

# Ascension of Our Lord

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

May 17, 2026



## Welcome to St. Andrew!

At St. Andrew Lutheran Church, we strive to be a loving and welcoming community of faith. We are centered in the Good News of Jesus Christ, who calls us to reconciliation and wholeness in a world of alienation and brokenness.

All are welcome, without exception, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, physical or mental ability, education, income, or family status.

All are welcome here to worship God, receive the sacraments, and share in fellowship, leadership, and service. We commit to treasuring one another's similarities and differences as one body in Christ.

We are called to provide a safe space in the community as we break down the barriers of isolation. We understand that being truly welcoming involves actively working against racism, heteronormativity, sexism, transphobia, ageism, ableism, classism, and other forces that seek to divide and oppress. We commit to continuing to discover what it means to be "Reconciling in Christ."

"Welcome one another therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."  
-Romans 15:7

## Orientation to the Service

**This bulletin** will guide you through the entire service. Starting on page 3, words printed in **bold** are for everyone to say aloud together. Instructions and information are printed in *italics*.

**Hymns (songs)** are found in the hymnals in the pew racks in front of your seat.

ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red hymnal)

ACS = All Creation Sings (blue hymnal)

**Green-topped Welcome Cards** are found in the pew racks in front of your seat. We would love for guests, visitors, and anyone in need of prayer or more information about the church to fill one out. Please place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher after the service.

**Children are welcome in worship!** God put the wiggle in children, so please do not feel you have to shush or suppress those wiggles in God's house. All are welcome here! Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for children to see and hear what is happening in the service. There are worship activity bags available for children on a shelf in the back of the sanctuary, and a staffed nursery is available for very young ones. Ask an usher if you need help locating it.

**Restrooms** can be found by exiting the back of the sanctuary and turning right. Walk straight until you pass the coffee bar, and you will find the women's and men's restrooms to your right. An all-gender, ADA-compliant restroom will be found to your left, near the door to the kitchen.

**Online access** to the bulletin and hymns: [standrewlutheran.com/worship/worship-bulletins/](http://standrewlutheran.com/worship/worship-bulletins/)

# Ascension of Our Lord

Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 17, 2026 | 9:30 AM

*In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.*

PRELUDE

**GATHERING**

*THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.*

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The congregation may stand.*

GATHERING HYMN    A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing! | ELW 393, vs. 1, 2, 3, & 5

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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

**And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

**Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*The congregation is seated.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kyler Vogt

*Elementary-aged children (grades K-5) are invited to attend The Roots Children's Church, led by trained St. Andrew volunteers and located in the Children's Library downstairs. Parents are welcome to observe. The children will return to worship in time to receive communion.*

## FIRST READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

A reading from Ephesians.

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

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 47

<sup>1</sup>Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a joyful sound.

**<sup>2</sup>For the LORD Most High is to be feared: a great king over all the earth,**

<sup>3</sup>who subdues the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet;

**<sup>4</sup>who chooses our inheritance for us,  
the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.**

<sup>5</sup>God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of the ram's horn.

**<sup>6</sup>Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises.**

<sup>7</sup>For God is king of all the earth; sing praises with a song.

**<sup>8</sup>God reigns over the nations; God is enthroned on high.**

<sup>9</sup>The nobles of the peoples have gathered  
as the people of the God of Abraham.

The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

## SECOND READING

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from Acts.

Luke writes: <sup>1</sup>In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

<sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Creator. "This," he said, "is what you have 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, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Creator has set by God's 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, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two messengers in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, "You Galileans, 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."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Kim Taylor-Blakemore

*The congregation may stand.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

Borning Cry | ELW 732

*The congregation is seated.*

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of new life through the waters of baptism. Today, we recognize these confirmation students, who will affirm their baptism.

Pat, whom do you present today?

*The Lead Confirmation Teacher responds:*

I present Nora Duggan, Cora Kalainoff, and Kiran Semenchalam, who have successfully completed our confirmation curriculum.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these siblings in Christ, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold them in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

**Amen.**

People of God, I ask you to join with our confirmands in renouncing evil and affirming our trust in the Triune God.

Do you reject evil and all the forces that defy God?

**We reject them.**

Do you reject the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**We reject them.**

Do you reject the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**We reject them.**

Do you trust in God the Creator, the divine Source of all things?

**We trust in God the Creator.**

Do you trust in Jesus Christ, Love incarnate, who liberates us from evil and shows us that love is stronger than death?

**We trust in Jesus Christ.**

Do you trust in the Holy Spirit, who guides us on our journey, interrupts the status quo, and opens up new possibilities?

**We trust in the Holy Spirit.**

Confirmands, I invite you to affirm your baptismal covenant.

Will you continue to live among God's faithful people?

*Confirmands:* I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Will you continue to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper?

*Confirmands:* I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Will you continue to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed?

*Confirmands:* I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Will you continue to serve all people, following the example of Jesus?

*Confirmands:* I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Will you strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

*Confirmands:* I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support these beloveds and pray for them in their life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

*The confirmands move to the font.*

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Loving God, stir up in Nora the gift of your Holy Spirit: Guide her life, give her the courage to trust in your love, empower her in serving, give her patience in suffering, and grant her abundant life.

Loving God, stir up in Cora the gift of your Holy Spirit: Guide her life, give her the courage to trust in your love, empower her in serving, give her patience in suffering, and grant her abundant life.

