

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

April 11-12, 2026

4:00 p.m. Saturday and 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday



SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

EASTER LIGHT - GLORIOUS

AS WE GATHER

“Seeking dedicated worker. Suffering not optional.” If we were to read that simple line in a job posting, it certainly would give us pause. People generally want to avoid suffering at any cost. Scripture reminds us that there may be a dynamic of discomfort to faith-filled living that follows the call of the risen Savior. In his hymn text “Come, Follow Me,’ the Savior Spake” from the 1600s, Johann Scheffler concludes, “Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, and take the cross appointed and, firmly clinging to His Word, in suffering be undaunted. For those who bear the battle’s strain the crown of heav’nly life obtain” (*LSB* 688:5). The challenges of the twenty-first century may differ from those of the seventeenth, but they are just as real. Our Lord promises that He is always with us on our life’s journey. With Easter joy, we travel onward together toward His glorious heavenly kingdom!

✘ PREPARATION ✘

Prelude (beginning 8 minutes prior to each service)

“Sonata III in D Minor”

J.S. Bach

(Worship Notes: Thank you to Linda Olsen for playing this very special, extremely difficult and beautiful pipe organ work by J.S. Bach, and for choosing such beautiful contrasting colors for each individual line of music. It is an especially appropriate choice for this weekend as Bach's birthday celebration - 341 years - was March 31. Bach is considered by many to be the greatest composer who ever walked the face of this earth. It is thrilling to know that he was a LUTHERAN music composer who was a music cantor/organist and composer in Lutheran churches! How blessed are we by this magnificent heritage in our church music repertoire! As we prepare for this service - and every service - please be considerate of those around you during the Prelude. This time is intended for quiet meditation and worship preparation rather than loud conversation. Thank you for your cooperation in maintaining a prayerful atmosphere.)

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn

“Alleluia! Jesus is Risen”

LSB 474

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✘ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

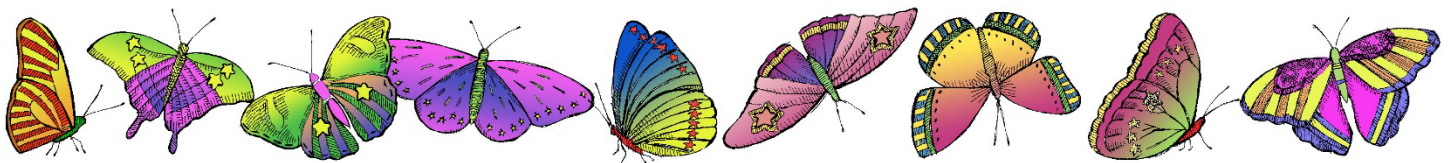
OPENING SENTENCES *Romans 6:9; John 20:29b; Psalm 145:1, 5, 6b*

Pastor: Alleluia! We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

People: **Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Pastor: I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your name forever and ever.

People: **On the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works, I will meditate, and I will declare Your greatness.**



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Micah 6:6–8*

Pastor: Let us come before God in true repentance, seeking forgiveness and amendment of our lives as we follow the Lord.

People: **“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high?**

Women: “Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

Men: “Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

People: **“Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”**

Pastor: He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

People: Almighty God, we confess that we are indeed sinful. By our very nature we are sinful. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Have mercy on us because of Jesus, our Savior. Grant that, by the working of the Holy Spirit, we may live out our lives on earth faithfully until that time when we, by His grace, join the company of heaven forever.

Pastor: God has promised forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him for grace. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and at His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May our gracious God, lead you to greater faith and obedience, and bring you to live with Him eternally in His glory, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.



KYRIE

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: 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.

