



# **ASCENSION**

Lutheran Church

A **Christ-centered** community where we **connect, learn, and serve.**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 10, 2026**



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**Welcome! We're happy you're with us for worship today.**

**IF YOU ARE VISITING FOR THE FIRST TIME**, please take a moment to sign in at the podium at either sanctuary entrance. We pray your time with us strengthens your faith in the Lord. We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS). You can find more information about our beliefs at [LCMS.org/about/beliefs](http://LCMS.org/about/beliefs).

**IF YOU HAVE SMALL CHILDREN**, we understand that God made them wiggly and noisy at times, but we also believe they should be with us in worship. If you need a moment, we have a nursery available to you through the hallway to the right of the altar. Children's bags are also available in the Narthex for use during service.

**HOLY COMMUNION** is celebrated at Ascension Lutheran on each Sunday. We receive this Holy Sacrament in the glad confidence that our Lord Jesus, as His word says, gives not only bread and wine, but also His true Body and Blood for us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of our sins (Matthew 26:26-28). Our Lord invites to His table those who, repenting of their sins, believe His word that His body and blood are truly present for the forgiveness of our sins. All baptized believers who hold our confession of faith and have examined themselves according to Scripture's guidance (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), are invited to receive His Sacrament. If you are not yet baptized or are visiting us for the first time, we invite you to come forth during communion and fold your arms over your heart for a blessing. Pastor would be happy to discuss receiving Holy Communion at Ascension with you.

**AFTER EACH SERVICE** from September to May, please join us for a brief time of **FELLOWSHIP** with coffee and treats downstairs in our Fellowship Hall briefly before we begin our **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** hour for those ages 2 and above.

**If you have any questions, seek out Pastor, an usher, or a member with a name tag; they will be happy to help you out.**

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**SERVING TODAY:**

**ELDER(S):** Kurt Dolph & Dave Dille

**LAY READER:** Dave Dille

**USHERS:** Ken Lindsey & Ron Curcio

**ACOLYTE:** Zach Schroeder

**SERVING NEXT WEEK:**

**ELDER(S):** Cooper Blake & Bob Booth

**LAY READER:** Trish Young

**USHERS:** Lora Koontz & Lynn Gunther

**ACOLYTE:** Hannah Koontz

# Sixth Sunday of Easter

## Pre-Service - Come Down, O Love Divine

LSB 501

### Welcome

### Prelude

*Stand*

### Invocation

*Matthew 28:19b; 18:20*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### Opening Hymn - Because He Lives

#### Verse 1

God sent His Son they called Him Jesus  
He came to love heal and forgive  
He bled and died to buy my pardon  
An empty grave is there to prove  
My Savior lives

How sweet to hold our newborn baby  
And feel the pride and joy he gives  
But greater still the calm assurance  
This child can face uncertain days  
Because Christ lives  
(Chorus)

#### Chorus

Because He lives I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives all fear is gone  
Because I know He holds the future  
And life is worth the living  
Just because He lives

#### Verse 3

And then one day I'll cross that river  
I'll fight life's final war with pain  
And then as death gives way to vict'ry  
I'll see the lights of glory  
And I'll know He reigns  
(Chorus)

#### Verse 2

### Exhortation

*Psalm 124:8; Psalm 130:3-4; Luke 18:13*

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

- P** Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

*Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.*

### **Confession of Sins**

- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

### **Absolution**

*[John 20:19–23]*

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

### **Greeting of Peace**

*Following the Absolution, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matthew 5:22–24; Ephesians 4:1–3).*

### **Hymn of Praise – Abide**

#### **Verse 1**

For my waking breath  
For my daily bread  
I depend on You  
I depend on You  
For the sun to rise  
For my sleep at night  
I depend on You  
I depend on You

#### **Chorus 1**

You’re the way the truth and the life  
You’re the well that never runs dry  
I’m the branch and You are the vine  
Draw me close and teach me to abide

#### **Verse 2**

Where the Spirit leads  
As I’m following  
I depend on You  
I depend on You  
For the victories

Still in front of me  
I depend on You  
I depend on You

### **Chorus 2**

You're the way the truth and the life  
You're the well that never runs dry  
I'm the branch and You are the vine  
Draw me close and teach me to abide  
Be my strength my song in the night  
Be my all my treasure my prize  
I am Yours forever You're mine

*Sit*

### **First Reading**

*Acts 17:16–31*

<sup>16</sup>While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup>So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup>Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babblers wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup>And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? <sup>20</sup>For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” <sup>21</sup>Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

<sup>22</sup>So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup>For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. <sup>26</sup>And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup>that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup>for

“‘In him we live and move and have our being’;

Draw me close and teach me to abide

### **Verse 3**

When I pass through death  
As I enter rest  
I depend on You  
I depend on You  
For eternal life  
To be raised with Christ  
I depend on You  
I depend on You  
(Chorus 2)

as even some of your own poets have said,

“For we are indeed his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup>Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. <sup>30</sup>The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Epistle Reading

*1 Peter 3:13–22*

<sup>13</sup>Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.

<sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>because they formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. <sup>21</sup>Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

### Holy Gospel

*John 14:15–21*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>15</sup>[Jesus said:] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup>even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup>Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

<sup>20</sup>In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

<sup>21</sup>Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

**Children's Message**

*Pastor Thompson*

**Hymn of the Day - Come Down, O Love Divine**

*LSB 501*

**Sermon**

*Pastor Thompson*

**Lutheran Catechesis - Confession Part 3**

**P** *Where is this written?*

**C** This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” (John 20:22–23)

**P** *What do you believe according to these words?*

**C** I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

*Stand*

**Apostles' Creed**

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

*Sit*

## Offering

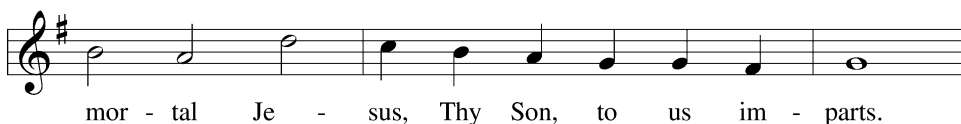
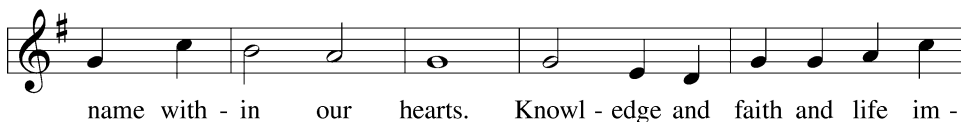
**Meditation Song - All Praise to Him**

*Praise Team*

*Stand*

## Offertory - Father We Thank Thee

*LSB 652 st. 1*





Thou, Lord, didst make all for Thy pleasure, Didst  
 give us food for all our days, Giving in Christ the  
 Bread eternal; Thine is the power, be Thine the praise.

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 Tune: attr. Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-61  
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## Prayer of the Church

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

*After each prayer, the response will be:*

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.

## Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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.**

**The Words of Institution** *Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{†}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**Peace of the Lord**

*John 20:19*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

**Holy Communion**

**Distribution Hymns - I Am the Bread of Life**

**Verse 1**

I am the Bread of Life  
You who come to me shall not hunger;  
and who believe in me shall not thirst.  
No one can come to me  
unless the Father beckons.

**Refrain**

And I will raise you up,  
and I will raise you up,  
and I will raise you up on the last day.

**Verse 2**

The bread that I will give  
is my flesh for the life of the world,  
and if you eat of this bread,  
you shall live forever,  
you shall live forever.  
(Refrain)

**Verse 3**

Unless you eat  
of the flesh of the Son of Man  
and drink of his blood,  
and drink of his blood,  
you shall not have life within you.  
(Refrain)

**Verse 4**

I am the Resurrection,  
I am the life.  
If you believe in me,  
even though you die,  
you shall live forever.  
(Refrain)

**Verse 5**

Yes, Lord, we believe  
that you are the Christ,  
the Son of God,

who has come  
into the world.  
(Refrain)

### Tag

And I will raise you up on the last day

## Seek Ye First

LSB 712

### Communion Dismissal

**P** Now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen and preserve you, in body and soul, unto life everlasting. Depart in His peace ☩ and with joy.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

### Post-Communion Canticle - Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying

LSB 597 st. 3

3 Dark the way, yet Christ pre - cedes us, Past the scowl of  
death He leads us; Spreads a ta - ble where He feeds us  
With His bod - y and His blood.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Jeffrey N. Blersch, 1967

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### Post-Communion Prayer

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Benediction

*Numbers 6:24-26*

- P** The LORD bless you and keep you.  
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

## Closing Song - Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

*LSB 821*

*Sit*

## Announcements

**Memory Verse For The Week:** Acts 17:22 - So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious.

## Dismissal

- P** Go in peace and  
**C** serve the Lord!

## Acknowledgments

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### Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses:

Acts 1:12-26; Psalm 68:1-10; 1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

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### This week we pray for:

- **NEW:** For pregnant moms Sierra Toto, granddaughter of Eileen Vogel, and Claire Fiffik, daughter of Mike and Cristen Fiffik, that they and their unborn babies remain healthy throughout their pregnancies and result in the safe and joyous delivery of new life.
- Thanksgiving for faith given to Craig and Concetta and for continued faithfulness throughout the rest of their earthly lives.



