

# HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH



## ASCENSION OF OUR LORD MAY 17, 2026

*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.*

# Weekly Update



1090 Sterling Road, Herndon, VA 20170  
www.HolyCrossHerndon.org

Sunday, May 17, 2026

**VISITORS:** It is a joy to have you with us this morning. If you are looking for a church family, we hope you will consider Holy Cross. For more information, you can fill out a visitor form in the narthex, speak to an usher, or scan the QR code to the right.



**FAMILIES:** Children are always welcome at our worship services! There's also a small play area in the Narthex where you can hear the broadcasted service.

**FLOWERS:** Today's flowers are given by Cheryl Smith in honor of her grandson's college graduation.

## WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

For additions or updates, email [Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org](mailto:Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org)  
Names are removed after one month unless advised otherwise.

### OUR CONGREGATION

Juliana Roe Beck | Bonnie Burton | Terry & Linda Butler | Joy Caveney  
Joel Flegal | Roy Geiger | Otto Jacobson | Reed Morgan | Mike Muller  
Craig Reichow | Jeremy Shoop | Tuula Toney | Cherie Weatherhead

### THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Riley Morgan | Thomas Newcomb | Collin Reichow  
Friends of Thomas Newcomb currently serving in Iran

### RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF THE CONGREGATION

Erin Barden (sister of Andrew Barden)  
Pastor Pervaiz Bahadur (Asia 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist pastor)  
Von Bergstrom (cousin of Jill Reichow)  
Jane Campbell (friend of Cheryl Smith)  
Gianna Carter (granddaughter of Sam & Sharon Carter)  
Don and Liz Gober (friends of Craig Reichow)  
Madilyn Gross (cousin of Desirae Peral)  
Uwe Gutschmidt (nephew of Ellen Atwell)  
Jeff Harwood (friend of Craig Reichow)  
Matt Kim (friend of John & Tammy Breene)  
Michael Levrini (friend of Jared Lem)  
Georgia Kirby and Cain Mason (friends of Cherie Weatherhead)  
Lori Manzel (daughter of David & Patricia Manzel)  
Phyllis Krapf (wife of Dick Krapf)  
Don Kress (friend of Helen and Gary Wolfe)  
Dale, John, and Jeff MacPherson (friends of Jared Lem)  
Sue Mason (sister of Pam Darby)  
Sharon Massen & Dorie Miller (friends of Craig Reichow)  
Lisa Nolf (friend of Jared Lem)  
Jim Pollock (godfather of Andrew Barden)  
Anne Marie Berardi Rabinowitz (friend of Tonya Elliott)  
Tracy Radican (daughter of former HCLC pastor, Pastor Harper)  
Dylan Roe (nephew of Mark & Jo Roe)  
John Smith (brother-in-law of Cheryl Smith)  
Joseph Strada (father of daughter-in-law of Sam & Sharon Carter)  
Nancy and Steven Swancutt (sister and brother of Lynn Russo)  
Bernadette Stevenson Williams (friend of the Roe family)

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

Supply Pastor: Rev. Pam Mitcham  
Director of Music and Liturgy: Jeremy Shoop  
Sound Technician: Bob Thompson  
Video Technician: Sylvia Moran

### Serving May 17<sup>th</sup>: Ascension of Our Lord

Assisting Minister: Anne Geiger  
Reader: Andrew Barden  
Acolyte: Diana Virgo  
Greeter: TBD

### Serving May 24<sup>th</sup>: Day of Pentecost

Assisting Minister: Anne Geiger  
Reader: Dick Smullen  
Acolyte: TBD  
Greeter: TBD

## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE: MAY 17 – MAY 24

SU 17	9:00 am	Kingdom Kids & Kingdom Angels ~ Choir Stall
	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School ~ Conference Rm
	10:00 am	Worship – Ascension of Our Lord
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee ~ FH
	12:00 pm	Council Meeting
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH
TU 19	6:30 pm	Bldg. Use: Boy Scouts Troop 12
W 20	11:30 am	Lunch for the Soul ~ FH
TH 21	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
	8:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
SA 23	8:00 am	Bldg. Use: Herndon's Women AA ~ Rm 204
SU 24	9:00 am	Kingdom Kids & Kingdom Angels ~ Choir Stall
	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School ~ Conference Rm
	10:00 am	Worship – Day of Pentecost
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee ~ FH
	11:30am	H.U.G.S. ~ Conference Rm
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH

*The Church offices will be closed on Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day.*



**Bake Cookies for Pride!**

Help Holy Cross share a sweet welcome at our Pride booths

We need **20** dozen cookies.

