

The Ascension of our Lord
May 17, 2026 • 9:30 a.m.



ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)
1100 E Murdock Ave. Oshkosh, WI 54901

The Ascension of Our Lord

P: Pastor A: Assisting Minister L: Lector C: Congregation/All

* *Invitation to stand*

Welcome and Announcements

* **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

C: Amen.

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

P: Merciful God,
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.
You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us.

Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.
Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.

C: Amen.

* **Gathering Hymn: *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* ELW 843**



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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* Apostolic Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*Kyrie

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have
Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.
mer - cy. **A - men.**

*Canticle of Praise

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great neo-ple of God.

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

Refrain
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

Refrain
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion

Refrain



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

* Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray. Almighty God,

C: you have saved us through the resurrection of Jesus. As we honor that Jesus has ascended to be with You, may we be reminded of Your constant presence in our lives on this earth. Today through affirmation of faith, scripture, song, prayer, fellowship and the Lord's Supper, may you reveal your presence, guidance and care for us in our daily lives here on earth. And may Your grace abound in our lives, until we complete our journey to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

L: A reading from Acts.

[Luke writes:] ¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have 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, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set 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, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

L: Word of God. Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

L: A reading from Ephesians.

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a

spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work 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 age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L: Word of God. Word of life.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

* Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia!

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. It contains three measures of music with lyrics 'Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we'. The second staff continues with lyrics 'go? You have the words of e - ter - nal'. The third staff concludes with lyrics 'life. Al - le - lu - ia!' and ends with a double bar line.

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

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁴ [Jesus said to the eleven and those with 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, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

***Hymn of the Day:** *Baptized and Set Free*

ELW 453



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Affirmation of Baptism

Affirmation of Baptism may be used at many times in the life of a baptized Christian. It is especially appropriate as part of a process of formation in faith in youth.

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for Josie, who is one with us in the body of Christ, who is making public affirmation of her baptism.

A: I present Josie Georgia Vroman, who desires to make public affirmation of her baptism. In preparation for this day, Josie has chosen Psalm 31:24 as her Confirmation verse: *Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD.*

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for Josie,
whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism.
You have called her to yourself,
Enlightened her with the gifts of your Spirit,
and nourished her in the community of faith.
Uphold Josie in the gifts and promises of baptism,
and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.
We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

A: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

A: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

A: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Affirmation

P: Josie, you have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Josie: **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

P: People of God, do you promise to support Josie and pray for her in her life in Christ?

C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Those making affirmation may kneel. Family members and sponsors may come forward. As the blessing is spoken, sponsors, parents, family and friends may come forward to lay their hands on the person.

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

P: Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in Josie the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm her faith, guide her life, empower her in her serving, give her patience in suffering, and bring her to everlasting life.

C: Amen.

P: Let us rejoice with Josie, our sister in Christ.

**C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.
Together we give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

* Hymn: *Will You Come and Follow Me* ELW 798



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

* Sharing the Peace

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

C: And also with you.

Our Offerings for God's Work

Offerings may be placed in the offering plate at the entrance to the sanctuary, as you enter or leave the church.

*"Brighter Than the Sun" – Makeover
The St. Andrew's Choir*

* Offertory Hymn: *As the Grains of Wheat* **ELW 465**

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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* Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray. Merciful God,
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day
when we will hunger and thirst no more.
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,
that goodness and mercy may follow us
and bless the world you love.
In the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

* The Great Thanksgiving


Presider: *Congregation:*



The Lord be with you. And al- so with you.

Detailed description: This block contains the first line of musical notation for 'The Great Thanksgiving'. It is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is divided into two parts: 'Presider:' and 'Congregation:'. The lyrics are 'The Lord be with you. And al- so with you.'


Presider: *Congregation:*



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.


Detailed description: This block contains the second line of musical notation. It is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is divided into two parts: 'Presider:' and 'Congregation:'. The lyrics are 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.'

Presider: *Congregation:*



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is

Detailed description: This block contains the third line of musical notation. It is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is divided into two parts: 'Presider:' and 'Congregation:'. The lyrics are 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is'



right to give God thanks and praise.

Detailed description: This block contains the fourth line of musical notation. It is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is a single line. The lyrics are 'right to give God thanks and praise.'

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Congregation:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and



might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!



Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

* **The Words of Institution**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

* **Lord's Prayer**

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.**

* Invitation to Communion

P: Come to the table of grace.

Receive the risen Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.


- † **All are welcome at this table.** Please follow the direction of the ushers as you make your way forward to the altar rail.
- † You will receive a wafer, then be offered a cup of red wine or white grape juice. Gluten free wafers are also available.
- † If it is either your practice or preference to not receive Communion today, please know that you are still welcome to come forward and receive a blessing.
- † There is space on both sides of the sanctuary if you would desire to light a candle and observe a quiet moment of reflection as you return to your seat.
- † If you need Holy Communion brought to you, please inform one of the ushers.

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you break the chains of ha - tred and

Congregation:



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
fear:




mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please stand, as you are able.

* **The Blessing**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

* **Prayer After Communion**

A: Let us pray:

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.

Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies,
and to bring your healing to the nations.

In the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

* **Benediction**

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

* Sending Hymn:

Here I Am Lord

ELW 574



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte

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* **Dismissal**

A: Go in peace. Praise the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude

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