

# THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

May 16-17, 2026

**“Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education”**



**Music of Preparation,  
Welcome, Announcements, Greeting**

**Our Ministry:** We are a people of God who are: **“Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education.”**

**Welcome!** We warmly greet all who have come to worship God. Your presence will enhance our worship experience and our fellowship together. Sincere thanks to each of you for your participation in the service and our time of sharing afterward. Blessings!

**Devotions & Publications** are available in the Main Entryway. Please leave donation envelopes in the offering plate.

## ..... WORSHIP NOTES .....

### **\*Communion: *The Lord’s Supper - A Reverent Sacrament***

The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:27,29, “Anyone who eats the bread or drinks the Lord’s cup in an unworthy way is guilty of sinning against the Lord’s body and blood. Anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the Lord’s body brings judgment on himself as he eats and drinks.” In view of the serious nature of the Lord’s Supper, Paul commands us to examine ourselves to see if we are partaking the supper for the purposes for which Christ instituted with our hearts properly prepared. We heartily invite Confirmed members of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod to receive of the Lord’s Supper. Other guests, we ask you to see the pastor or lay minister first so that you may receive the supper to your benefit rather than to your harm as the Apostle Paul warns.

NOTE: If you are allergic or cannot drink full strength wine, The two (2) cups in the center of each tray have water with a drop or two of wine.

**Note About Attendance Cards...**Remember that the only way we may know you are worshiping with us is by seeing your name on an attendance card. These cards may be completed as you enter for worship and will be collected after the offering. Use one card for each family that is gathered. ***Please list the name of each person in worship.*** (Parents, please take responsibility for signing in your children) There is a "Member" side as well as a "Guest" side. Please fill out the appropriate side and pass them to the center aisle during the gathering of the offerings. The cards are gathered after the offering has been collected.

**To Our Visitors...**Please sign our guest book found in the main entryway. Our school has a few nooks and crannies, so don’t be afraid to ask an usher where things are. Our pastor and any member here today would also be glad to meet and assist you. A guest information packet is available in the main entryway.

## DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING ONE

(The music for the liturgy may be found on page 151 in the Hymnal)

**Notes for Worship:** As you prepare to receive the Lord's Supper this day, we invite you to turn to the prayer section of the Hymnal (page 305). In addition to prayers for before and after worship, there are prayers for use before and after receiving the Lord's Supper (page 308 as well as on the inside front cover of the hymnal). May these prayers be useful in your worship.

**Before worship prayer** - Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. AMEN.

**Pre-service - 8:30am - Special Music**

Youth/Adult Band

**We're So Glad God Brought You Here Today!**

**Opening Hymn: "Up through Endless Ranks of Angels"**

LSB, hymn #491

Up through endless ranks of angels,  
Cries of triumph in His ears,  
To His heav'nly throne ascending,  
Having vanquished all their fears,  
Christ looks down upon His faithful,  
Leaving them in happy tears.  
  
Death-destroying, life-restoring,  
Proven equal to our need,  
Now for us before the Father  
As our brother intercede;  
Flesh that for our world was wounded,  
Living, for the wounded plead!  
  
To our lives of wanton wand'ring  
Send Your Spirit, promised guide;  
Through our lives of fear and failure  
With Your pow'r and love abide;  
Welcome us, as You were welcomed,  
To an endless Eastertide.

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Oh, to breathe the Spirit's grace!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Oh, to see the Father's face!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Oh, to feel the Son's embrace!

- P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C: **Amen.** *Matthew 28:19b*  
P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *1 John 1:8-9*  
P: Dear Friends in Christ, let us humble our hearts before our Holy God and silently reflect upon our sins.  
*(Moment of silent reflection)*  
P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen**  
P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. *John 20:19-23*  
C: **Amen**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Revelation 5:12-13, 19:5-9*

### This is the Feast

**C: (Sung)**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be  
people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are  
His.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

P: The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**C: (Sung) And also with you.**

P: Let us pray . . . .O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the  
fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting  
death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

*(Please be Seated)*

## THE READING OF THE WORD

**First Lesson: Acts 1:1-11**

*(Jesus Ascends To Heaven)*

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and  
teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through  
the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself  
alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and  
speaking about the kingdom of God. 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; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with  
the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they  
asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to

them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his  
own authority. 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." 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. And while they were gazing  
into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 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."