- We're looking for homemade cookies to share at Loudoun Pride and Herndon Pride.
- We'll package 3 cookies in each bag along with information about Holy Cross Lutheran Church.
- Our goal is about 20 dozen cookies total.
- Email Jeremy if you can help bake some cookies!  
MusicDir@HolyCrossHerndon.org

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**THANK YOU!**

Thank you to all who helped make our "Pancake Lunch" a success during our hosting of May's Lunch for the Soul. We couldn't have done it without you!

**MAY QUEST**

The Quest is filled with all kinds of fun information about what's happening at Holy Cross in the months ahead, along with an exceptional crossword puzzle to challenge your mind—and a chance to be the first to win a surprise gift card. Don't miss out on the fun!

Our May crossword puzzle winner is Sylvia Moran, who will enjoy a \$50 Sprouts gift card.

**SAVE THE DATE**



Loudoun Pride - Saturday, June 6  
Herndon Pride - Saturday, June 27

More details to follow

**REMEMBERING JEANNE MAYSONETT  
FRIDAY, JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> AT 3:00 PM  
ARLINGTON NAT'L CEMETERY**

Jeanne Maysonett, who passed away in October of last year, will be interred into the columbarium at Arlington National Cemetery on June 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm. A brief ceremony with a military chaplain will be held. Please note that all adults attending must present a REAL ID or passport for entry.

Kindly RSVP to James Maysonett at [james@maysonett.com](mailto:james@maysonett.com).

**NOTARY SERVICES**



Marie (one of our Church Administrators) is available to provide notary services for members of the congregation. If you need a document notarized, please contact the office to make arrangements ([Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org](mailto:Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org) or 703-437-1883). She is happy to assist!

**QUILT BLESSING – SUNDAY, JUNE 21**



Join us Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> as we bless the quilts made by our Quilting Group which meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at 10:00 am. These beautiful quilts are sent all over the world to those in need through Lutheran World Relief.

**QUILTING TEAM**

Want to help create beautiful quilts for Lutheran World Relief? Join the Quilting Team on the third Saturday of each month! The next meeting will be Saturday, June 20, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 202. All are welcome! Bring your sewing machine if you have one, but no worries if you don't—sewing skills are not required. There are tasks for everyone, no matter your skill level. No experience necessary!

## **Holy Cross Lutheran Church Welcomes ALL!**

Holy Cross Lutheran Church joyfully affirms and celebrates that every person is a beloved child of God. We welcome all who are seeking God's boundless love and sustaining grace into full community with us at Holy Cross. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down barriers and systems that divide God's children working to be a space committed to racial equality for God's people and to building a community where all are recognized as part of Christ's new creation.



We welcome you, and you are safe with us...  
 Whatever your race, ethnicity, or heritage;  
 Whatever your relationship status;  
 We welcome you, and you are safe with us...

Whatever your sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or gender expression;  
 Whatever your socio-economic status;  
 We welcome you, and you are safe with us...

Whatever your age and life circumstance;  
 Whatever your physical and mental ability.  
 You are a beloved child of God, you are valued, and you are welcome here.

## **What to Expect in Worship**

Worship services can be intimidating for newcomers. While we try to make worship as accessible as possible for everyone, we know that some aspects can be confusing. Feel free to ask an usher or someone near you for help if you have any questions today. We are happy to help and want all voices to be included in praise to God.

Our worship style is traditional at Holy Cross. A full liturgy is used to focus our praise and prayers to God. Notes are included in the side gutter of the bulletin to explain why we use the various liturgical elements. Communion is celebrated every Sunday at Holy Cross. The table (altar) is not our table, but Christ's table. Just as Christ welcomes all, all are welcome to receive communion at Holy Cross. Pastor will give instructions on how we celebrate communion at that part of the service. Written instructions are also included at that point in the bulletin.

Throughout the year we emphasize each liturgical season differently to mark the passage of time. Liturgical texts change to reflect aspects of that season, some elements are removed or added to reflect the mood of that season, and colors used to decorate the chancel are changed to provide visual reminders of the current season.

