

3rd Sunday of Easter

Confirmation Sunday

May 4, 2025 • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

As We Gather:

“Stand up, stand up for Jesus!” says the old hymn. That’s what’s happening today. Three of our young people are going to stand up and affirm – confirm – their faith in Jesus and their promise to follow him no matter what. Just as God called Jeremiah while he was still a youth, so God today is calling Phyllis, Rudy, and Elizabeth (Jeremiah 1:4-8). God is calling them to trust in Jesus and have eternal life (Psalm 16:8-11). He is calling them to put their faith into practice and shine the light of Jesus (Matthew 5:13-16). He is calling them to glorify Jesus’ name by everything they say and do (Colossians 3:17).

And God is calling you also! Today Phyllis, Rudy, and Elizabeth are giving you an example to follow. Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead to save us! Are you, like our young people, ready to “stand up for Jesus”?

The Season of Easter

Easter is not just a single day – it is also a 50-day celebration from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. The season of Easter lasts about 1/7 of the entire year. During this time, the worship services focus on resurrection and life and the victory of Jesus. We Christians boldly proclaim the historical fact of Jesus’ resurrection and our faith in the risen and victorious Savior.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Stand

Sharing God’s Peace with One Another

We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying “Peace be with you” as a sign of our unity and reconciliation in the Holy Spirit. As we are forgiven by God, so we forgive each other. (Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3)

Hymn: Christ is Risen! Alleluia

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship 382)

1. Christ is risen! Alleluia! Risen our victorious head!
Sing his praises! Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead!
Gratefully our hearts adore him as his light once more appears,
Bowing down in joy before him, rising up from griefs and tears.

Refrain: Christ is risen! Alleluia! Risen our victorious head!
Sing his praises! Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead!

2. Christ is risen! All the sadness of our Lenten fast is o'er.
Through the open gates of gladness he returns to life once more.
Death and hell before him bending, see him rise, the victor now,
Angels on his steps attending, glory round his wounded brow. (Refrain)
3. Christ is risen! All the sorrow that last evening round him lay
Now has found a glorious morrow in the rising of today.
See the grave its first-fruits giving, springing up from holy ground.
Christ was dead but now is living. He was lost but he is found. (Refrain)
4. Christ is risen! Henceforth never death or hell shall us enthrall.
We are Christ's, in him forever we have triumphed over all.
All the doubting and dejection of our trembling hearts have ceased.
Hail the day of resurrection! Let us rise and keep the feast! (Refrain)

Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father,
C **Who raised his Son Jesus from the dead!**
P In the name of the Son,
C **Who broke through the gates of death!**
P In the name of the Holy Spirit,
C **Who gives us new life in Christ!**
P Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one God.
C **We begin our worship in his glorious name!**

Prayer of Confession

- P** We begin our worship by confessing our sins and failures before the Lord,
because he is risen and he promises to forgive us!

We take a few moments for silent prayer and reflection.

- A** Lord God, the empty tomb shows your immense power and greatness. We, on the other hand, are weak, and our hearts go astray so easily. We have repeatedly fallen into temptation and disobeyed your will for us. Fill us with the power and victory of your resurrection! Forgive our wrongdoing. Help us to live a new life for you. And on the Last Day, raise us up to live forever with you. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

- P** The Bible says: "Jesus Christ, who is the firstborn from the dead... loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood." (Revelation 1:4-5) Christ is risen!
- C** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
- P** After Jesus rose from the dead, he commanded his disciples to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins in his name to all nations (Luke 24:47) Through Jesus, risen from the dead, we have forgiveness for our wrongdoing, peace with God, and power from the Holy Spirit to begin to change our lives. Christ is risen!
- C** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Service of the Word

Psalm 16:5-11

- P** Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup;
- C** **You make my lot secure.**
- P** The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
- C** **Surely I have a delightful inheritance.**
- P** I will praise the Lord, who counsels me;
- C** **Even at night my heart instructs me.**
- P** I keep my eyes always on the Lord.
- C** **With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.**
- P** Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices.
- C** **My body also will rest secure,**
- P** Because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
- C** **Nor will you let your faithful one see decay.**
- P** You make known to me the path of life;
- C** **You fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.**

A 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.

