



ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter/Confirmation Sunday – May 11, 2025



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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.

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.

SERVING TODAY:

ELDER(S): Bob Booth & Mike Fiffik

LAY READER: Darryl Gunther

USHERS: Ken Lindsey & Cristen Fiffik

ACOLYTE: Adalyn Russler

SERVING NEXT WEEK

ELDER(S): Kurt Dolph & Cooper Blake

LAY READER: N/A

USHERS: Lynn Gunther & Edie Krom

ACOLYTE: Hannah Koontz

Fourth Sunday of Easter/Confirmation Sunday

Pre-Service – Alleluia Sing to Jesus

LSB 821

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 - Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Verse 1

Savior like a shepherd lead us
Much we need Thy tender care
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us
For our use Thy folds prepare
Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus
Thou hast bought us Thine we are
Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus
Thou hast bought us Thine we are

Verse 2

We are Thine do Thou befriend us
Be the Guardian of our way
Keep Thy flock from sin defend us
Seek us when we go astray
Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus
Hear O hear us when we pray
Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus
Hear O hear us when we pray

Verse 3

Thou hast promised to receive us
Poor and sinful though we be
Thou hast mercy to relieve us
Grace to cleanse and power to free
Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus
Early let us turn to Thee
Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus
Early let us turn to Thee

Verse 4

Early let us seek Thy favor
Early let us do Thy will
Blessed Lord and only Savior
With Thy love our beings fill
Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus
Thou hast loved us love us still
Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus
Thou hast loved us love us still

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.

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 - I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Verse 1

I heard the voice of Jesus say
Come unto Me and rest
Lay down thou weary one
Lay down thy head upon My chest
I came to Jesus as I was
Weary and worn and sad
I found in Him a resting place
And He has made me glad

Verse 2

I heard the voice of Jesus say
Behold I freely give
The living water thirsty one
Stoop down and drink and live
I came to Jesus and I drank
Of that life giving stream
My thirst was quenched my soul revived
And now I live in Him

Verse 3

I heard the voice of Jesus say
I am this dark world's light
Look unto Me thy morn shall rise
And all thy day be bright

I looked to Jesus and I found
In Him my Star my Sun
And in that light of life I'll walk
Till travelling days are done

Sit

First Reading

Acts 20:17–35

¹⁷Now from Miletus [Paul] sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸And when they came to him, he said to them:

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹servicing the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²²And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. ²⁴But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. ²⁶Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, ²⁷for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. ³²And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Revelation 7:9–17

⁹After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵“Therefore they are before the throne of God,
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;
the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Holy Gospel

John 10:22–30

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

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

²²At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” ²⁵Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock.

²⁷My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰I and the Father are one."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message

Pastor Thompson

Hymn of the Day - Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

LSB 711

Sermon

Pastor Thompson

Statement of Faith

Elijah Blake, Georgia Lindholm and Grace Russler

Stand

Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

Offering

Meditation Song

Praise Team

Stand

Offertory - Let All Things Now Living

Verse 1

Let all things now living
A song of thanksgiving
To God the Creator
Triumphantly raise
Who fashioned and made us
Protected and stayed us
Who still guides us on
To the end of our days
God's banners are o'er us
His light goes before us
A pillar of fire
Shining forth in the night
Till shadows have vanished
And darkness is banished
As forward we travel
From light into light

Rite of Confirmation

Elijah Blake

Confirmation Verse: Matthew 6:33

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you”

Georgia Lindholm

Confirmation Verse: Psalm 19:14

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.”

Grace Russler

Confirmation Verse: Romans 12:2

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

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 † 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 † 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 - The Lamb

LSB 547

Be Still My Soul

Verse 1

Be still my soul the Lord is on thy side
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain
Leave to thy God to order and provide
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain
Be still my soul thy best thy heav'nly
friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful
end

Verse 2

Be still my soul thy God doth undertake
To guide the future as He has the past
Thy hope thy confidence let nothing
shake
All now mysterious shall be bright at last

Be still my soul the waves and winds still
know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt
below

Chorus

In You I rest in You I found my hope
In You I trust
You never let me go
I place my life within Your hands alone
Be still my soul
(Be still my soul be still my soul)

Verse 3

Be still my soul the hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever with the Lord
When disappointment grief and fear are
gone

Sorrow forgot Love's purest joys
restored
Be still my soul when change and tears
are past
All safe and blessed we shall meet at
last

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 - Jesus Thank You

Chorus

Your blood has washed away my sin
Jesus thank You
The Father's wrath completely satisfied
Jesus thank You
Once Your enemy now seated at Your table
Jesus thank You

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 \dagger give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Closing Song - Sing with All the Saints in Glory

LSB 671

Sit

Announcements

Memory Verse For The Week: John 10:28 – “I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.”