# Holy Cross Lutheran Church

*Transforming the world & ourselves, together in community, fellowship, and faith.*

**Ascension of Our Lord**  
 May 17, 2026 | 10:00 AM

*The evangelist Luke narrates a literal ascension of Christ into the heavens taking place forty days after the resurrection, and the church has adopted this chronology for its festival calendar. Some Christians transfer this festival from the Thursday to the following Sunday. Since only Luke narrated an ascension, two readings on this day come from his pen.*



**WE GATHER**



## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!*

arr. Benjamin Culli

*Please stand as you are able.*

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen

Assembly: **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

Pastor: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb! Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

Assembly: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Pastor: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

*This is a hymn of pure praise! The events of the ascension of Christ are dramatically related to the Christian's hope for eternal life. The 1200 year old Latin text by the monk Bede has thrived through many translations into many languages.*

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.  
Blessed are you.

**Assembly:** You guide us to springs of the water of life.

**Pastor:** Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

**Assembly:** You guide us to springs of the water of life.

**Pastor:** Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. To you be all honor and praise, now and forever.

**Assembly:** Amen.

## GATHERING HYMN

### A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall  
2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives  
3 To whom the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and gaze up - on the  
4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the por - tals of the  
5 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac -



ring: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -  
stand, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! and with his faith - ful fol - l'wers  
sky?" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior!" thus they  
sky." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall  
cord: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! You are, while end - less ag - es



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.  
see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty.  
say, "this is his glo - rious tri - umph day!" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty."  
run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.



lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**GREETING**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
 Assembly: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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

Assembly: **And also with you.**

**KYRIE**

(Setting 9)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



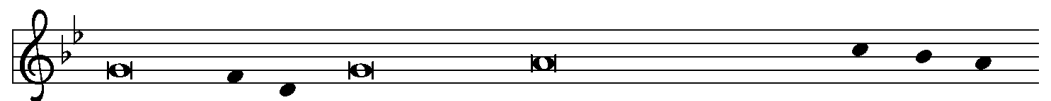
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



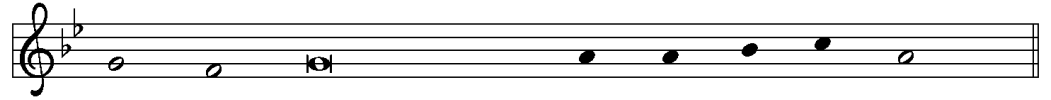
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

(Setting 9)

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



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

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



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

all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to  
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*  
 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, al - le - lu - ia.

*The prayer of the day, inspired by prayer #497 in the seventh-century Gregorian Sacramentary, focuses on the image of Christ as high priest, who in heaven intercedes for the world. The second option, based on prayer #580 in the seventh-century Gelasian Sacramentary, cites the phrase from Ephesians that Christ now fills all things. The ascension is not about his absence, but rather renews Christ's promise to be with us always.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** Let us pray. 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.

**Assembly:** Amen.

*Please sit.*





## LISTENING WITH CHILDREN'S EARS

*Angelic figures tell the apostles not to look up toward heaven, yet this has sometimes become the content of this Thursday's worship. Rather, Acts calls us to receive the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's witnesses throughout the whole world.*

### FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

*Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.*

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

[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 Father. "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 Father has set by his 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 men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> 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."

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

*The prayer presents several images useful for Ascension Day: God's power is at work in Christ; Christ rules over all things; Christ's name is revered above all others; Christ's body as it were extends from the heavens to the earth—a kind of pillar of the universe; Christ fills all things.*

## SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

*The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.*

Reader: A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians:

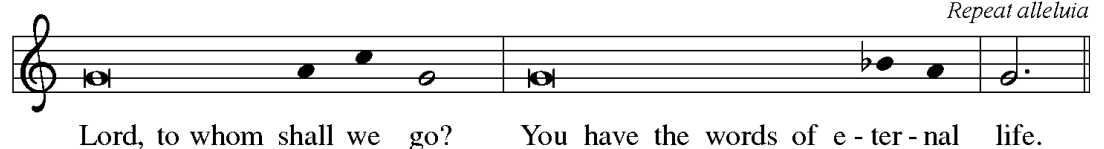
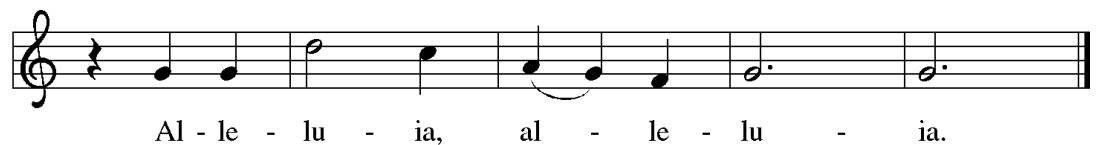
<sup>15</sup> I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup> 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, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup> 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, <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 he 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.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*Repeat alleluia*