Hymn: Crown Him with Many Crowns

LSB 525, stanzas 4 and 5



4 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who tri-umphed o'er the grave
5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, En-throned in worlds a - bove,



And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those He came to save.
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The won-drous name of Love.



His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who
Crown Him with man - y crowns As thrones be - fore Him fall; Crown



died e - ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.
Him, ye kings, with man - y crowns, For He is king of all.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

C Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you. Thank you for the Holy Spirit who has brought us to faith and helped us through your Word. Thank you for these young people who are ready to confess their faith today because of what you have done to save us all. Please continue to pour out your Holy Spirit on them so that they will truly love you and worship you, confess their faith with joy and boldness, endeavor to live according to your commandments, and praise and glorify you in everything they say and do. In your own name we pray. Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 1:4-8

(God called Jeremiah – and God is calling you.)

Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth."

But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the Lord."

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

(Do everything in the name of Jesus.)

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia (Melody: Unser Herrscher LSB 901)

Alleluia! Lord and Savior, open now your saving Word.

Let it burn like fire within us. Speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing, for the good new that you bring.

Reading from the Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:13-16

(Let your light shine by the way you speak and act.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

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

[Jesus said,] "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

Children's Song: Jesus Rose and Now He Lives (Venezuelan Song)

Jesus rose and now he lives, and he frees me from my sins.
Jesus rose and now he lives, and he frees me from my sins.
In my life and in my soul, he gives peace and he gives joy.
In my life and in my soul, he gives peace and he gives joy.
Pam parampam param pam pam.

Children's Message

Testimonies from the Confirmands: Phyllis Meraz, Rudy Valdes, & Elizabeth Valdes

Hymn: Here I Am, Lord

Make a Joyful Sound (white booklet) 12

1. "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin, my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"

Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

2. "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my Word to them. Whom shall I send?" (Refrain)

3. "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide, till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?" (Refrain)

Sermon: Everything in the Name of Jesus

Special Music: There Was Light (Bryan Perdue)

1. *From darkness came a light that shows our way.
It guides us home from the night into His love.
There from the start, His Light was made for us,
To show God's love through the night till morning comes.
He spoke in the darkness and the night gave way to day!
All the world will see the Son of Man from darkness shine!*

2. *Light for the world, He brings us to His truth
To set us free from the chains that ever bind.
Stand in His light! Though man does intervene.
You called us home. Through your gates we enter in.
You called us out of love to spread your Word throughout the land.
Show the world the Light that shines for everyone to see.*

3. *Light soon grows dim, as Pilate's hands, washed clean,
Condemns the One to die upon his cross of shame.
Light of the world sees darkness on the land.
The earth cries out; temple veil is torn in two.
The sun, no light to shine, lets the darkness fill the land.
The people stood in fear as God's own Son said: "It is done!"*

4. *Christ will return! The world will soon rejoice
And sing God's praise because our Lord is King of Kings.
Soon all will know that death has been undone.
Heaven comes down, brings a new Jerusalem.
The Light will always be with us to guide us through our days,
And opens up the door for us that leads to God's own throne!*

Confirmation of Faith

The ones who will be confirming their faith stand and come forward before the altar.

Introduction

P Jesus said, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20, NKJV) Phyllis, Rudy, and Elizabeth, you have been baptized and you have been taught the basics of the Christian faith.

Jesus also said, "Whoever confesses me before men, I will also confess before my Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 10:32, NKJV) Today you are confessing your faith in Jesus for everyone to hear. You are publically confirming that you believe the same things we all do here at Ascension, and that you are committed to live in accordance with these teachings of Jesus in the Bible.

Questions and Affirmations

P So I ask you in the presence of God and of this congregation: Do you affirm and confess the Christian faith in which you were baptized? (If so, please answer: "Yes, I do.")

R **Yes, I do.**

P Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways? In other words, do you reject the devil and everything he stands for? (If so, please answer: "I do reject them.")

