



**Pilgrim**  
LUTHERAN  
**Church**

## Divine Service



**May 17, 2026**  
**The Ascension of our Lord**

# Welcome

## Opening Hymn

### God is Here!



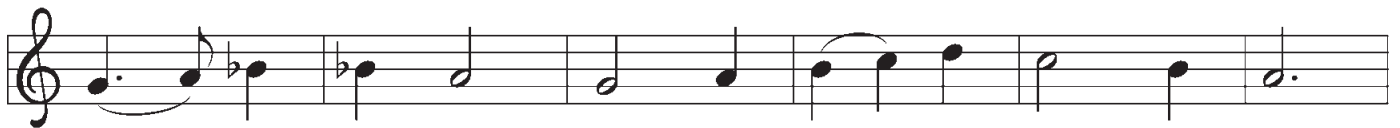
1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer  
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's  
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,  
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -  
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants  
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

# Confession and Forgiveness

*The assembly stands. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

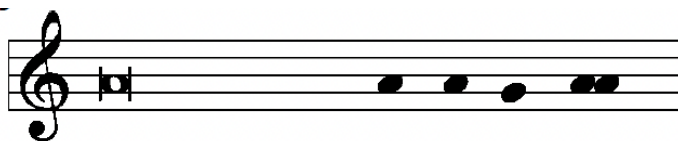
**We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus 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**

*The minister stands and addresses the congregation.*

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

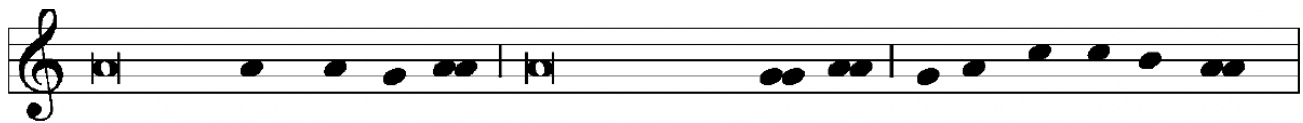
## Kyrie



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



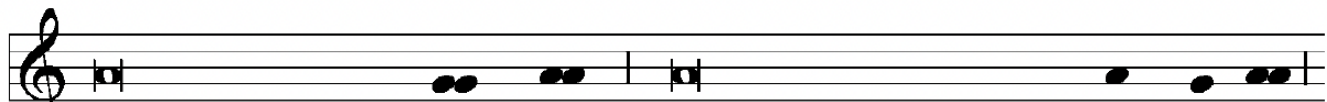
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



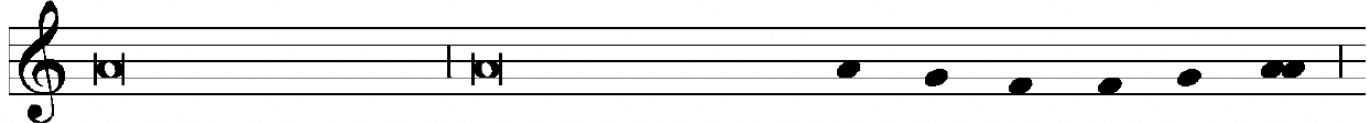
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



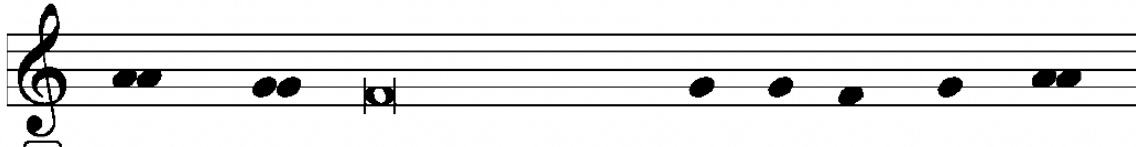
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

## The Sign of Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## Songs of Praise

### Open the Eyes of My Heart

Open the eyes of my heart Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You  
(Repeat)

To see You high and lifted up  
Shining in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy holy holy

Open the eyes of my heart Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You  
(Repeat)

To see You high and lifted up  
Shining in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy holy holy  
(Repeat)

Open the eyes of my heart Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You  
I want to see You  
I want to see You

## Above All

Above all powers above all kings  
Above all nature and all created things  
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man  
You were here before the world began

Above all kingdoms above all thrones  
Above all wonders the world has ever known  
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth  
There's no way to measure  
What You're worth

Crucified laid behind the stone  
You lived to die rejected and alone  
Like a rose trampled on the ground  
You took the fall and thought of me  
Above all

Above all powers above all kings  
Above all nature and all created things  
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man  
You were here before the world began

Above all kingdoms above all thrones  
Above all wonders the world has ever known  
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth  
There's no way to measure  
What You're worth

Crucified laid behind the stone  
You lived to die rejected and alone  
Like a rose trampled on the ground  
You took the fall and thought of me  
Above all  
(Repeat)

## Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray...

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

# First Reading

## Acts 1

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

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

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

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

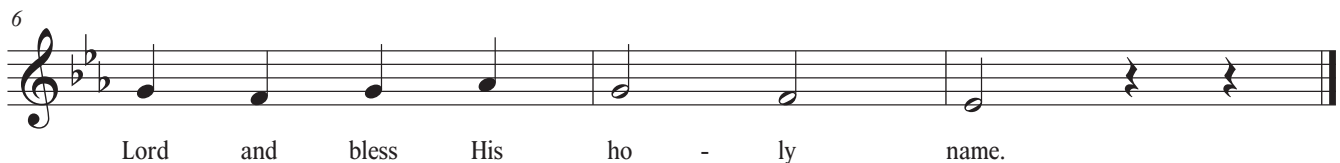
## Psalm

### Psalm 68

#### Tone



#### Refrain



**Refrain: Sing praises to the Lord and bless his holy name.  
Sing praises to the Lord and bless his holy name.**

1 Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered;  
let those who hate God flee.

