



THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

May 14, 2026 ~ 7:00 p.m.

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We are brothers and sisters in Christ who are about **“Proclaiming God’s grace through faith and love.”**

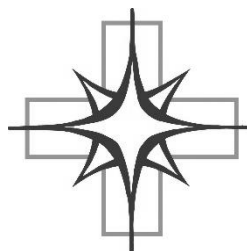
If you are a visitor, please make yourself at home and don’t hesitate to ask a question.

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Today in Worship

- Coming forty days after Easter, Ascension recalls not merely how our Lord went off with His disciples and disappeared into the clouds but also the promise that remains with them. He went up with a shout—with the glory that He earned and so that He might be present with us always to bestow the glory of His salvation in the means of grace. Our Lord has not abandoned His people but has gone to prepare the way for them that they may be where He is. Furthermore, He has promised His Spirit so that we will know the way.



Prelude

Ring of the Bells

Welcome

Opening Versicles

- L** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, *John 8:12*
- C** **the light no darkness can overcome.** *John 1:5*
- L** Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
- C** **and the day is almost over.** *Luke 24:29*
- L** Let your light scatter the darkness, *2 Cor. 4:5*
- C** **and illumine Your Church.** *2 Cor. 4:6*

Hymn of Light

*Lutheran Service Book #493
“A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”*

Thanksgiving for Light

L Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Psalm 141

Psalm 141:1-4, 8

L Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

C the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

L O Lord, I call to You; come to me quickly; hear my voice when I cry to You.

C Let my prayer rise before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

L Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.

C Let not my heart incline to any evil thing; let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.

L But my eyes are turned to You, O God;

C in You I take refuge, strip me not of my life.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen.

Prayer

L Let us pray. O Lord, to whom our Savior ascended in His glory and from whose right hand He works to supply His church with the fruits of His redeeming work, keep us in faith that we may be sustained by His mercy and brought to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #491
"Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels"

Reading from Holy Scripture

Acts 1:1-11

"The Lord ascends from their sight and the disciples return to Jerusalem with great joy"

¹ In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

G Thanks be to God.

Reading from Holy Scripture

Ephesians 1:15-23

"Paul commends the faith of the congregation in the context of the resurrection and ascension of Christ."

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ 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 one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Reading from Holy Scripture

Luke 24:44-53

“The evangelist records how Christ opened the Scriptures to the disciples before ascending in glory before their sight.”

⁴⁴ Then he said to 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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven.

⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,
⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

As the reading concludes the Christ Candle is extinguished to symbolize that the risen Christ has ascended into heaven moved from his physical ministry on this earth to his heavenly ministry at the Father's right hand.

L In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by His prophets.

C **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

The Apostles Creed Hymn

*Lutheran Service Book #494
"See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph"*

Message

Offering

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

– Acts 1:8



We encourage you to place your offering in the dropbox in the narthex before service. As the usher brings the offering forward at this time you may also hold it up and place it in the plate as the usher walks by. Please also use this time for prayer and reflection upon what we have heard from the Lord's Word this morning.

Prayer

L Lord God, graciously receive our prayers and praises. Subdue the devil, the world and our sinful flesh, that we may share in the victory Christ has won for us. Let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For our homes, that the god who established Jesus at His right hand would give Him as companion and consolation for those who live alone, strengthen the love of husbands and wives, and bless parents and children as they gather around His Word, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the rulers, authorities, powers and dominions of this world, that mindful of Christ who reigns far above them, they might govern with wisdom and integrity, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C Alleluia.

L Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

C To You, O Lord.

Collect for Peace

L O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

L Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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.

Blessing

L Let us bless the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

G **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #832
“Jesus Shall Reign”



Grace
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