

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Reverend Ronald Bright	Pastor
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Annette Bowen	Lector
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Sunday bulletins, news, puzzles, and sermons are available on our website listed above. Services are streamed on our Facebook page listed above.

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The Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2026

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prayer on entering church: 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.

PRELUDE

Beautiful Savior

Dale Wood

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

**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.**

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CONGREGATION GREETING

INVOCATION

The sign of the cross (†) may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism

P: In the name of the Father and of the (†) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION¹

P: Let us pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, You have brought us together into Your presence to offer You our prayers and praise, hear Your holy word, and partake of the blessed sacrament of Holy Communion. Prepare our hearts and minds to worship You and receive Your gifts by giving us the spirit of repentance. Help us to approach the mercy seat of Christ and sincerely confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by Your infinite goodness and mercy.

C: Amen.

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.

(We take a moment of silence before the Lord as we call to mind how we have not properly loved Him, ourselves, or other people.)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved You with my whole heart; I have not loved my neighbors as myself. I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I 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. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (†) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Hymnal p. 155

This Is the Feast

Refrain: 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. *Refrain***

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor,
blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain***

**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. Refrain***

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign.

Alleluia. Refrain

COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 1:12-26

L: The first reading for the Seventh Sunday of Easter is from chapter one of Acts.

Matthias is chosen to replace Judas Iscariot as the twelfth disciple.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 68

L: O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God,
sing praises to the Lord,

**C: O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God,
sing praises to the Lord,**

L: God shall arise, His enemies shall be scattered;
and those who hate Him shall flee before Him!
As smoke is driven away, so you shall drive them away;
as wax melts before fire, so the wicked shall perish before God!

**C: O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God,
sing praises to the Lord,**

L: But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult before God;
they shall be jubilant with joy!

**C: O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God,
sing praises to the Lord,**

All: 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.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 4:12-19, 5:6-11

L: The second reading is from 1 Peter, chapter four and five.

As people who live in Jesus, we can expect to suffer as Jesus suffered.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(please rise and sing)*

Hymnal p. 156

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 17:1-11

P: The Holy Gospel is according to St. John, chapter seventeen.

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

Jesus offers His high priestly prayer in the upper room.

Following the reading...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE NICENE CREED

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hymnal p. 539

Christ is the world's Redeemer, the lover of the pure,
The font of heav'nly wisdom, our trust and hope secure,
The armor of His soldiers, the Lord of earth and sky,
Our health while we are living, our life when we shall die.

Christ has our host surrounded with clouds of martyrs bright,
Who wave their palms in triumph and fire us for the fight.

Then Christ the cross ascended to save a world undone
And, suff'ring for the sinful, our full redemption won.

Down through the realm of darkness He strode in victory,
And at the hour appointed He rose triumphantly.

And now, to heav'n ascended, He sits upon the throne
Whence He had ne'er departed, His Father's and His own.

(Please rise) Glory to God the Father, the unbegotten One,
All honor be to Jesus, His sole begotten Son,
And to the Holy Spirit the perfect Trinity.

Let all the worlds give answer: Amen! So let it be.

SERMON³

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

Voluntary on "Rex Gloriae"

Anthony Giamanco

OFFERING SONG *(please rise and sing)*

Hymnal p. 159

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and will call on the name of the Lord.

**I will take the cup of salvation
and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for ourselves, the church, and the world.

Following each petition:

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper (Holy Communion) is being celebrated in today's service. In preparation for that, please be reminded that the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper are not merely representations or symbols of Jesus' body and blood but Jesus' body and blood sacrificed on the cross are present in, with, and under the bread and wine (The Real Presence). How is this possible? This is beyond human understanding, but we remember that with God all things are possible. This truth is a divine mystery instituted by Jesus, taught by his Apostles, fervently held by the Christian church, and one in which we participate through faith. To be properly prepared to receive this sacrament, you must

- 1) Recognize that you have indeed sinned against God and other people and are accountable to God for those sins;
- 2) Be sorry (repentant) for those sins;
- 3) Believe that in this sacrament Jesus bestows forgiveness, life, and salvation; and
- 4) Sincerely desire to live a godly life from this point forward.