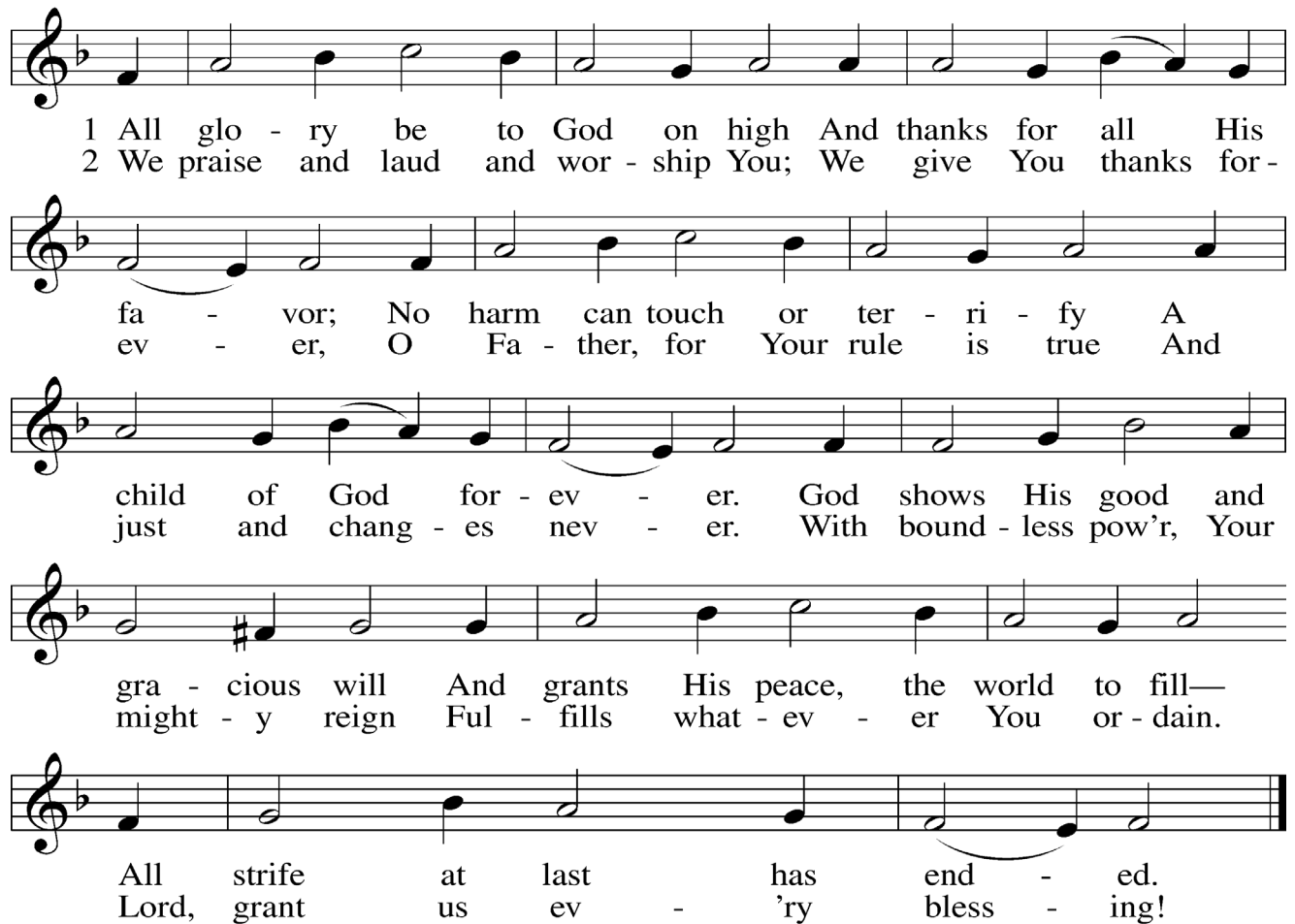
People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Amen.



1 All glo - ry be to God on high And thanks for all His
 2 We praise and laud and wor - ship You; We give You thanks for -

fa - vor; No harm can touch or ter - ri - fy A
 ev - er, O Fa - ther, for Your rule is true And

child of God for - ev - er. God shows His good and
 just and chang - es nev - er. With bound - less pow'r, Your

gra - cious will And grants His peace, the world to fill—
 might - y reign Ful - fills what - ev - er You or - dain.

All strife at last has end - ed.
 Lord, grant us ev - 'ry bless - ing!

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✠ WORD ✠

First Reading: Acts 5:29-42

(The apostles proclaim the Good News about Jesus, the Christ.)

But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the

Holy Gospel: John 20:19-31

(Jesus appears to His disciples gathered behind locked doors.)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message

Jenna Lawrenz

Hymn of the Day "We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"

LSB 720

Sermon "Will It Last?"

Pastor John Larson

Text: Acts 5:29-42

The Nicene Creed

(found in the back of the hymnal)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy ...

People: Hear our prayer.

Sharing of the Peace

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

People: And also with you.



You may now greet one another in the name of the Lord using...Peace be with you!

Offering (4:00 pm – collected in the back; 8:00 – collected in the pews)

Offering Music (8:00) “All Glory Be to God on High” Johann Gottfried Walther

✠ HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION ✠

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface (Divine Service, Setting One)

LSB 160

Proper Preface

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our God, whose love daily attends us and whose peace blesses us in countless ways. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we worthily receive the bread and wine, that is the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of the full salvation He has won for us. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. Unite us with all who gather with us at Your Table here and with all in Your glorious presence who now feast at Your eternal table in the courts of heaven. Together with them we join in praising You with song:

Sanctus (Divine Service, Setting One)

LSB 161

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer *Matthew 6:9-13*

People: 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.

Agnus Dei (Divine Service, Setting One)

LSB 163

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Special Organ Music “Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray” Johann Gottfried Walther

Hymn “Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray” *LSB 623*

Hymn “Lord of All Hopefulness” *LSB 738*

General Communion Blessing

Benediction (Divine Service, Setting One)

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen**

Closing Hymn “Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise”
LSB 917



Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace.
Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude “Jesus Christ is Risen Today” arr. John A. Behnke

SERVING IN WORSHIP

PREACHER / LITURGIST

Pastor John Larson

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP

Michael Zehnder

ORGANIST

Linda Olsen

ELDERS 4:00 pm Jeff Dunker; 8:00 am Arvin Michel; 10:30 am Michael Lawrenz

ACOLYTE 8:00 am Lizzie Wilson; 10:30 am Parker Aldrich

LECTORS 4:00 pm Dave Olsson; 8:00 am Clyde Wiggins; 10:30 am Jude Donovan

COMMUNION SERVERS 4:00 pm Dave Olsson; 10:30 am Jude Donovan

ALTAR GUILD Tanya Schmitt, Charmaine Rohde

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Extended Day Preschool

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