

THE LITURGY OF WORD & SACRAMENT

Ascension of Our Lord (Observed)

SUNDAY, May 17, 2026 10:00AM

REGULAR PRINT = PRESIDING MINISTER OR ASSISTING MINISTER

BOLD PRINT = CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES

✠ = AT VARIOUS POINTS THROUGHOUT THE SERVICE, THE SIGN OF THE CROSS MAY BE MADE BY ALL IN REMEMBRANCE OF THEIR BAPTISM

The red EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP service book and hymnal is used for the liturgy.

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(We Stand)

*Words to be spoken or sung by the assembly are indicated in **bold type**.*

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,
through
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

Loving God,
we confess that at times we do not share in the joy of the resurrection
but are caught in the worries of the world.
We confess that we do not always live in the spirit of new life
but remain discontent, grumbling and anxious.
Forgive us for not sharing in the Good News.
Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain
than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ.
Call us back to Your ways, O God,
to seek hope and reconciliation, restoration and peace.
In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

Christ is Risen! The stone is rolled away, the tomb found empty.
Mary calls out, "I have seen the Lord!"
We have seen Christ, too, in every helping hand, in every heartfelt gift,
in every choice to restore life in this world.
We are called to this new life, a life of forgiveness and reconciliation.
You are forgiven; accept your forgiveness and know that God loves you
and desires great joy for your life. Walk forward on this journey of faith,
knowing your brothers and sisters are with you.
Amen.

Call to Worship: Psalm 71

God alone is our refuge and hope, our shelter and protection. From our very first breath to our last, God's love and compassion never fails. So come, lift your voices in praise to God. Bear witness to God's acts of mercy and love. Proclaim God's glory to all who will listen.

Let's worship God together.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scept - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scept - ter,



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful



Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

II Corinthians 13: 13

And also with you.

LITANY OF WELCOME

God has shown us what is good, and what then is required of us?

**To act justly; to love mercy;
and to walk humbly with our God.**

Micah 6: 8

Jesus says, "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me,
and anyone who welcomes me
welcomes the One who sent me."

Matthew 10: 40

The Spirit says, "Come."

**Let each one who hears the Spirit say, "Come,"
for all are welcome here.**

Revelation 22: 17

In this service, let us draw near to our Reconciling Redeemer,
who knows our hearts and is able to mend our souls,
to strengthen and sustain us,
to reconcile our broken relationships and heal our wounds.

Let us worship God now

**With words that proclaim God's inclusive love,
With works that bring forth God's powerful justice,
And with worship that rejoices in God's wondrous presence,
Now and always,
Amen!**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Majesty

Jack Hayford
Em

Maj-es-ty! Wor-ship His maj-es-ty! Un-to Je-sus be all glo-ry,
 hon-or, and praise! Maj-es-ty, king-dom, au - thor-i-ty,
 flow from His throne un - to - His own; His an-them raise!
 So ex - alt, lift up on high the name of Je - sus!
 Mag-ni - fy, come, glo - ri - fy Christ Je - sus the King!
 Maj - es - ty! Wor-ship His maj - es - ty!
 Je - sus who died, now glo - ri - fied, King of all kings!

The PRAYER OF THE DAY

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and psalm.

FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-11

A reading from Acts.

[Luke writes:] ¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

Read responsively

- ¹ Let God rise up; let his enemies be scattered;
let those who hate him flee before him.
- ² **As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;
as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God.**
- ³ But let the righteous be joyful;
let them exult before God;
let them be jubilant with joy.
- ⁴ **Sing to God; sing praises to his name;
lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—
his name is the LORD—
be exultant before him.**
- ⁵ Father of orphans and protector of widows
is God in his holy habitation.
- ⁶ **God gives the desolate a home to live in;
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,
but the rebellious live in a parched land.**
- ⁷ O God, when you went out before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness, *Selah*
- ⁸ **the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God
of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**
- ⁹ Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad;
you restored your heritage when it languished;
- ¹⁰ **your flock found a dwelling in it;
in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.**
- ³² Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord, *Selah*
- ³³ **O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens;
listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.**
- ³⁴ Ascribe power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel
and whose power is in the skies.
- ³⁵ **Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel; he gives power and
strength to his people.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

A reading from Ephesians.


¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ 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 age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Holy Ground



The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text: "We are stand-ing on ho-ly ground. And I know that there are an-gels all a - round." The second staff contains the melody for the second line of text: "Let us praise Je-sus now. We are stand-ing in His pres-ence on ho - ly ground." The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a clear rhythmic pattern.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁴ [Jesus said to the eleven and those with 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, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Pastor Steven

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

Beautiful Savior



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The service then continues with the prayers of intercession.

Prayers of the Church and Response

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system of music has the following lyrics: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; when I call, an-swer me." The second system of music has the following lyrics: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; come, and lis-ten to me." The chords are indicated above the notes: Em, Em/D, Am/C, D, G/B, C, Am, B in the first system; and Em, Em/D, Am/C, D, Em/G, Am7, B, Em in the second system.