R **I do reject them.**

P Do you believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? I invite the whole congregation to rise and to respond together with these three young people, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C **I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his 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. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

- P** Do you acknowledge that you have sinned, that you have disobeyed God’s laws? And do you trust in Jesus who died and rose again, for forgiveness and eternal life? (If so, please answer: “Yes, I do.”)
- R** **Yes, I do.**
- P** Do you accept the Bible, the Old and New Testaments, as the Word of God? (If so, please answer: “Yes, I accept it.”)
- R** **Yes, I accept it.**
- P** Do you promise to faithfully read and hear the Word of God and to put this Word into practice? (If so, please answer: “Yes, with the help of God.”)
- R** **Yes, with the help of God.**
- P** Do you accept as true the teachings of the Lutheran Church, which come from the Bible, and which you have learned in your classes and in the Small Catechism? (If so, please answer: “Yes, I do.”)
- R** **Yes, I do.**
- P** Do you promise to be faithful members of the Lutheran Church, to love and forgive your brothers and sisters, to share the Lord’s Supper with them regularly, and to work together with them to share the good news of Jesus with the world? (If so, please answer: “Yes, with the help of God.”)
- R** **Yes, with the help of God.**
- P** Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and church, and to suffer anything, even death, rather than abandon your faith in Jesus? (If so, please answer: “Yes, with the help of God.”)
- R** **Yes, with the help of God.**

Prayer

- P** Please pray with me:
- A** **Heavenly Father, we ask that you bless Phyllis, Rudy, and Elizabeth, who have just affirmed their faith. Every day we face many temptations and hardships that try to hinder us from following your ways. But you are with us, and your Holy Spirit encourages us and strengthens us. So we pray that you would give Phyllis, Rudy, and Elizabeth wisdom and courage and strength, as well as your peace, patience, and love. Help them to resist temptation and stay faithful to your Word. Help them to be good witnesses of your love and salvation. Be with them – and with us – always, as you have promised. In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Individual Blessing *(Addressed to each confirmand individually)*

- P** You have chosen a Bible verse to share with everyone on this special occasion. This verse is: _____ *(Either the Pastor or the one confirming his or her faith, recites the chosen verse.)*

Phyllis Meraz: It is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Rudy Valdes: [Jesus said:] I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

Elizabeth Valdes: You are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. (1 Corinthians 12:27)

P May our heavenly Father, through Jesus, renew and increase in you the gift of the Holy Spirit, so that you may have a strong faith, so that you may grow in God’s love, so that you may have patience to face any obstacles in your path, so that you may be equipped to share your faith, and so that you may have the sure hope of eternal life. Amen.

Reception as Members

P In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, whom you have confessed and whom you have promised to serve, we receive you as communicant members of this congregation. You share with us all the spiritual duties and privileges of our church.

The confirmands turn to face the congregation. The congregation stands.

A **(members of the congregation): We, the members of this congregation, receive you as our brother and sisters, fellow communicant and voting members of our church, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. May God bless us and help us all to grow together as the body of Christ!**

P Lord, increase our faith and make us all one in you. Amen.

The confirmands return to their families.

Prayer of the Church

Jesus invites us to pray in his name for all our needs. We know that he lives and he hears us.

P We pray for the church, for the world, and for all who have needs.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P God is love! We pray for unity and love in the church and in our families.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

- P** Jesus is the Great Physician! We pray for healing for all who are sick in body, mind, or spirit, according to God's will, especially for our friends, relatives, and fellow Christians who are on our prayer list.
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** The Holy Spirit is the Comforter! We pray for that comfort for those who are suffering, hurt, or confused, especially those on our prayer list.
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Jesus is the Prince of Peace! We pray for peace in our homes, in our communities, and in the world.
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Jesus is the Way and the Truth and the Life! We pray for those who have not yet believed in Jesus, that they may come to know Jesus as their Savior.
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life! We pray for those who are grieving, that they may rest in the assurance that the day of resurrection is coming.
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Jesus came to serve and to save the lost! We pray for all those who serve as Jesus did, those who serve our country, our church, or our schools.
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** We pray for these and other needs in the world around us and among the people we know.
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** We trust in you, Lord, for you have power over death itself and you have promised to hear us. In the name of Jesus we pray.
- C Amen.**

Sit

Offering

The Bible says, "My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19) Christ has risen!! And God gives us all that we need for our lives and for doing his work in the world. With joy we set aside part of what God has given us, for his mission!