*The ascension of Christ to God is another way that Luke described the resurrection. From Christ's death and resurrection come forgiveness of sins and the power of the Holy Spirit. Since we no longer believe that God lives up in the sky, two fourth-century ways that theologians have spoken of the ascension are particularly helpful: Christ rose from death to fill the cosmos, and Christ ascended into the eucharist. Luther spoke of Christ's ubiquity, that is, that Christ is in the bread, in the community, indeed, in all things.*

*One does not expect an insurance agent to write hymns, however William C. Dix wrote this text as a new communion hymn for the Church of England. Of the five stanzas included in the ELW only one truly relates to the theme of communion. The rest of*

## GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53

*On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.*

Pastor: The Gospel according to Luke the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Assembly: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>44</sup> [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.”<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup> 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 <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> 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.”

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

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please sit.*

## SERMON

*Please stand as you are able.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - 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 scep - ter,

*the stanzas make it appropriate for use in today's theme of the Ascension.*

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."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.  
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

## APOSTLES' CREED

Assisting Minister: With the whole church let us profess our faith,  
**Assembly:** **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.  
 I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
 On the third day he rose again;  
 he ascended into heaven,  
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 and he will come 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

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

*We pray for the greater church.*

Assisting Minister: 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,  
**Assembly:** **receive our prayer.**

*We pray for creation.*

Assisting Minister: 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,  
**Assembly:** **receive our prayer.**

*We pray for justice.*

Assisting Minister: 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

*We pray for those in need.*

justice, and cultivate peace throughout the world.  
Merciful God,  
**Assembly:** **receive our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: 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, including those we name before you now (*the assembly offers names.*). Merciful God,

**Assembly:** **receive our prayer.**

*We pray for this congregation.*

Assisting Minister: 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,

**Assembly:** **receive our prayer.**

*We remember the saints.*

Assisting Minister: 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,

**Assembly:** **receive our prayer.**

Pastor: 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.

**Assembly:** **Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Assembly:** **And also with you.**

*Please sit.*

## **OFFERING**

## **MUSICAL OFFERING**

*Please stand as you are able.*

*The sharing of The Peace is an ancient ritual that puts us right with our neighbors before we offer our gifts to God.*

## OFFERTORY

(Stanza 4)

## Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4  
 Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. 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,

Assembly: Amen.



## WE COME TO GOD'S TABLE



### GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**Assembly: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**Assembly: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

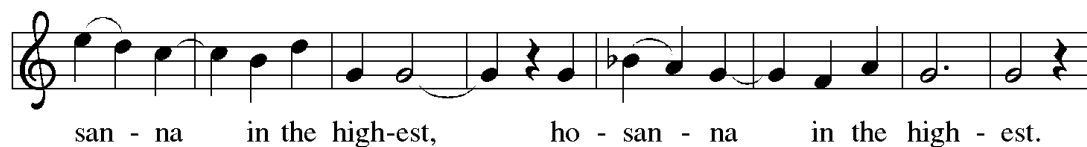
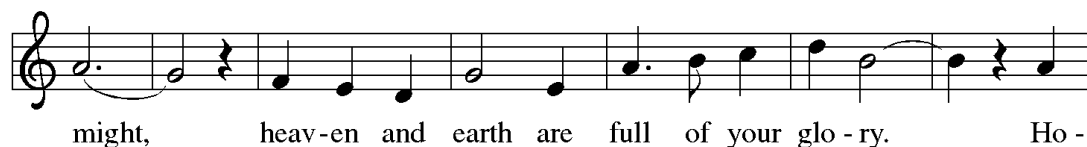
**Assembly: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

### PREFACE

Pastor: It is our duty and delight... and join their unending hymn.

### SANCTUS

(Setting 9)



### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## 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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**Pastor:** Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

**Assembly:** **Thanks be to God.**

*Please sit.*

## DISTRIBUTION

*This is Christ's table of welcome. Jesus invites **all** who are hungry and thirsty for unconditional love and acceptance to come to God's banquet. The ushers will direct you forward at the appropriate time. Communion will be by station. The pastor will be in the center with the bread. All the bread we use here is gluten free. On either side will be someone with a tray of red wine and white grape juice. Empty cups can be placed in the basket on either side of the aisle. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of communion, cross your arms on your chest.*

## AGNUS DEI

(Setting 9)

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.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

