

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

*May 2-3, 2026*

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



## **THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

### **EASTER LIGHT – ETERNAL LIGHT**

#### **AS WE GATHER**

Since 1986, voice actor Tom Bodett has had his career defined with a one-line promotion for the Motel 6 hotel chain. He always ends his commercials for the company with a simple line stating “we’ll leave the light on for you.” Having an assured place to be going to can be encouraging and comforting. As Jesus speaks with His disciples, we hear Him reassure them and us that He will be in His Father’s house, the heavenly place where lights are not even necessary. In the Revelation to John, we have this insight about our God’s eternal city: “And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb” (Revelation 21:23). In “Jerusalem the Golden,” medieval monk Bernard of Cluny writes of the “radiancy of glory” and the “bliss beyond compare” that are in store for God’s redeemed people there (*LSB* 672:1). As we share in the foretaste of the feast to come through our worship, we can only imagine what joys still await us.

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**Prelude** "Christ is Our Cornerstone" Benjamin Culli

**Pastoral Greeting**

**Opening Hymn** "Christ is Our Cornerstone" *LSB 912*

**Invocation**

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

**People:** **Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES** *Psalm 27:1; 147:11; 104:24a, 31a; Isaiah 2:5b*

**Pastor:** The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

**People:** **The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

**Pastor:** The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,

**People:** **in those who hope in His steadfast love.**

**Pastor:** O LORD, how manifold are Your works!

**People:** **In wisdom have You made them all.**

**Pastor:** May the glory of the LORD endure forever.

**People:** **Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**Pastor:** As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.

**Pastor:** Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

**People:** **O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**

**Pastor:** God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

**People:** **Amen.**

**Pastor:** As you believe, so let it be. 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.

**People:** **Amen.**

**INTROIT** *Psalm 30:1–5; antiphon: Psalm 149:1*

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,  
His praise in the assembly of the godly!

People: **I will extol You, O LORD, for You have drawn me up  
and have not let my foes rejoice over me.**

Pastor: O LORD my God, I cried to You for help,  
and You have healed me.

People: **O LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol;  
You restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.**

Pastor: Sing praises to the LORD, O you His saints,  
and give thanks to His holy name.

People: **For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime.  
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**

**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.**

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,  
His praise in the assembly of the godly!

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

**“O Sing to the Lord”**

*LSB 808  
Verses 1, 3-5*



1 O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song. O sing to the  
3 So dance for our God And blow all the trum-pets. So dance for our  
4 O shout to our God, Who gave us the Spir - it. O shout to our  
5 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! For Je - sus is



Lord, O sing God a new song. O sing to the Lord, O  
God And blow all the trum-pets. So dance for our God And  
God, Who gave us the Spir - it. O shout to our God, Who  
Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! For Je - sus is Lord! A -



sing God a new song. O sing to our God, O sing to our God.  
blow all the trum-pets. And sing to our God, And sing to our God.  
gave us the Spir - it. O sing to our God, O sing to our God.  
men! Al - le - lu - ia! O sing to our God, O sing to our God.

✂ WORD ✂

**First Reading: Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60**

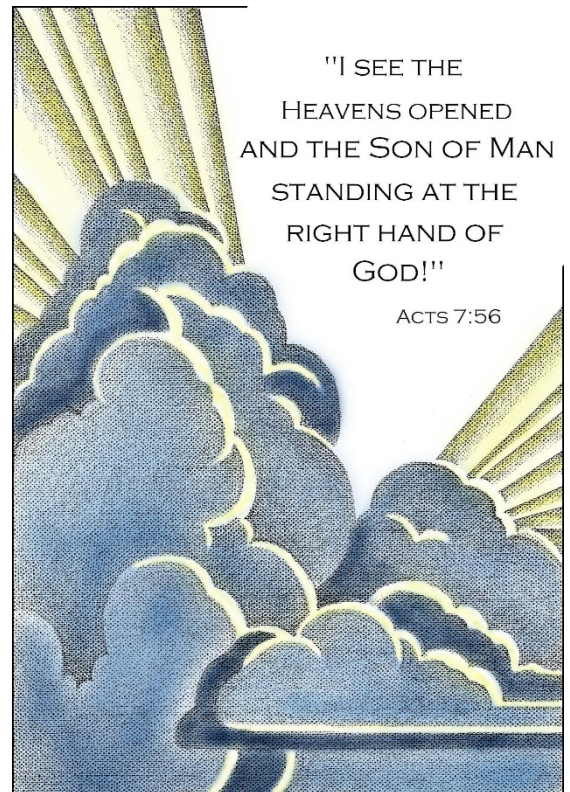
*(Stephen is stoned and becomes a martyr for Christ.)*