**Youth Group (7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>)-** Join Janine Nicolette in the Youth Room as she will present Children & Teen Study.

### **Adult Bible Class-**

- **Adult Book of the Bible Study-** Join Cooper Blake for an adult book bible study on Proverbs.
- **Adult Topical Study:** Join Mike Fiffik in Fellowship Hall for Junk Drawer Jesus study. In *Junk Drawer Jesus*, the spiritually exhausted are invited to examine our religious clutter and compare it to the person and the promises of Jesus Christ. We'll discover what—if anything—of our spiritual collection should be kept.

**Prayer and Praise:** We are meeting this Wednesday at 10am for Prayer & Praise! We meet in the Fireside Room at church or we have an online option via Zoom. The link is sent in the Weekly Reminder email. If you have questions or need prayer, please contact Bob Booth at 808-295-1835.

**New Members needed for Praise Team** – With the departure of some of our long-time Praise Team members we need some new people to help serve the worship of the congregation on Sundays. Please prayerfully consider joining our Praise Team! If you have any questions, please contact Lisa or Emily Marcellus.

**Board of Stewardship-** We are currently looking for someone to fill the Head of the Board of Stewardship. The Board of Stewardship's main objective is to initiate programs of good stewardship attitudes amongst the Congregation members regarding their time, talents, and treasures. This can include, but not limited to recognizing members for their stewardship, annual pledges, training opportunities, and assistance with finding ministry opportunities. If you feel called to serve in this role, please contact Pastor Thompson, [pastor@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:pastor@ascensionpgh.com) or Beth Gard, [president@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:president@ascensionpgh.com)

**Christmas Pageant Team Needed:** Will Ascension continue to have a children's Christmas pageant? If yes, a team of members is needed. Costumes, scripts, and operations instructions are available and organized, as is help from the Music Director. If you are interested, please let Janeen Daftary know. A team of 2-3 members must be in place by September 20 in order for a 2026 pageant to take place.

**Speaker Series:** We are so excited to tell you about the Speaker's Program being held on **Wednesday, May 20** at 6:30 pm. It will be presented by Jeff Wissner, Town of McCandless Fire Marshal, and will be a fire safety class. We will be **giving Fire Blankets** to the first of you that sign up and ultimately attend. The limit will be one blanket per church family. We aren't absolutely sure how many we can get with our Thrivent grant so be one of the first to sign up. It will be on a first-come-first-serve basis. We welcome friends, family, and neighbors.

**Ascension Pirates Game & Tailgate:** Join us for our annual baseball outing on Sunday, June 28 vs the Cincinnati Reds! We'll head to PNC Park after church and gather in the parking lot for some tailgating before the 1:35 PM game. Tickets: \$38 each (includes a \$5 food/drink voucher. Parking Passes: Approximately \$25. If you are interested in attending, please provide your interest on the sign-up sheet located under the Connect Board in the Narthex or let Tim Mayes know directly by the end of the day tomorrow, **Monday, May 11th**. Please reach out to Tim with any questions (814-659-5630).

**Baby Bottle Campaign:** Ascension's yearly BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN begins this Sunday, through the end of May. Please see enclosed folder for details on the project. The bottles are available to you in the Narthex. If you have questions, please see Cheryl Sedar, 412-400-4392.

**UPDATED Paving Project:** The paving project will now start on Monday, May 25th.

**Multi-Congregational Ascension Day Service** - come celebrate our Lord's ascension at Ascension Lutheran Church on Ascension Day, Thursday, May 14th at 7pm. We will be hosting a full divine service for the members of Bethel Lutheran Church in Glenshaw, Zion Evangelical Lutheran in Lawrenceville, St. John's Lutheran in Millvale, and our own Ascension members! Come worship with your brothers and sisters in other congregations as we celebrate Ascension Day.

**Outdoor Sign Ideas:** Have a funny saying idea for our church sign? We'd love to hear it! There is a jar in the Narthex under "Connect", please submit your ideas for consideration! We always need 1-2 sentence ideas for: church holidays, seasonal holidays, etc!

## This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:

<b>Sunday 05/10</b>	<b>Divine Service Christian Education Hour</b>	<b>9:30 AM 11:00 AM</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Church Council Meeting Christian Education Meeting</b>	<b>6:30 PM 7:00 PM</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Prayer &amp; Praise</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Joint Parish Ascension Day Service</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Youth Retreat at Pioneer on the Lake</b>	<b>3:00 PM</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>PALM Bowling</b>	<b>Noon</b>
<b>Sunday 05/17</b>	<b>Divine Service Christian Education Hour</b>	<b>9:30 AM 11:00 AM</b>