Choir Anthem during the Offering: "Mighty Is Our God / How Majestic is Your Name" (arr. by Drennan)

*Mighty is our God, mighty is our King,
mighty is our Lord, ruler of everything.
Glory to our God, glory to our King,
glory to our God, ruler of everything.
His name is higher, higher than any other name;
His power is greater, for He has created everything.
Mighty is our God, mighty is our King,
mighty is our Lord, ruler of everything.*

*O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.
O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.
O Lord, we praise Your name.
O Lord, we magnify Your name: Prince of Peace, Mighty God;
O Lord God Almighty.*

*Mighty is our God, mighty is our King,
mighty is our Lord, ruler of everything.
Prince of Peace, Mighty God; O lord God Almighty.
Mighty is our God, mighty is our King,
mighty is our Lord, He is our God.*

Stand

Offering Prayer

A Lord Jesus Christ, you have overcome death and you have given us eternal life! Accept these offerings, and bless them and use them so that the message of salvation and resurrection may be proclaimed in every part of the world. In your own name we pray. Amen.

Offertory: He is Lord (Gaither)

He is Lord, he is Lord! He is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!
Every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess That Jesus Christ is Lord!

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion is one of the precious gifts that God gives to His people, as we receive the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus, who died on the cross to forgive all of our sins. To prepare for this sacrament, we follow the instruction found in 1 Corinthians 11:28: "*Let each man examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks the cup.*" Therefore, we ask that you review and affirm the following questions:

1. Do I believe I am a sinner without hope of eternal life, except for God's mercy offered through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?
2. Do I repent of my sins and turn to Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior?
3. Do I believe that the bread and wine I receive is the true body and blood of Jesus, and not just a symbol of it?
4. Do I intend, with the help of God, to live a life that is pleasing to God?

We believe that your "yes" to these questions indicates a common faith with our Christian congregation and, therefore, we invite you to receive Holy Communion with us.

- The light-colored beverage in the center communion cups is non-alcoholic.
- Gluten free wafers are available. Just ask Pastor during distribution.
- Children and those not communing are welcomed to come forward for a blessing, but are not given communion until they have completed basic instruction classes on the Christian faith.

If you are unable to go to the altar, please let an usher know and the Pastor will bring the Lord's Supper to your pew. Please sit close to any of the three aisles in the church. Our Savior's wish is that all Christians receive His body and blood often. Ascension offers gluten free communion wafers for those who are protein/gluten intolerant or may have a wheat allergy. Simply notify the Pastor during communion if you desire a gluten-free wafer.

Please see the Pastor following service if you have any questions.

Preparation for Communion

- P** This is the day that the Lord has made!
- C** **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!** (Psalm 118:24)
- P** Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!
- C** **His love endures forever!** (Psalm 118:1)
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!
- C** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

- P** Lord God, we should indeed give you thanks and praise today and always, here and in every place, because you are the only God and Lord, and you have shown your power over death. Through Jesus Christ you have given us eternal life! Therefore we lift up our voices to you today, together with all Christians in heaven and on the earth, to praise your name!

Sanctus (Song of Praise)

LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Lord's Prayer

- A** **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 Our Lord

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."

Pax Domini (John 20:19)

LSB 209

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God, John 1:29)

LSB 210



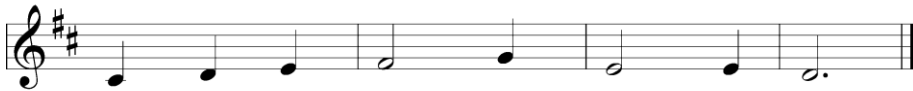
C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit

Hymns during Communion

Special Music: Bread Blessed and Broken

Bryan Perdue

- 1. We gather today to glorify your name
And to give thanks for your gifts given free.
And as we worship, remember You came,
Gave to the world your own Son as the Lamb.*
- 2. This is His body; this is His blood,
Gifts given free from our Father above,
Bread blessed and broken, wine shared in love.
Come gather 'round His great table divine.*
- 3. Eat of this body, bread for your soul,
Manna from heaven that's given for you.
God lived among us, showed us His way,
Was nailed to a cross for my sins to atone.*
- 4. Drink of this vessel, given for you.
Wine that is given is blood from the vine.
God's living water, free by His hand,
It brings us together to worship his name.*
- 5. This bread and this wine are given for free,
Bread from His body and wine from His blood.
Spirit within us, Spirit around,
We do all these things to remember his love.*

