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## Ringin' Of The Bell – Prelude – Welcome

Opening Hymn, TLH 213 "Hail The Day That Sees Him Rise"

Hail the day that sees Him rise To His throne above the skies!  
Christ, the Lamb for sinners giv'n, Re-ascends His native heav'n.

There the glorious triumph waits: Lift your heads, eternal gates.  
He hath conquered death and sin; Take the King of Glory in!

See, the Heav'n its Lord receives, Yet He loves the earth He leaves;  
Though returning to His throne, Still He calls mankind His own.

See! He lifts His hands above; See! He shows the prints of love.  
Hark! His gracious lips bestow Blessings on His Church below.

Still for us He intercedes; His prevailing death He pleads,  
Near Himself prepares our place, Harbinger of human race.

There we shall with Thee remain Partners of Thy endless rein,  
There Thy face unclouded see, Find our heav'n of heav'ns in Thee. Amen.

Invocation . . .

Congregation: Amen

## OPENING VERSICLES *(spoken)*

P: This is the day which the Lord has made;

C: **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

P: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C: **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

P: Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

C: **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

P: Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

C: **Teach me Your paths.**

P: Sanctify us in Your truth.

C: **Your Word is truth.** *(Psalm 84:10: 25:4; John 17:17)*

P: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C: **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

All: **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.**

**First Reading: Acts 1:9-11 - Jesus Ascends to Heaven**

Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

P: This is the word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn of Prayer: TLH 215 "Draw Us To Thee"**

**Draw us to Thee, For then shall we Walk in Thy steps forever  
And hasten on Where Thou art gone To be with Thee, dear Savior.**

**Draw us to Thee, Lord, lovingly; Let us depart with gladness  
That we may be Forever free From sorrow, grief, and sadness.**

**Draw us to Thee; O grant that we May walk the road to heaven!  
Direct our way Lest we should stray And from Thy paths be driven.**

**Draw us to Thee That also we Thy heavenly bliss inherit  
And ever dwell Where sin and hell No more can vex our spirit.**

**Draw us to Thee Unceasingly, Into Thy kingdom take us;  
Let us fore'er Thy glory share, Thy saints and joint heirs make us. Amen.**

**READINGS FROM THE HOLY SCRIPTURES****Second Reading: Acts 1:12-26**

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) "For it is written in the Book of Psalms, "'May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it'; and "'Let another take his office.' So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

P: This is the word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle: 1 Peter 3:18-22**

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

P: This is the word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Holy Gospel: John 17:1-11**

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. "I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **RESPONSORY** (*spoken*)

P: Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

C: **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

P: Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C: **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C: **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

*(Psalm 119:89; 26:8; Luke 11:28)*

### **The Apostles' Creed** (*Spoken by all*)

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Sermon 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.**

**Sermon - Figuring Out Why Jesus “Ascended”** John 17:19

Introduction – Why didn't Jesus stay here on earth?

1. If we could decide what Jesus did after he had risen
  - a. Set up a headquarters somewhere
  - b. Make lots of public appearances
  - c. Employ a staff to get the Word out
2. God the Father decided something quite different
  - a. His Son would return to sit at his right hand
  - b. He would leave a promise to be with us
  - c. He would send us to the “world”
3. Jesus stayed only 40 days on earth after he had risen
  - a. He asked us to gather together as a church
  - b. He told us to make public appearances
  - c. We are his “staff” to get the Word out

Conclusion – Why would Jesus want to stay here on earth?  
He is preparing a place for us with his Father!

**Hymn of Thanks** TLH 440 “Lord, Lead the Way” (*Offerings are brought forward during Hymn*)

**Lord, lead the way the Savior went, By lane and cell obscure,  
And let love's treasure still be spent, Like His, upon the poor.**

**Like Him, through scenes of deep distress, Who bore the world's sad weight,  
We in their crowded loneliness Would seek the desolate.**

**For Thou hast placed us side by side In this wide world of ill;  
And that Thy followers may be tried, The poor are with us still.**

**Mean are all offerings we can make; But Thou hast taught us, Lord,  
If given for the Savior's sake, They lose not their reward. Amen.**

**Prayers of the Day**

*(After each petition we respond)*

**P:** ... let us pray to the Lord:

**C:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

**C:** **Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Amen.**



**THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*[We invite those who are communicant members of sister Lutheran Congregations, in the fellowship of LC-MS, and are repentant, to commune with us.]*

**The Admonition and The Lord's Prayer**

**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 Words of Institution**

## **The Distribution**

### **Distribution Hymns: 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.**

### **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.**

## Luther's Morning Prayer

All: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## Benediction:

P: Let us bless the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn TLH 644 "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

△ **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## Silent Prayer

## Announcements

## Postlude

## *Have A Blessed Week!*

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**Cover pic artwork:** Allan Forbis

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

Hymn #213: Scripture: Acts 1:9; Author: Charles Wesley, 1739, cent, alt.; 1862; Tune: Orientis Partibus, French Melody, c. 1200.

Hymn #215: Scripture: Solomon's Song 1:4; Zeuch uns ach, dir'; Draw Us To Thee; Author: Friedrich Funcke (1886); Translator: August Crull († 1923); Tune: Ach Gott un Herr; Composer: C. Peter "Andachis-Zmbeln" Freyber, 1655.

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.

Hymn #440: Scripture: Matthew 25:40; Lord, Lead the Way the Savior Went; Author: William Croswell (1831); Tune: Farrant; Composer: Richard Farrant (1580).

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 Kirchensang" Cologne, 1623

Hymn #644: Psallm 150:1; Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow' Author: Thomas Ken (1695); Tune: Old Hundreth; Source: Geneven Psalter," 1551.

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