

Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod -

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Ascension of Our Lord

May 14, 2026

Reverend Michael Mathey, Pastor

Divine Service III

Hymn “Christ Sits at God’s Right Hand”

LSB 564

Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.184)

Corporate Confession (p.184)

Service of the Word

Psalms 47

Kyrie (p.186)

Gloria in Excelsis (p.187)

Salutation and Collect of the Day (p. 189)

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray.

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 **Amen.**

First Reading: *Acts 1:1–11*

¹In 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. ³To them he presented himself alive 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 This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

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.

Epistle: *Ephesians 1:15–23*

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 (p.190)

Holy Gospel: *Luke 24:44–53*

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

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

⁴⁴Then 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.”⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,⁴⁶and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And 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.”

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

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed (p.191)

Office Hymn: “Up through Endless Ranks of Angels” LSB 491

Sermon

Offertory (p.192)

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

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Distribution of the Sacrament

Distribution Hymns:

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” LSB 621

“All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine” LSB 815

Nunc Dimittis: (p.199)

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Hymn: “Crown Him with Many Crowns” LSB 525