



***St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Ascension Eve Worship Service
May 13, 2026***

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSIONS AND FORGIVENESS

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C Amen

OPENING HYMN

LBW 158 (vs. 1&2) "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

GREETING

Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the promised gifts of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

A This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.



☪ Wor- thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



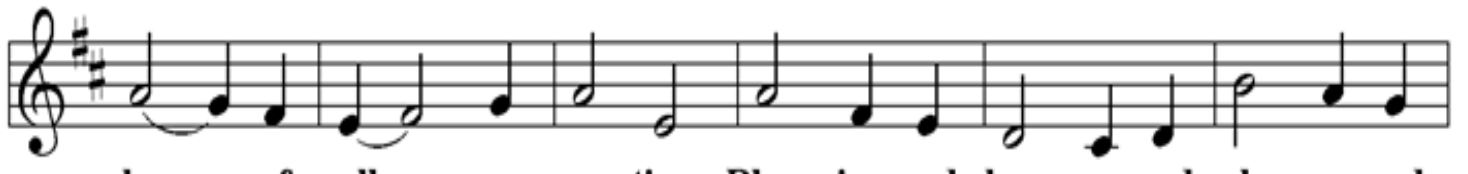
strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

C Amen

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

[Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After 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. ⁴While 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; 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, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set 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, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They 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.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 47

(Refrain: God has gone up with a shout.)

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

C ²For the LORD Most High is to be feared: a great king over all the earth,

³who subdues the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet;

C ⁴who chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom God loves. *(Refrain)*

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

C ⁶Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises. *(Refrain)*

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

C ⁸God reigns over the nations; God is enthroned on high.

⁹The 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.

C *(Refrain)*

(Refrain: God has gone up with a shout.)

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray 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, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God 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, 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 age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

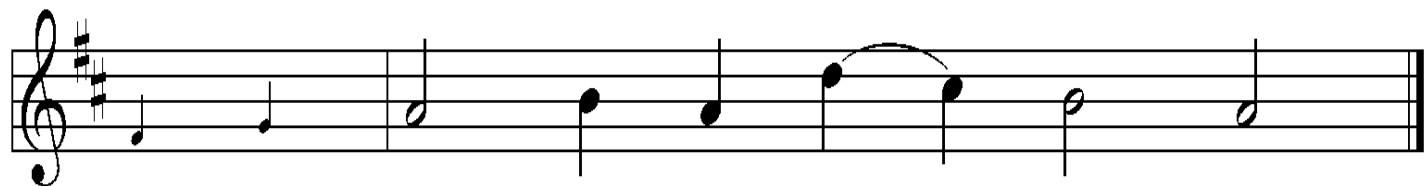


C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53



C Glo - ry 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, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And 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.” ⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The gospel of the Lord.



SERMON

Pastor Tim Kraemer

HYMN OF THE DAY

WOV 731 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

APOSTLE'S CREED

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Gracious God, your Son Jesus ascended to fill all time and space and is present with all people. By your Holy Spirit, lead your church and its leaders in faith, hope, and love, and in sharing the presence of Christ. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

Majestic God, your Son Jesus entrusts his ministry to his followers to care for all you have created. Instill in us a commitment to sustainable ecological practices. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus sits at your right hand and rules the cosmos. Inspire national and local politicians to lead with equity and fairness, raise up advocates and activists for those seeking justice, and cultivate peace throughout the world. Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

Merciful God, your Son Jesus carries with him the scars of suffering as our wounded healer. Guide with your wisdom the work of surgeons, pharmacists, midwives, and all medical specialists, and bring your healing touch to all who are sick. *(We pray especially*

for Alexis, Brenda, Donna, Ely, Katrina, Leroy, Wilma Buchta, Scott Buschkoetter, Nancy Collins, Amy DeKemper, Shaina G, Elizabeth Hansen, Alice June Harker, Susie Hemmerlein, Jackson Joseph Hoffman, Lana Hoffman, Cora Hopf, Elaine Hopf, Mary Ann Jerger, Carol Keller, Deborah Lagenour, Zach Leinenbach, Barb Mehringer, Logan Musgrave, Bob Nugent, Mary Lou Potts, Christine Probst, Steve Rothgerber, Meagan S., Annette Schepers, JoAnn Schnarr, Jim Seitz, Kaine Seitz, Bob Shelton, Doris Shelton, Gordon Wilfey and all those we name before you either silently or aloud.) Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

We pray that you guide the military serving to protect us. Grant them safety and wisdom to carry out their assigned duties. *(We pray especially for George Allen, Austin Breitwieser, Luke Himsel, Colin Hoffman, Joshua Hoffman, Zach Schoen, Cooper Uebelhor, and Sarah Wetzel.)* Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

Caring God, your Son Jesus reveals the depths of your love and gathers all people to himself. Accompany us in our work and play to make your presence known in all that we do. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

Life-giving God, by his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus destroyed death forever. With thanksgiving we remember those who rest from the labors, assured of your promise of everlasting life. Merciful God,

C receive our 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.

C Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

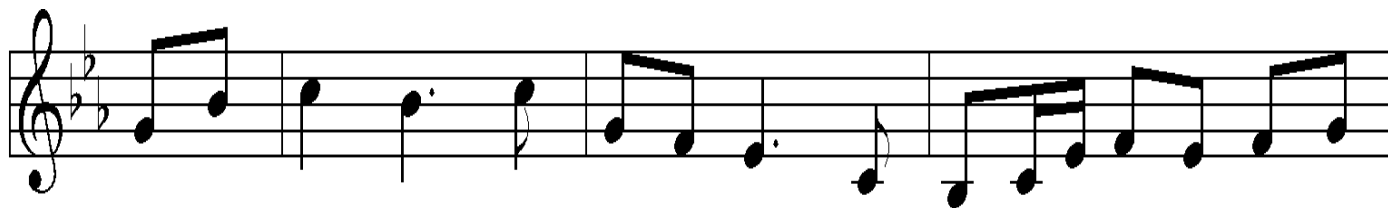
The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



C Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

C Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your

abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNION

All who are baptized are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Children who have not yet received instruction about Holy Communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. As you approach the communion assistant, the first will hand you the bread. Take and eat it. Then take a communion cup from the tray. After you have taken the wine, place your empty cup in the tray table beside the pillar.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to

you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who, after his resurrection, appeared openly to his disciples and, in their sight, was taken up into heaven, that he might make us partakers of his divine nature. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



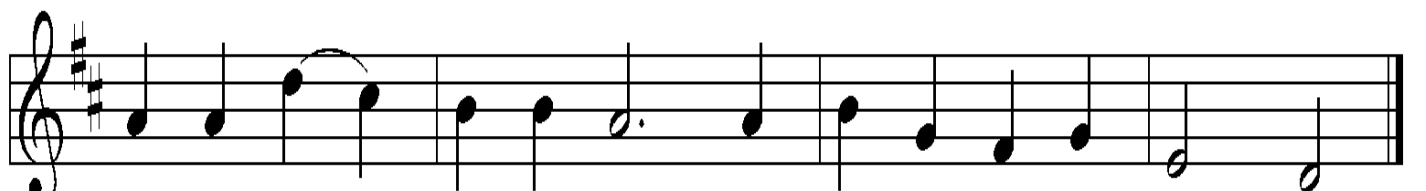
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:



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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD



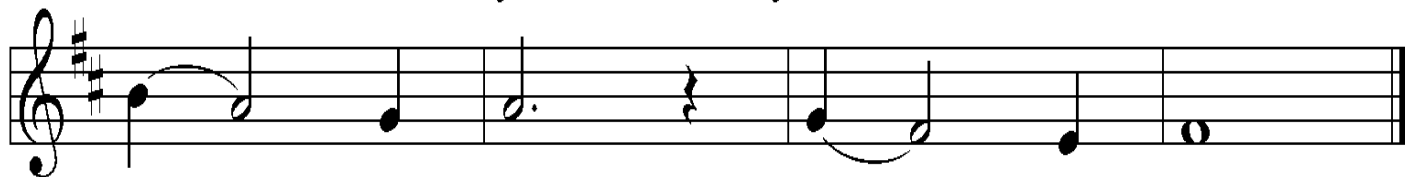
C Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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 body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



☩ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray,

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. 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.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

LBW 88 "Oh, Love, How Deep" (vs. 1,2,6)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Mission Statement: *Worship Boldly, Empower for Discipleship,
Cultivate Spiritual Maturity, Strengthen Community, Serve.*

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THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR YOUR SERVICE TODAY:

Greeters: Church Council
Comm. Asst: Jen Begle
Video: Jeff Schmitt
Organist: Arlene Vonderheide
Lay Reader: Linda Schmitt
Audio: Doug Wiseman
Acolytes: Kix Smith
Altar Guild: Tina Terwiske, Gabbie Chinn, Tara Uebelhor, Talia Myrick