*Stand (as you are able)*

### Alleluia and Verse - Common

*John 6:68*

**C: (Sung) Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of  
eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

**C: (Sung) Glory to You, O Lord.**

**Gospel Lesson: Luke 24:44-53**

*(Jesus Opened Their Minds)*

Then [Jesus] 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." Then he opened their minds to understand the  
Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on  
the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should  
be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are  
witnesses of these things. 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." Then he led  
them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he  
blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they  
worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the  
temple blessing God.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: (Sung) Praise to You, O Christ.**

*(Please be Seated)*

**Sermon Hymn: “See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph”**

*LSB, hymn #494*

See, the Lord ascends in triumph;  
Conqu’ring King in royal state,  
Riding on the clouds, His chariot,  
To His heav’nly palace gate.  
Hark! The choirs of angel voices  
Joyful alleluias sing,  
And the portals high are lifted  
To receive their heav’nly King.

Who is this that comes in glory  
With the trump of jubilee?  
Lord of battles, God of armies,  
He has gained the victory.  
He who on the cross did suffer,  
He who from the grave arose,  
He has vanquished sin and Satan;  
He by death has crushed His foes.

While He lifts His hands in blessing,  
He is parted from His friends;  
While their eager eyes behold Him,  
He upon the clouds ascends.  
He who walked with God and pleased Him,  
Preaching truth and doom to come,  
He, our Enoch, is translated  
To His everlasting home.

Now our heav’nly Aaron enters  
With His blood within the veil;  
Joshua now is come to Canaan,  
And the kings before Him quail.  
Now He plants the tribes of Israel  
In their promised resting place;  
Now our great Elijah offers  
Double portion of His grace.

He has raised our human nature  
On the clouds to God’s right hand;  
There we sit in heav’nly places,  
There with Him in glory stand.  
Jesus reigns, adored by angels;  
Man with God is on the throne.  
By our mighty Lord’s ascension  
We by faith behold our own.

**Sermon: “Powered for Witness”**

*Acts 1:1-11*

Stand (as you are able)

P: Let us confess our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

C: **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 of the world to come. Amen**

*(Please be Seated)*

**Tithes and Offerings/Attendance Cards**

8:30am - Special Music  
8:30am - Reception of New Members

Youth/Adult Band

Stand *(as you are able)*

**OFFERTORY - Let The Vineyards**

*LSB, Hymn # 955*

**C: (Sung) Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*1 Timothy 2:1-4*

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs . . . Ascended Christ, we long to be with You. Draw us to Your Word and feed us by Your Sacrament, that You may keep us in faith until the day of Your returning. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Ascended Christ, You have reclaimed Your rightful place as ruler of the nations. Bless our world with peaceable leaders and citizens who pursue the common good. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Ascended Christ, You answer the fears of the lonely with the promise, "I am with you always." Be a comfort to those who feel isolated and alone. Heal those who struggle in body or spirit. We pray that you be with those hospitalized this past week (*Especialy, . . .*). Also be with those who continue treatment and healing at home. We pray for them and all those that we name in our hearts . . . (*Silence*). Bless them with Your presence, gracious Father, that they have a sense of victory in their lives and find strength and hope for each day. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Ascended Christ, just as You brought heaven's goodness to lowly men, so also You make a place for humanity in eternal glory. Bring comfort to those who grieve the death of loved ones, and reassure them that You have opened paradise to all who believe. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*(Additional prayers of the congregation. Each petition concludes with. . .)*

P: . . . Lord, In Your Mercy,

**C: Hear Our Prayer.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has taught 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**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

*(In preparation to receive the Sacrament, please read the Communion notes on page 2)*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

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 is my + blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

*Mt 26:26-28, Mk 14:22-24, Lk 22:19-20, 1 Cor. 11:23-25*

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

*John 20:19*

**C: And also with you.**

**Agnus Dei ~ The Lamb of God**

*John 1:29*

**C: (Sung) Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

*(Please be Seated)*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

### 495 Look, Ye Saints, the Sight Is Glorious



1 Look, ye saints, the sight is glo - rious; See the Man of  
2 Crown the Sav - ior! An - gels, crown Him! Rich the tro - phies  
3 Sin - ners in de - ri - sion crowned Him, Mock - ing thus the  
4 Hark, those bursts of ac - cla - ma - tion! Hark, those loud tri -



Sor - rows now! From the fight re - turned vic - to - rious,  
Je - sus brings; On the seat of pow'r en - throne Him  
Sav - ior's claim; Saints and an - gels crowd a - round Him,  
um - phant chords! Je - sus takes the high - est sta - tion;



Ev - 'ry knee to Him shall bow. Crown Him! Crown Him!  
While the vault of heav - en rings. Crown Him! Crown Him!  
Own His ti - tle, praise His name. Crown Him! Crown Him!  
Oh, what joy the sight af - fords! Crown Him! Crown Him!



Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crowns be - come the  
Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown the Sav - ior  
Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Spread a - broad the  
Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! King of kings and



vic - tor's brow. Crowns be - come the vic - tor's brow.  
King of kings. Crown the Sav - ior King of kings.  
vic - tor's fame. Spread a - broad the vic - tor's fame.  
Lord of lords! King of kings and Lord of lords!

### LSB821 - Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;  
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:  
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation Has redeemed us by His blood."

Alleluia! Not as orphans Are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! He is near us; Faith believes, nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received Him When the forty days were o'er,  
Shall our hearts forget His promise: "I am with you evermore"?

Alleluia! Bread of heaven, Here on earth our food, our stay;  
Alleluia! Here the sinful Flee to You from day to day.  
Intercessor, Friend of sinners, Earth's Redeemer, hear our plea  
Where the songs of all the sinless Sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;  
Alleluia! Born of Mary, Earth Your footstool, heav'n Your throne.  
As within the veil You entered, Robed in flesh, our great High Priest,  
Here on earth both priest and victim In the eucharistic feast.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;  
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:  
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation Has redeemed us by His blood."

### LSB477 - Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heav'n and voices raise:  
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;  
He who on the cross a victim For the world's salvation bled—  
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Now is risen from the dead.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat:  
See the ancient pow'rs of evil In confusion and retreat;  
Once He died, and once was buried: Now He lives forevermore,  
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer, Whom we worship and adore.

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high:  
Alleluia to the Savior Who has gained the victory;  
Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity!  
Alleluia, alleluia To the triune Majesty!

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: Thank The Lord:**

**C: (Sung) Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray. . . . O Father of glory, we praise You for enlightening the eyes of our hearts through the Supper of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us cling to the immeasurable greatness of Your power toward us who believe, that we might attain the riches of His glorious inheritance among the saints, with faith for this age, and hope for the age to come; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who rules and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

**BENEDICTION**

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: (Sung) Amen**

**Closing Hymn: "On Christ's Ascension I Now Build"**

*LSB, hymn #492*

On Christ's ascension I now build  
The hope of my ascension;  
This hope alone has always stilled  
All doubt and apprehension;  
For where the Head is, there as well  
I know His members are to dwell  
When Christ will come and call them.

Since Christ returned to claim His throne,  
Great gifts for me obtaining,  
My heart will rest in Him alone,  
No other rest remaining;  
For where my treasure went before,  
There all my thoughts will ever soar  
To still their deepest yearning.

O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me,  
Recalling Your ascension,  
That I may serve You faithfully  
In thanks for my redemption;  
And then, when all my days will cease,  
Let me depart in joy and peace  
In answer to my pleading.

**See You In Worship Next Week!**

**Post service - 8:30am - Special Music**

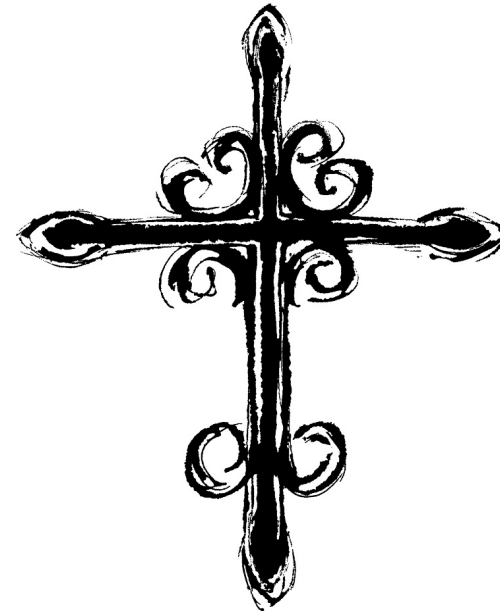
*Youth/Adult Band*

***After worship prayer***

*Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.*

*Please join us for coffee and donut holes in the cafeteria after Sunday services.*

**Altar Flowers** Altar flowers this weekend are given in loving memory of my father, Kenneth Capps, Sr. and brother, Randy Capps, by Ken & Kim Capps; also in loving memory of my husband, Jerry, mother, Edna Curwick and great-granddaughter, Winona June, by Carol Ginger.



## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

<b>Rev. Karl J. Koeppen</b> . . . . . Senior Pastor	<b>Rev. David Baker</b> . . . . . Missionary to Mongolia
<b>Rev. Roger A. Drinnon</b> . . . . . Associate Pastor	<b>Rev. Ross Engel</b> . . . . . Adopt-A-Chaplain
<b>Mr. Brian Porter</b> . . . . . Principal	<b>Church &amp; School Office:</b> . . . . . 932-0312

<b>Church Campus</b> . . . . .	348 E. Merchant, Kankakee
<b>School Campus and Church &amp; School Office</b> . . . . .	1780 Career Center Road, Bourbonnais
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