Dismissal

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

Acknowledgments

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Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses: Acts 11:1-18, Psalm 148, Rev. 21:1-7, John 16:12-22

This week we pray for:

- **NEW:** Eileen Vogel as she recovers from surgery after a fall.
 - The family and friends of Billy, brother of Edie Krom, who entered glory. Comfort his family and friends with the hope of the resurrection in Jesus Christ.
 - Matt, son of Diane McClellan, for healing of his eye issues.
 - Jim Obringer, Sr., father of Jim Obringer, for the Lord's mercy and further recovery from the stroke he suffered.
 - Shirley Waselko as she does physical therapy at Rebecca Residence.
-

Church News & Announcements:

Happy Birthday to - Alijah Gard

May 11th

Happy Anniversary to - Darryl & Lynn Gunther May 12th
Steve & Amy Diak May 14th

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. If you have questions or need prayer, please contact Bob Booth at 808-295-1835.

National Youth Gathering– If you would like to contribute towards the National Youth Gathering online, you can do so by following the link that is on the Giving page on our website.

Help needed: Shirley Waselko is really enjoying coming to church and education hour on Sundays whenever she can. There are a couple of people who have gone to Rebecca residence to pick her up and there's always someone at the front desk at Rebecca residence who can get someone to help Shirley into their car. We would like to have a cadre of people that she could send a group text or email to when she would like to come to church to see if someone might be available to pick her up or take her home or both occasionally. With a group effort, it would not have to be the same person every week. If you would be available to be in that group, please let Vicki Wiegand know at vickig@zoominternet.net or text her cell at 724-816-0413.

Garden Service Opportunity: Lets SERVE together this Spring as we get the garden all ready for the season. Join us **this Saturday**, May 17 at 9:30am for a morning of gardening and transplanting tomatoes. Please bring gloves and small garden tools if you have them. Sign up on the sign up sheet in the Narthex. See Rob Weber with questions.

Women's Event - Flower Bouquet Night: Come join us at Cristen's for a fun night of flower assembly on Thursday, May 22nd at 6:30pm. Please bring 1-2 bunches of your favorite flowers, a vase and a snack to share. Please RSVP in the Narthex for more details. Questions to Cristen Fiffik or Marissa.

Kid's Fishing Derby: Concordia Lutheran Ministries is hosting a kid's fishing derby at Saxony Farm Lake **this Saturday**, May 17th from 8am to 2pm. Open to

all kids ages 14 and under. For more information, please see the flyer on the Connect Board in the Narthex.

Ascension Pirates Game & Tailgate: Join us for our annual baseball outing on Sunday, June 22! We'll head down after church and gather in the parking lot for some tailgating before the 1:35 PM game. Tickets: \$32 each (includes a \$5 food/drink voucher. Parking Passes: Approximately \$25. Sign up in the Narthex. Questions? Contact Tim Mayes.

Congregational Meeting: There is a congregational meeting after the Divine Service **next Sunday**, May 18th.

Speaker Series Event: Feeling disorganized? Are spring cleaning thoughts making you want to climb back in bed? Come to the speaker series "How to Organize, De-Clutter and Downsize Your Life". Concordia speaker, Cheryl Aughton, will be the presenter to get us motivated to get started. The date to save is Wednesday May 28th at 7 pm (come at 6:30 for some treats) at Ascension Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. Please use the sign up sheet under the Learn board in the Narthex.

Men's Bible Study: Men of Ascension, come join us for some fellowship, conversation and study of the faith on Saturday, May 24th at 8:30 am.

This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:

Sunday 05/11	Divine Service-Confirmation Sunday	9:30 AM
Monday	PRC Meeting	6:30 PM
Tuesday	Worship Committee Meeting	6:30 PM
Wednesday	Prayer & Praise Meeting NYG Bible Studies	10:00 AM 6:00-7:30 PM
Saturday	Gardening & Transplanting Tomatoes	9:30 AM
Sunday 05/18	Divine Service Congregational Meeting	9:30 AM 11:00 AM