**2 As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;  
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.**

3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;  
let them also be merry and joyful.

**4 Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds;  
I Am is that name, rejoice before God!**

**Refrain: Sing praises to the Lord and bless his holy name.  
Sing praises to the Lord and bless his holy name.**

5 In your holy habitation, O God,  
you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

**6 you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom;  
but the rebels shall live in desert places.**

7 O God, when you went forth before your people,  
when you marched through the wilderness,

**8 the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,  
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

9 You sent a bountiful rain, O God;  
you restored your inheritance when it languished.

**10 Your people found their home in it;  
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**

**Refrain: Sing praises to the Lord and bless his holy name.  
Sing praises to the Lord and bless his holy name.**

32 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;  
sing praises to the Lord.

**33 You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;  
you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**

34 Ascribe power to God,  
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.

**35 How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,  
giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!**

**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.**

**Refrain: Sing praises to the Lord and bless his holy name.  
Sing praises to the Lord and bless his holy name.**

## Second Reading

### Ephesians 1

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

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Children's Message

**Gemma Rodriguez**

## Gospel Acclamation

**Sing praises to the Lord and bless his holy name.**  
**Sing praises to the Lord and bless his holy name.**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord!**

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

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

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

## Sermon

**Pastor Lew Upchurch**

# Confession of Faith

## Apostles' Creed

**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**

## Prayers of Intercession

*Following each prayer petition:*

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

## Offering

### The Sacrament of the Altar

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed our duty and our joy...evermore praising You and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed + is He who comes in the Name of the Lord, Hosanna in  
the highest.**

We proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

## Words of Institution

### The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## O Lamb of God...

### Ways to Commune

**Intinction** – Pastor places bread in hands. Communicant dips bread in chalice held by Communion Assistant.

**Sealed Cups** – Gluten-Free in Blue and Alcohol-Free in Pink are available (take to seat, and we will commune together).

**Prayer** – Approach the communion table with arms crossing your chest.

# Communion Songs

## Breathe

This is the air I breathe  
This is the air I breathe  
Your holy presence living in me

This is my daily bread  
This is my daily bread  
Your very word spoken to me

And I I'm desperate for You  
And I I'm lost without You  
(Repeat)

This is the air I breathe  
This is the air I breathe

## We Exalt Thee

We exalt Thee  
We exalt Thee  
We exalt Thee oh Lord  
(Repeat)

For Thou oh Lord art high above all the earth  
Thou art exalted far above all the earth  
For Thou oh Lord art high above all the earth  
Thou art exalted far above all the earth

We exalt Thee  
We exalt Thee  
We exalt Thee oh Lord  
(Repeat)

## Blessing

# Closing Hymn

## Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels



1 Up through end - less ranks of an - gels, cries of tri - umph  
2 Death-de - stroy - ing, life - re - stor - ing, prov - en e - qual  
3 To our lives of wan - ton wan - d'ring send your prom - ised  
4 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to breathe the



in his ears, to his heav'n - ly throne as - cend - ing,  
to our need, now for us be - fore the Fa - ther  
Spir - it guide; through our lives of fear and fail - ure  
Spir - it's grace! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



hav - ing van - quished all their fears, Christ looks down up -  
as our broth - er in - ter - cede; flesh that for our  
with your pow'r and love a - bide; wel - come us, as  
Oh, to see the Fa - ther's face! Al - le - lu - ia!



on his faith - ful, leav - ing them in hap - py tears.  
world was wound - ed, liv - ing, for the wound - ed plead!  
you were wel - comed, to an end - less Eas - ter - tide.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to feel the Son's em - brace!

## Announcements

*Please use the basket in the Narthex to dispose of your used Holy Communion Cups as you leave the Sanctuary*

# Postlude

## He is Exalted

He is exalted  
The King is exalted on high  
I will praise Him  
He is exalted forever exalted  
And I will praise His name

He is the Lord  
Forever His truth shall reign  
Heaven and earth  
Rejoice in His holy name  
He is exalted  
The King is exalted on high

He is exalted  
The King is exalted on high  
I will praise Him  
He is exalted forever exalted  
And I will praise His name

He is the Lord  
Forever His truth shall reign  
Heaven and earth  
Rejoice in His holy name  
He is exalted  
The King is exalted on high  
(Repeat)

He is exalted  
The King is exalted on high

# Sermon Notes



# Serving at Worship Today

## **Preaching & Presiding**

Pastor Lew Upchurch

## **Director of Music**

Mary Harper

# Upcoming Events



**Learn more about all upcoming events at [pilgrimsm.org/calendar](https://pilgrimsm.org/calendar)**

## Pilgrim Giving



Your faithful financial stewardship is as important as ever. We will be creating cards with QR code to access online giving.

## Serve at Pilgrim



Interested in serving at Pilgrim? Scan the QR code or go to <https://pilgrims.org/serve-at-divine-service/> to complete an information form. We will contact you when trainings are scheduled for various service opportunities.

## Bible App



Scan this QR code to download a Bible app and access scripture, devotionals, and more right from your phone!



**Pilgrim**  
L U T H E R A N  
**Church**

Called by the Holy Spirit,  
**we are an intergenerational community of  
worship and service**  
that invites the people of  
Santa Monica and beyond  
**to flourish in the love of Jesus Christ  
through Word and Sacraments.**

**Lew Upchurch**

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