Loving God, stir up in Kiran the gift of your Holy Spirit: Guide his life, give him the courage to trust in your love, empower him in serving, give him patience in suffering, and grant him abundant life.

*Certificates of Confirmation are presented.*

Let us share a final word of joy with our siblings in Christ:

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism! Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world!**

*The congregation may applaud.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*All are invited to share a sign of peace with one another (handshake, hug, peace sign, etc.).  
Placing your hands together in a praying position will signal to those around you that you prefer not to physically touch others.*

*The congregation is seated.*

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

As resurrection people, every moment offers us an opportunity to divest from the power of death and invest in the power of new life. How are you being called to use whatever resources you have to co-create a world of flourishing for all? You are invited to share your offerings now, so that together, we might roll away every stone of injustice, oppression, and harm so that all may know the true power of Love.

*Contributions to St. Andrew Lutheran Church may be placed in the offering plate or made online by scanning the QR code to the right. Thank you for your generosity!*



## OFFERING

*Stay with Us, Walter L. Pelz  
Sanctuary Choir, directed by John Gladen*

Stay with us, till night has come: our praise to you this day be sung.  
Bless our bread, open our eyes: Jesus, be our great surprise.

Walk with us, our spirits sigh: hear when our weary spirits cry.  
Feel again our loss, our pain: Jesus, take us to your side.

Walk with us, the road will bend: make all our weeping, wailing end.  
Wipe our tears, forgive our fears: Jesus, lift the heavy cross.

Talk with us till we behold a joyful life you will unfold:  
Heal our eyes to see the prize: Jesus, take us to the light.

Stay with us, till day is done: no tears nor dark shall dim the sun:  
cheer the heart, your grace impart. Jesus bring eternal life.

*The congregation may stand.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

**Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

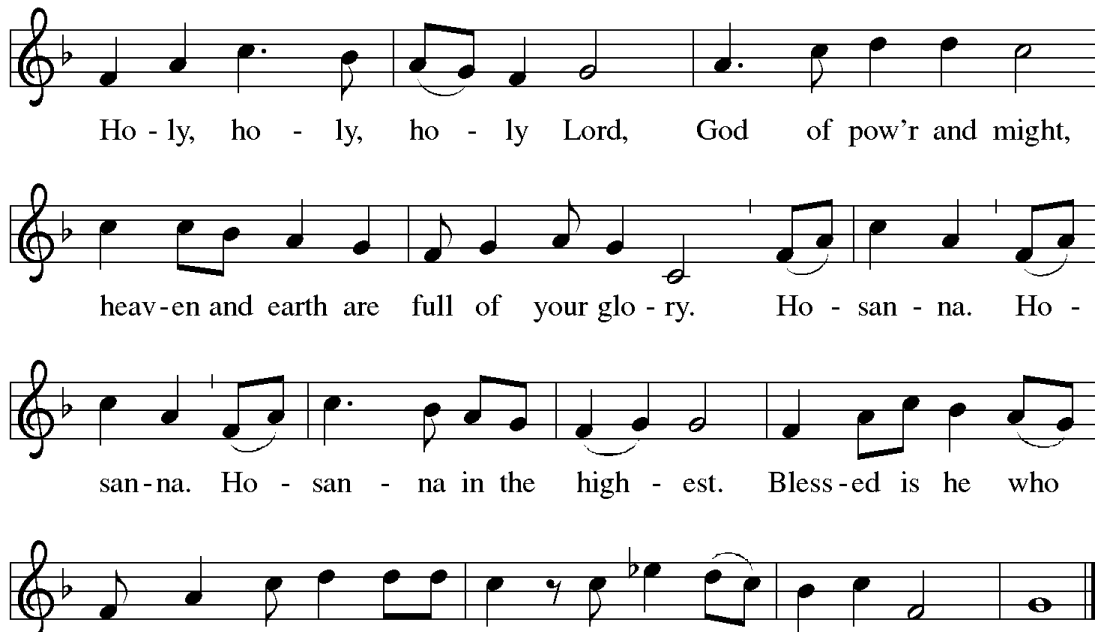
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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

### LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*The congregation is seated.*

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*All are invited to commune without exception! At the direction of an usher, those wishing to commune may proceed down the center aisle. A piece of gluten-free bread will be placed in your hands. You may dip the bread in the wine (red chalice) or the grape juice (light-colored chalice), or you may choose to partake of bread only. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please alert an usher, and the elements will be brought to you.*

## COMMUNION SONG

Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus | ELW 392

*The congregation may stand.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

**Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

**BLESSING OF COMMUNION MINISTERS**

Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Christ:  
Bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our absent  
siblings. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we  
bring this communion that we may all feast upon your abundant love made  
known in Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**BLESSING**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn  
of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, † bless you now and  
forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

Hail Thee, Festival Day! | ELW 394, vs. Ascension 1 & 2

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE**





## Serving Today in Worship

Presiding Minister: Pr. Allison Bengfort  
Preacher: Kim Taylor-Blakemore  
Assisting Minister: Tom Mehlhorn  
Altar Guild: Noelle Mehlhorn  
Children's Church:  
Communion Assistant:  
Lector: Lee Anne Knapp  
Musician: Karl Gustafson

Nursery Assistant: Sonja Ackman  
Tech Team: Chase Isaacson  
Ushers: Geoff & Amy Harker  
Welcome Team: Patty Jones,  
Dana Taylor-Blakemore  
Worship Coordinator: Pat Christiansen  
Zoom Host: Marlan Bell

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