### Rejoice, for Christ Is King!

1 Re - joice, for Christ is king! Your Lord and king a - dore;  
2 Our Sav - ior Je - sus reigns, the God of truth and love;  
3 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heav'n;  
4 He sits at God's right hand till all his foes sub - mit

re - joice, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more:  
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove:  
the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus giv'n:  
and bow to his com - mand and fall be - neath his feet:

*Refrain*

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; re -

joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

*Although often sung for Ascension (as we are today), this hymn was written for the theme of Easter, where Christ reigns victorious over sin and death. Therefore we "Rejoice" – the keynote of the hymn and of the refrain, based on Philippians 4:4 ("Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice."). The famous composer, George F. Handel, wrote a tune GOPSAL (one of four he wrote for John Wesley) for this text, but it is usually sung to DARWALL or LAUS REGIS (the tune used in the ELW).*

## At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to  
 2 Praise we Christ, whose love di - vine gives his  
 3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured death's dread  
 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal



our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide  
 sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—  
 an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go  
 vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love



flow - ing from his wound - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty victim from the sky,  
 hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie;  
 you have conquered in the fight,  
 you have brought us life and light.  
 Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!  
 This alone can sin destroy;  
 from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,  
 newborn souls in you to be.  
 Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,  
 now no more the grave enthrall;  
 you have opened paradise,  
 and your saints in you shall rise.  
 Alleluia!

8 Father, who the crown shall give,  
 Savior, by whose death we live,  
 Spirit, guide through all our days:  
 Three in One, your name we praise.  
 Alleluia!

*Please stand as you are able.*

### POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

**Pastor:** May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
 strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Assembly:** **Amen.**

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**Assisting Minister:** Let us pray. 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,

**Assembly:** **Amen.**



## WE ARE SENT FORTH TO SERVE



To illustrate the text, “and on his head were many crowns” (Revelation 19:12), two different authors wrote two different texts, each with six stanzas. Most hymnals make a selection for the twelve stanzas. The tune name *DIADEMATA* suggests “diadems” or “crowns” and matches the striking first line of poetry with an equally memorable first line of music. The majestic nature of this tune and text lend the hymn perfectly to end our celebration of the Ascension.

### SENDING HYMN

## Crown Him with Many Crowns

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;  
 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,  
 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,  
 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave  
 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,

hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.  
 whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;  
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.  
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.  
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,  
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,  
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,  
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.  
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.  
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.  
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: 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.

**Assembly: Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Assembly: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE**

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

arr. Michael Burkhardt

*As part of our continuous efforts to make worship more inclusive and sensory friendly, we ask that you refrain from applauding during worship and after the postlude.*

**ATTRIBUTIONS:**

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## **THIS WEEK'S COMMEMORATIONS**

**Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160**

**Monday, May 18, 2026**

Erik is considered the patron saint of Sweden. As king of that nation, he tried to bring peace in the region, and to spread Christianity in Scandinavia. He was also known for his attempts to make fair laws and to protect those who were poor or sick.

**Helena, mother of Constantine, died around 330**

**Thursday, May 21, 2026**

Influenced by her son to become Christian, Helena (or Helen) lived an exemplary life of faith. She is also remembered for traveling through Palestine building churches on the sites she believed to be associated with Christ's life.

## FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

*[Leo, in The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers, II, 425-426.]*

*Most Ascension art tries to depict Luke's narrative literally. However, the late medieval painting by Pietro Perugino is more symbolic. Christ's followers suggest the entire church by including not only John (holding a book) and Peter (holding the keys of the kingdom), but also Paul (holding the sword of the word), and Mary. Christ is wearing royal red and is surrounded by a mandala, which artists used to denote especially holy figures. Angels are playing musical instruments to laud him. The practice of drawing some angels as toddlers called "putti" began in the Renaissance and contributed to the popular belief that dead infants became angels.*

The Ascension was a great and indescribable cause for joy, for in it the nature of humankind ascended, above the dignity of all the heavenly creatures, rising above the angelic order, above the sublimity of the archangels, until, received into the company of the eternal Father, it was made a sharer of the throne of God's glory, to whose nature it was united in the Son. Therefore, the Ascension of Christ is our uplifting, for where the glory of Our Head shall go, there the hope of our body is called. Let us then rejoice exceedingly with fitting joy, and let us be glad with devout thanksgiving. For on this day, not alone are we made sure heirs of paradise, but in Christ we have already reached the heights of heaven, and we have obtained more abundant gifts through the ineffable favor of Christ than we lost through the envy of the devil.

—Leo



There is a hearing-assistance system (induction loop) in the Sanctuary for those with hearing impairments. Please ask an usher for instructions.

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