I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus

Lutheran Service Book 729



1 I am trust-ing Thee, Lord Je - sus, Trust - ing on - ly Thee;
2 I am trust-ing Thee for par - don; At Thy feet I bow,
3 I am trust-ing Thee for cleans - ing In the crim - son flood;
4 I am trust-ing Thee to guide me; Thou a - lone shalt lead,



Trust - ing Thee for full sal - va - tion, Great and free.
For Thy grace and ten - der mer - cy Trust - ing now.
Trust - ing Thee to make me ho - ly By Thy blood.
Ev - 'ry day and hour sup - ply - ing All my need.

- 5 I am trusting Thee for power; Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me Must prevail.
- 6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus; Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever And for all.

Text and tune: Public domain

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia

Lutheran Service Book 463



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!
2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 Hail, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Chris - tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris-tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!
Sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!
All your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



Of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!
When con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!



At the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!
Now He lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!
Met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!
Now He lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text and tune: Public domain



1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.
 2 For three long days the grave did its worst
 3 The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear!
 4 "Go spread the news: He's not in the grave;
 5 Christ has a - ris - en; He sets us free;



Re - joice and praise Him, al - le - lu - ia.
 Un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.
 You look for Je - sus who is not here.
 He has a - ris - en this world to save.
 Al - le - lu - ia, to Him prais - es be.



For our Re - deem - er burst from the tomb,
 He who gives life did death un - der - go;
 See for your - selves the tomb is all bare;
 Je - sus' re - deem - ing la - bors are done;
 Je - sus is liv - ing! Let us all sing;



E - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.
 And in its con - quest His might did show.
 On - ly the grave cloths are ly - ing there."
 E - ven the bat - tle with sin is won."
 He reigns tri - um - phant, heav - en - ly King.

Refrain



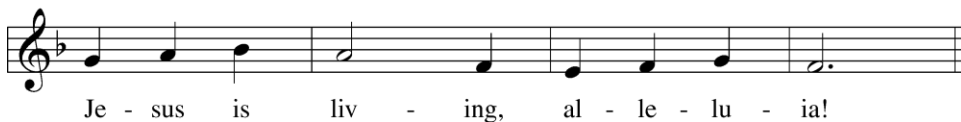
Let us sing praise to Him with end - less joy;



Death's fear - ful sting He has come to de - stroy.



Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!



Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: © 1977 Howard S. Olson. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005074
Tune: Public domain

After Communion:

Nunc Dimittis

Lutheran Service Book 211



Closing Prayer

P Let us pray.

C **Heavenly Father, thank you for your promise of forgiveness and eternal life. Increase my faith and help me live in accordance with your Word. By your Holy Spirit, grant me the assurance that Christ is risen and that I too will be raised to live forever. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Benediction

P Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:57-58)

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and grant you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: Oh Jesus, I Have Promised (ELW 810, melody from LSB 527)

1. Oh Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end.
Remain forever near me, my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.
2. Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near.
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
But, Jesus, then draw nearer to shield my soul from sin.
3. Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still
Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.
Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
Now speak and make me listen, oh Guardian of my soul.
4. Oh Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you
That where you are in glory, your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end.
Oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. Richard Schlak
Organist: Ruth Ann Ostergren
Elder: Ron Seiders/Dave Tuchenhagen
Acolyte: Aden Morales
Reader: Joe Karl
Ushers: Team #1

Prayer Ministry Philippians 4:6-7

Please call the church office @ 915-833-1009 to include a prayer request or update for the bulletin. If you have a prayer request or update for the prayer chain, please e-mail Jan Schlak at oveja6925@aol.com.

Grieving the Loss of Loved Ones:

We pray for all those who may be grieving or mourning the loss of loved ones, especially remember these who loss is most recent:

Connie Steelhammer. (Former Ascension member.) Please pray for peace and comfort for her husband, Ken, and all of their family.

Pastor Howard Patten. Please continue to pray for peace, comfort, and strength for **Marilyn Patten** and all of Pastor's family.