Trusting in the power of Christ’s resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silent

O God, your people sing praises throughout the church. By your Holy Spirit, inspire musicians, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim the gospel of Jesus. Your creative power fills the universe. Bring favorable weather, nurture plants and animals, protect us from natural disasters, and guide us to care for all you have made. Merciful God,

O Lord, hear my prayer...

Your justice is exercised in society by those in authority. Instill in political leaders, business leaders, school administrators, and all who care for others a desire for peace and equity. Your compassion and care come through the gifts of medicine and relationships. Soothe the anxious, protect widows and orphans, comfort those living with memory loss and their families, and heal the sick. Merciful God, **O Lord, hear my prayer...**

We lift up before you, O God, the members of our human family around the world—for those who are afflicted or suffering at this time—for those who need healing, for those who require bread or shelter, for those who live in violent homes and communities, for those who are grieving, and for those whose needs are known to you alone, especially those we remember silently or in our hearts with voice upon our lips (*pause*) David Cossey (*stepfather of Ben Bullock*); Maria Gallego (*mother of Pastor Steven*); Tiffanie Reeves; Joe Black (*father of Lynn Black*); Bill Black (*brother of Lynn Black*); Sharon Baldwin; Tracy Hamiter; Connie Pool; Emmy Reeves; Bobbie Prosser; Sarah Trani; Jeff Harrell; James Deckle; Sharon May (*wife of Peggy Thompson*). Merciful God, **O Lord, hear my prayer...**

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.**

The assembly remains standing for sharing the Peace.

PEACE

ELW pg. 106

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you!

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say,
"Peace be with you," or similar words.*

The assembly is seated.

The OFFERING & OFFERTORY

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Offertory Anthem

"Blessing, Honor, and Glory"

Choir

by Geoff Bullock and David Reidy

Blessing, honor, glory to the Lamb.

Holy, righteous, worthy is the Lamb.

Death could not hold Him down, for He is risen!

Seated upon the throne, He is the Lamb of God!

DOXOLOGY

Praise God for Love We All May Share

Hymns of the Spirit, 1937

Louis Bourgeois, 1551

Praise God for love we all may share. Praise God for beau-ty

The first system of music features a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes and half notes, with a fermata over the final note of the first phrase. The bass line provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

ev - 'ry - where. Praise God for hope of good to be.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. It includes a fermata over the final note of the second phrase. The bass line continues with a steady accompaniment.

Praise God for truth that makes us free. A - men.

The third system concludes the hymn. The melody ends with a fermata over the final note. The bass line provides a final accompaniment.

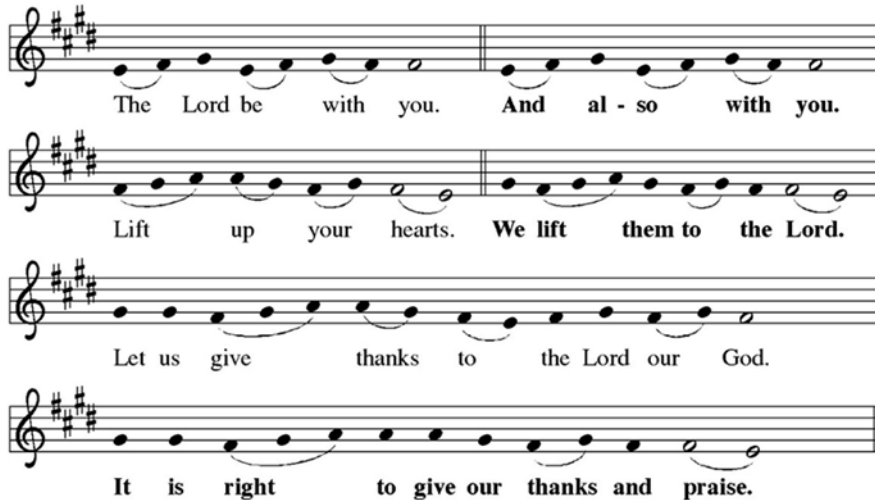
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 our thanks and praise.

PREFACE and SANCTUS

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child; When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life. You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. **Amen.**

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **Amen.**

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **Amen.**

O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations. Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray

**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.**

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

THE COMMUNION OF THE BELOVED

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR WORSHIP IS THIS SHARED MEAL

ALL ARE WELCOME to join us as members of God's family in Christ, as we share in this powerful gift of God's love and grace for the whole human family. We gather around the altar, kneeling or standing, wherever there is a place. The presiding minister offers wheaten wafers but can provide a gluten free wafer by request.

The assisting minister offers individual cups of wine (red) or grape juice (white) for you to choose. The church also affirms our Lord's full presence in, with, and under each element alone. If you prefer to commune in your pew with a prepackaged communion set, please alert an usher.