If you are not a member of Christ Lutheran Church, please speak with the pastor before receiving communion here for the first time. If you choose to come forward to receive a blessing rather than the Lord's Supper, indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest.

PREFACE

Hymnal p. 160

P: The Lord be with you.

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

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: *(sung)* **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: *(sung)* **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you in all ways.

C: *(sung)* Amen.

AGNUS DEI

**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.**

Prayer before communing: Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit one God now and forever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

Form a line at the communion rail starting at the left side. When the line is half full, begin filling it in from the right side. When invited, approach the rail and kneel/stand. If you want to receive a gluten-free wafer at communion, let the worship assistant know as he comes by with the wafers. After communion, exit through the right doorway, place individual communion cups in the tray, and proceed down the stairs back to your seat.

Lord Jesus Christ, lifegiving bread,
 May I in grace possess You. Let me with holy food be fed,
 In hunger I address You. Prepare me well for You, O Lord,
 And, humbly by my prayer implored,
 Give me Your grace and mercy.

To pastures green, Lord, safely guide, To restful waters lead me;
 Your table well for me provide, Your wounded hand now feed me
 Though weary, sinful, sick, and weak, Refuge in You alone I seek,
 To share Your cup of healing.

O bread of heav'n, my soul's delight, For full and free remission
 I come with prayer before Your sight In sorrow and contrition.
 Your righteousness, Lord, cover me That I receive You worthily,
 Assured of Your full pardon.

I do not merit favor, Lord, My weight of sin would break me;
 In all my guilty heart's discord, O Lord, do not forsake me.
 In my distress this comforts me That You receive me graciously,
 O Christ, my Lord of mercy!

Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior, Turned away God's wrath forever;
 By His bitter grief and woe He saved us from the evil foe.

As His pledge of love undying, He, this precious food supplying,
 Gives His body with the bread, And with the wine the blood He shed.

Jesus here Himself is sharing; Heed then how you are preparing,
 For if you do not believe, His judgment then you shall receive.

Praise the Father, who from heaven To His own this food has given,
 Who, to mend what we have done, Gave into death His only Son.

Firmly hold with faith unshaken That this food is to be taken
 By the sick who are distressed, By hearts that long for peace and rest.

Agony and bitter labor Were the cost of God's high favor;
 Do not come if you suppose You need not Him who died and rose.

**Christ says: "Come, all you that labor, And receive My grace and favor:
Those who feel no pain or ill Need no physician's help or skill.**

**"For what purpose was My dying If not for your justifying?
And what use this precious food If you yourself were pure and good?"**

**If your heart this truth professes And your mouth your sin confesses,
You will be your Savior's guest, Be at His banquet truly blest.**

**Let this food your faith so nourish That its fruit of love may flourish
And your neighbor learn from you How much God's wondrous love can
do.**

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VOLUNTARY

Christ, High Ascended

Lani Smith

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ry-one 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 COLLECT

P: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(sung)* **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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

Hymnal p. 474

**Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, Heavens forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!**

***Refrain:* Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

**Walking the way, Christ in the center Telling the story to open our eyes;
Breaking our bread, Giving us glory:
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. *Refrain:***

**Jesus the vine, We are the branches; Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people,
Gift of the future now flowing to me. *Refrain:***

**Weeping, be gone; Sorrow, be silent: Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: "O grave, be open!"
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. *Refrain:***

**City of God, Easter forever, Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
River of life, Saints and archangels,
Sing with creation to God the I AM! *Refrain:***

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Prayer after worship: Almighty and merciful God, I have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for my many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. I thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep me in faith until, with all Your saints, I inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen

POSTLUDE

Ascension Alleluia!

James Conely

¹The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." John 20:22-23. We take heart that the absolution proclaimed by the pastor is as from the Lord Himself.

²It is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Romans 10:10. Our response to the Word of God that has just been read is our confession of faith in the one, true, triune God.

³Martin Luther teaches us about hearing the Word: "Know, therefore, that you must be concerned not only about hearing, but also about learning and retaining it in memory, and do not think that it is optional with you or of no great importance, but that it is God's commandment, who will require of you how you have heard, learned, and honored His Word." (Large Catechism) *Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!* Luke 11:28

Christ Lutheran Church is a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.