Illness and Recovery:

Jess Moran, granddaughter of Jan Schlak, (Jess is 25 weeks pregnant and baby is experiencing growth restriction; please pray for the baby to be okay and Jess not to have an early delivery); **Sophia**, the former caregiver to Concepcion Arellanes, who is the mother of Lorena Rodriguez, our church custodian (Sophia has terminal cancer, prayers for peace and comfort); **Carlos Munoz**, neighbor of David DeMartelaere, (for successful treatment and recovery from a brain tumor); **Diana Holguin** (for recovery from surgery) **& Tito Holguin** (for strength as he does caregiving of Diana); **Melissa Reddick**, friend of Barbara Lewis (for thanksgiving that brain cancer is gone and continue to pray for complete recovery); **Maritza Leon**, Maritza Schlak's mother (for recovery in rehabilitation center after successful surgery); **Gilbert Provencio** (for recovery after successful surgery); **Jaques Reulet**, the father of Yves Reulet, Pastor Rick and Maritza's son-in-law's father (for healing in his recovery from quadruple bypass surgery), **Mark Pfeifer**, nephew of Vicki Pfeifer, (for healing and that he be able to leave the hospital); **Deb Sullivan & her brother, Anthony** (for guidance & strength in handling parents' estate as they mourn); **Diana and sister Dayna**, students where Maritza Schlak teaches, orphaned and living with their aunt (for protection and comfort in their loss); **Maddy**, student where Mari teaches (for safety from gang violence); **Andy Barber** (for pain relief radiating from neck to hands); **Gloria Voge** (for successful leg therapy and healing from spine fracture); **Aubrey McDermott** (for 15-year-old with MS in hospital due to stroke); **Ken McLennan** (for upcoming heart procedures and peace, patience, and strength for his wife); (continue to next page)

Barb Spott (for no further medical issues and for relief from vertigo); **Richard Neal**, husband of Martha Neal (recovery from stroke and for peace and strength for Richard and Martha); **Abigail Kailukatis**, friend of Jan Schlak's daughter Elizabeth (for effective treatment); **David Kwiatkowski**, friend of Connie Swinney (recovery and treatment for brain cancer); **Elizabeth Hinson**, (for recovery from intestinal bug); **Jim Werner**, brother of Elliott Werner (successful treatment and healing from cancer); **Brian Stickney** (continuing health issues); **Rebekah Livesay** (for healing and correct diagnosis); **Dick Seiders**, father of Ron Seiders (continue to heal from cancer and keep the cancer from spreading); **Mary Spott**, Barb Spott's niece Keighley Spott's mother, (heart related issues); **Ann Perdue** (relief from Osteoarthritis); **Patty Jones**, sister of Martha Neal (stage 4 breast cancer); **Robert and Karin Gaudet**, (restoring relationships); **Sean Sweeney**, (brain tumor); **Laurie Sterling**, (colon cancer); **Bruce Walker**, (being treated for Parkinson's); **Coby Clark and family**, (continued cancer recovery); **Ryan Walker**, (cancer is in remission); **Mariella Kraus**, (cancer); **Bob Gallagher** (grateful no cancer was found, but he is still fragile with many health issues); **Kathy Kiphart, John Weiske, Linda Seiders.**

Praise and Thanksgiving:

Merle DeMartelaere, father of David DeMartelaere (for successful treatment for Edema and AFib); **Dick Seiders**, father of Ron Seiders (thanksgiving for recovery from hip surgery); **Kirstin Hervin**, daughter of Mike & Christy Mielke, (thanksgiving for improved health from Lupus condition which appears to be under control through maintenance meds); **Greg Tatum** (Marjy Brady's nephew) **& his wife, Jessica** and their baby son, **Jackson Tatum** (thanksgiving to God for this new life); **Lupita Burke**, Ascension Preschool Teacher (thanksgiving for recovery from fracture); **Sherri Pfeifer Wilson**, niece of Vicki Pfeifer (completed chemotherapy radiation treatment for cancer and is doing well, thanks be to God).

Special Prayer Requests:

Jacob Meraz is asking that in the coming weeks, we would pray for the San Pablo youth group's fundraisers' success. Also, pray for the financial help that will provide for the needs of both **Ascension and San Pablo youth groups** planning to go to the LCMS "Endure" Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Please pray for the spiritual well-being and safety of all participants involved.

Ascension News and Notes

Flowers for today's service are provided by Ron Seiders, in memory of his mom, Sandy.