COMMUNION SONG

Let Us Break Bread Together



- 1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
- 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
- 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

COMMUNION SONG

This Is My Body

traditional

Edward Bonnemere

This is my bod - y giv-en up for you, — This is my
blood poured out for you. — This is my bod - y giv-en
up for you, — This is my blood poured out for you.
Bod-y of Christ. A - men. — Blood of Christ. A - men. —
Bod-y of Christ. A - men. — Blood of Christ. A - men.

The musical score is written on five staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The second and third staves continue the melody and lyrics. The fourth and fifth staves repeat the final phrase of the song. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

COMMUNION HYMN

Jesus, Lamb of God

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name;
Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name.

The musical score is written on two systems, each with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is a simple, hymn-like tune with lyrics written below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

The assembly stands and the presiding minister says a table blessing.

THE TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen!**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.. **Amen.**

COMMISSION and BENEDICTION

We shall celebrate Easter! Alleluia!

We shall bring love to those who are sad

And share joy with those who are happy

We will live our lives to the glory of God

We will live in Easter joy and Easter hope

And bring new life to those we meet. Alleluia!

May the blessing of God the Creator be upon this place,

The blessing of Christ our Redeemer be upon us,

The blessing of the Spirit, hallowed and healing, be on our lives,

The blessing of the Triune God be on all who seek an encounter with the loving and divine. **Amen.**

Soon and Very Soon



1 Soon and ver - y soon
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 3 No more dy - in' there,
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon

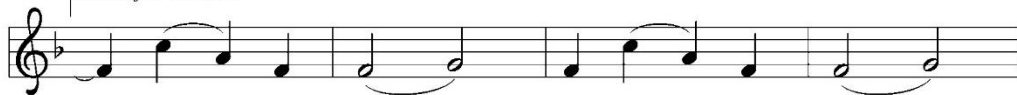


soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

DISMISSAL

Praise God who loves us.
Praise God who cares.

POSTLUDE

Announcements

Sunday Bible Study – 9:15 AM

Join Pastor Steven each Sunday at 9:15 AM as we explore trees throughout Scripture and their connection to humanity, including reflection on the Tree of Life.

Dungeons and Dragons

Join Pastor Steven for our next play session on May 20. New players are always welcome.

Recognition Sunday – Pentecost Sunday (May 24)

We are excited to celebrate our confirmand, RLC members, and upcoming graduates on **Pentecost Sunday, May 24**, a day of transitions and new beginnings. If you or a family member are graduating this year, please let us know so we may recognize this special milestone. Come out and celebrate the confirmation of Kaelin Madelyn Garcia.

NEXT SUNDAY!!!!!! – WEAR RED!!! WEAR RED!! WEAR RED!!!

Don't forget to plan to wear your RED on Pentecost Sunday – next Sunday!

Welcome Sunday – May 31

Join us on **May 31** for Welcome Sunday as we receive new members into the life of the church. If you are interested in joining, please contact Pastor Steven for more information. A reminder that **Potluck this month will be held on May 31st for Welcome Sunday.**

Youth opportunity

Grace Works 2026 will take place June 28–July 2. This local servant camp is open to Midlands youth who are rising 6th graders through recently graduated 12th graders. Home base will be Ebenezer Lutheran Church downtown. The cost is \$50 per participant. Youth will gather daily from 8:00–8:15 AM with pick-up at 5:00 PM. On Sunday, June 28, participants will meet at Ebenezer Lutheran Church from 5:00–7:00 PM. Please let Pastor Steven know if your youth would like to participate or if you are interested in serving as a volunteer.

Flower Arrangements

During our talent show, Jill Mann showed off amazing flower arrangements. Folks shared that they would love to learn how to do what she does, and she agreed to lead a session. Please let pastor Steven know if this is something that you would be interested pastor will work to pick a date that works for Jill.

Baking

Pastor Steven is looking for people who love to bake and are willing to teach others how to bake their favorite recipes. If this is something you would like to lead, please let the pastor know.

GriefShare

Grief is something that is hard to deal with on your own. We are trying to start a support group where people can lean on each other to help manage life through grief. If this is something that you believe would be helpful, please let pastor Steven know.

REFORMATION LUTHERAN IS AN INCLUSIVE, LGBTQIA+ AFFIRMING congregation



that believes Christ calls us to serve others with joy. Safe Space Dinners, a ministry for homeless LGBTQIA+ youth, including people of color. The ministry is simple. On the second and fourth Thursday of each month, these youth (14-23 years old) are offered a safe space and time to gather for a time to rest and recharge, a home-cooked meal, a haircut, and a backpack of items they will find helpful in their day-to-day life. There are always a number of games to play, including video games. Sometimes we have entertainment from the community. There is no preaching, no conversion therapy attempts; only support and comfort. This is a ministry of giving – nothing more.