



You shall be
My witnesses ...
even to the
remotest part
of the earth.

ACTS 1:8, NASB

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

May 17, 2026

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *Lord of amazing visions, prepare our hearts and our spirits this day to receive your glad tidings of an Advocate. Help make us ready to be your disciples in all that we do, say, and think. For we ask this in the name of our beloved Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

OPENING SENTENCES (*Psalm 47:1,5*)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: Clap your hands, all you peoples!

ALL: *God has gone up with a shout of joy.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Courtney Bowen

PRELUDE

In the Cross of Christ I Glory
Stan Brunner

Edward Broughton

CHORAL INTROIT

Crown Him with Many Crowns
Chancel Choir

arr. Joel Raney

*LITANY FOR ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with songs of joy. Lift up your hearts.

ALL: *We lift them to the Lord.*

One: God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
Lift up your hearts.

ALL: *We lift them to the Lord.*

One: God is the ruler over all the earth; the Lord reigns on a holy throne.
Lift up your hearts.

ALL: *We lift them to the Lord.*

One: God put this power to work in Christ, raising him from the dead. Lift up your hearts.

ALL: *We lift them to the Lord.*

One: God has highly exalted him, giving him the name above all names.
Lift up your hearts.

ALL: *We lift them to the Lord.*

One: Jesus Christ is Lord! Glory to God in the highest. Lift up your hearts.

ALL: *We lift them to the Lord.*

One: Let us pray. O God of glory, sovereign of all nations, the risen and ascended Christ calls us to carry your message of life to all people.

ALL: *Led by the power of your Holy Spirit, may we witness always to the hope to which we are called as we share Christ's love to the ends of the earth. Amen.*

*HYMN: 263 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*

CORONATION

TO PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION and PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. John White

Eternal God, you have loved us from generation to generation. You have shown your faithfulness more often than we can recall. The Bible tells us of your steadfast mercy. You even pray for us. Yet we live holding on to past hurts; we are not open to your new creation. We prefer the safety of what we know to the excitement of discipleship. Forgive us, we pray, and make us again as you would have us be. We make all of our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Rev. John White

One: Sisters and brothers, as Christ is our witness, God's power to pardon is immeasurable. Therefore, proclaim this good news to the ends of the earth: through the mercy of Christ, our sins are forgiven.

ALL: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: (Hymn: 581)**

GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.*

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Rev. John White

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

THE WORD

ANTHEM

O Praise Ye the Lord

arr. Wilberg

Chancel Choir | Helen Redding, Director

NEW MEMBERS

Charles and Betsy Cox (Reaffirmation of Faith)

Rev. John White

RECEPTION

John and Susan Crocker (Reaffirmation of Faith)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Brent and Sarah Duke. (Reaffirmation of Faith)

Blest be the Tie that Binds (Hymn 306)

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Anna Poole

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. John White

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

SCRIPTURE READING *Acts 1:1-11* (pg. 118)

One: This is the word of God for the people of God. *ALL: Thanks be to God.*

Rev. Courtney Bowen

SERMON

What Now?

Rev. Courtney Bowen

RESPONSE

***AFFIRMATION of FAITH** (from *The Larger Catechism*)

Rev. John White

How was Christ exalted in his ascension?

Christ was exalted in his ascension, in that having, after his resurrection, often appeared unto, and conversed with his apostles, speaking to them of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God, and giving them commission to preach the gospel to all nations; forty days after his resurrection, he, in our nature, and as our head, triumphing over enemies, visibly went up into the highest heavens, there to receive gifts for men, to raise up our affections thither, and to prepare a place for us, where himself is, and shall continue till his second coming at the end of the world.

OFFERING

Rev. John White

OFFERTORY

Let Us Break Bread Together

arr. Albert Zabel

Stan Brunner

*Doxology (Tune: 607)

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Dedicatory Prayer

Rev. John White

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

***COMMUNION HYMN: 504** *We Come as Guests Invited*

WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND SHARING OF THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

***HYMN: 268** *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

DIADEMATA

***CHARGE and BENEDECTION**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

CHORAL BENEDECTION

Let the Great Amen Resound

Raney

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

Lift High the Cross

arr. Larry Shackley

Stan Brunner