BOTH SETS OF FLOWERS ARE \$60.00.

NOTE: CONSIDER SHARING THE COST WITH SOMEONE ELSE. THEN YOU EACH PAY \$30.00

PLEASE PLACE YOUR CHECK IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR DROP IT OFF IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.



5-May	Rosemarie Willadsen
9-May	Linda Canada
10- May	John Brady

Congregational Meeting May 18, 2025



Voting on:

- **FINAL Ascension Lutheran Church 2025 Constitution and Bylaws** as revised and approved by the LCMS Rocky Mountain Division (final copy and copy with marked changes)
- **Several new Ascension Lutheran Church Policies**
 - Congregational Meeting Minutes (12-01-2024)
 - ALC Communion Policy (Council approved 04-22-25)
 - Job Description Policy for Council (Council approved 04-22-25)
 - Council Meeting Policy (Council approved 01-21-25)
 - Contract Policy (Council approved 04-22-25)
 - Revised ALC Constitution and By-laws Approved by RMD DCC

All documents to be published to the Congregation via email.

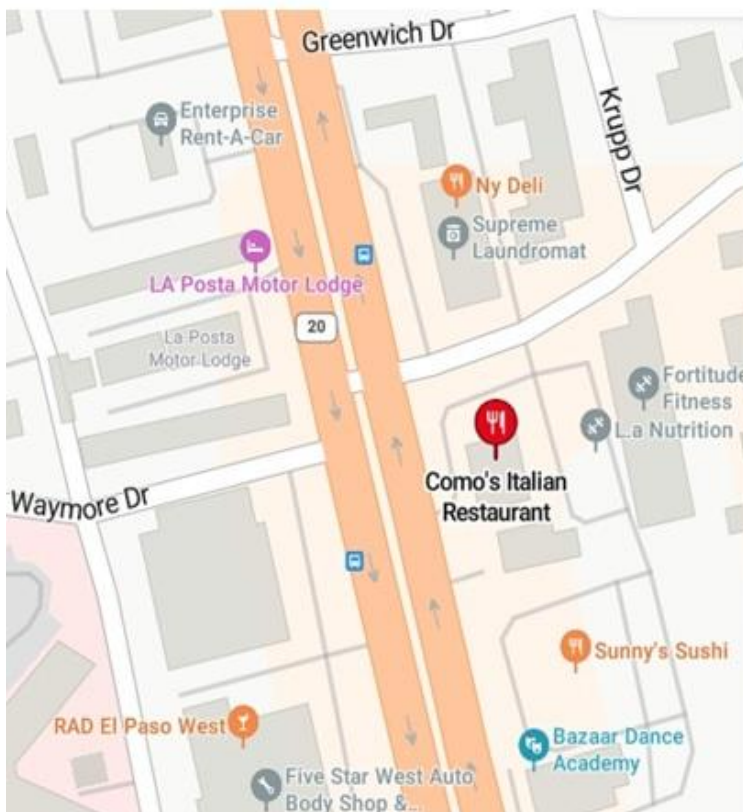
- Hard copies available upon request, **Contact Kristal Wade:**
ausakwade@gmail.com

Attention!! All Ladies of Ascension

Ladies Night Out: May 2025

All ladies of Ascension are welcome.

Once a month on the 3rd Wednesday @ 6:00 PM we meet at a restaurant and enjoy food and fellowship. (Dutch treat)



May 21st we will be meeting at:
Como's Italian Restaurant
4030 N. Mesa St.

For information call Robin Wiegert at (915) 581-5566
I hope you can join us.

The last Thursday morning Women's Bible Study will be on May 15th. It will resume in September 2025.

We meet at the church on Thursday mornings.

We gather at 9:45 and begin the lesson at 10:00 and end at 11:00.

All women are welcome to join us as we study. If you have any questions, contact Gretchen Schmalz or Jan Schlak.



Women's Bible Study



Men's Bible Study Resumes

April 29th

7:00 p.m.-Fellowship Hall

LIFE & MINISTRY
OF THE MESSIAH

9am-12pm

June 2-5: Around the World

June 9-12: Animal Kingdom

ASCENSION
LUTHERAN
PRESCHOOL

SUMMER CAMP
2025

\$100
per week

Ages 3 (By 5/31/25)
through Kindergarteners
(must be potty trained)

Pre-registration required by May 23, 2025

ascensionlutheranpreschoolelp@gmail.com



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH



JOIN US FOR
2025 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 16-19
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM



FOR CHILDREN
3 - 12 YEARS OLD

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS
FRIDAY, JUNE 6TH

REGISTER ONLINE:
<https://alconnect.faith/events/vbs/>



Ascension Lutheran Church, 6520 Loma de Cristo, El Paso, TX 79912 (915)833-1009

QR Code will lead to
registration form:



LCMS Youth Gathering

ENDURE

July 19-23, 2025; New Orleans, LA



- Youth Gatherings celebrate the meaning of Christian joy in all of life's situations, including transitions and crisis.
- Youth Gatherings recognize and affirm the diversity of God's people.
- Participants **ENDURE** faithfully no matter what they encounter
- Participants cling to and share the good news of God's faithfulness in Christ that **ENDURES forever**

If interested contact the Pastor, David DeMartelaere, or Jacob Meraz for information and registration forms

Fundraising for New Orleans Youth Gathering

Ascension Lutheran Church Attendees:

Phyllis & her father, Jacob Meraz

Envelopes with money amounts are posted on the wall in the narthex.

The money contributed will help in the fundraising effort for Phyllis and Jacob to attend this summer.



San Pablo Attendees:

4 youth & 1 Adult Leader

San Pablo youth will be having yard sales on the first Saturday of every month.

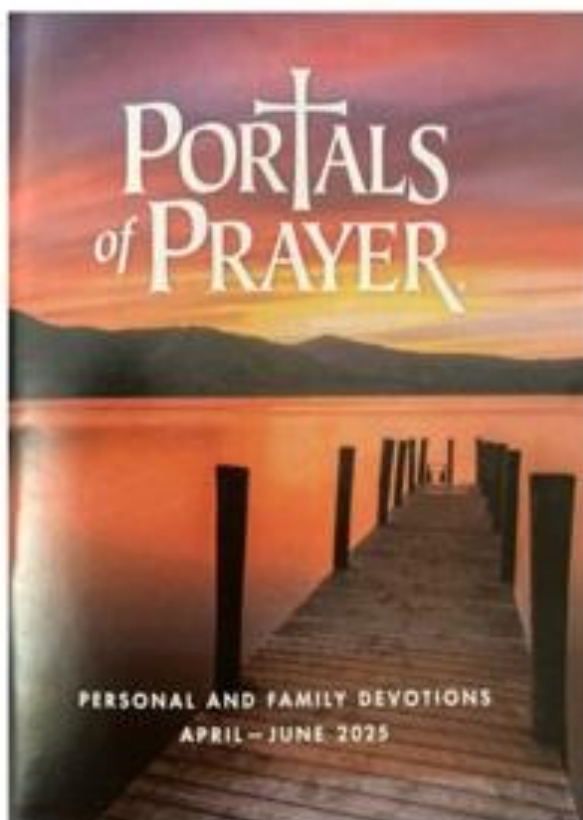
Any donations of no longer needed household items, or gently used clothing, shoes, toys, & furniture would be used for their yard sale fundraising effort.

Call Luz Soto (YLM Servant Event Coordinator)

Office: (915) 858-2588 or Cell: (915) 315-6704



NOW AVAILABLE
PICK UP YOUR FREE COPY
TODAY IN THE NARTHEX.



Be refreshed daily in God's living

This Week @ Ascension

Sunday (May 4)

- 9:00 AM Sunday School and Adult Bible Study
- 10:00 AM Fellowship
- 10:30 AM Worship w/ Communion

Confirmation Sunday



Monday (May 5)

Church Office Closed

Tuesday (May 6)

- 5:00 PM Board of Elders Meeting
- 6:30 PM Boy Scouts (FH)
- 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study (FH)

Wednesday (May 7)

- 11:00 AM Sit and Sew (FH)
- NO SCHOOL (Professional Development Teacher Luncheon)

Thursday (May 8)

- 9:45 AM Women's Bible Study (FH)
- 6:30 PM Choir Practice (S)

Friday (May 9)

- 10:00 AM Preschool Spring Program (S)
- No Preschool Extended Care (FH)

Saturday (May 10)