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.

Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their



**garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.**

**Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.**

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

*(An exhortation to live lives of Christian love)*

**Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”**

**So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.”**

**They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.**

**Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.**

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise for the Holy Gospel.*

## **HYMN INTRODUCTION**

**Pastor:** One of the most talented and prolific German Lutheran hymn text writers, Paul Gerhardt had a gift for combining his personal faith with timeless Biblical themes and Gospel truths. In the first stanza of “Awake, My Heart, with Gladness,” he links the tomb from which our Lord arose with the individual graves in which we one day will lie when our earthly journey is completed. He writes, “My Savior there was laid where our bed must be made when to the realms of light our spirit wings its flight” (LSB 467:1). Jesus has blazed a trail of light from the breaking daylight of the first Easter morning to the eternal brightness of His heavenly realm. Our hearts can awake with gladness, our spirits can rejoice, and our voices can resound in praise.



1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness, See what to - day is done;  
4 Now hell, its prince, the dev - il, Of all their pow'r are shorn;  
7 He brings me to the por - tal That leads to bliss un - told,



Now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, Comes forth the glo - rious sun.  
Now I am safe from e - vil, And sin I laugh to scorn.  
Where - on this rhyme im - mor - tal Is found in script of gold:



My Sav - ior there was laid Where our bed must be made  
Grim death with all its might Can - not my soul af - fright;  
"Who there My cross has shared Finds here a crown pre - pared;



When to the realms of light Our spir - it wings its flight.  
It is a pow'r - less form, How - e'er it rave and storm.  
Who there with Me has died Shall here be glo - ri - fied."

Text (Paul Gerhardt) and tune (Johann Crüger): Public domain

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

**People:** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

### Holy Gospel: John 14:1-14

*(Jesus says that He is the way, and the truth, and the life.)*

**Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."**

**Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The**

words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day “You Are the Way; Through You Alone”

LSB 526

Sermon “A Better Place, A Clear Path”

Pastor John Larson

Text: John 14:1-14

**CATECHISM** *The Second Article*

Pastor: As we celebrate the risen Christ in this season of Easter, let us speak together the words of the Apostles’ Creed regarding our Savior, who is the Second Person of the Trinity.

People: **I believe 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.**



**What does this mean?**

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,**

**that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.**

**This is most certainly true.**

**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!*

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Ruth Rose  
Craig Coronato  
Cammy Coronato  
Mike Schulten  
Nathan Wohletz  
Jaina Wohletz



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

**Offering Music (8:00)** “Lord of the Dance”

Jason Krug  
Gloria Dei Ringers

*Worship Note: "Lord of the Dance" is a 1963 hymn by Sydney Carter that portrays the life, ministry, and passion of Jesus Christ as a "dance" of creation and redemption. It uses the metaphor of dance to represent life, faith, and the ongoing spiritual, rather than just historical, presence of Christ. The lyrics are set to the American Shaker tune "Simple Gifts."*

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,  
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.  
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,  
But they would not dance and they would not follow me;  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;  
They came to me and the dance went on.

I danced on the Sabbath when I cured the lame,  
The holy people said it was a shame;  
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high;  
And they left me there on a cross to die.

I danced on a Friday and the sky turned black;  
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back;  
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,  
But I am the dance and I still go on.

They cut me down and I leapt up high,  
I am the life that'll never, never die;  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.



## ✘ 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 all places give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have graciously blessed us through the Word incarnate, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has come in the flesh and for our sake died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death. Rejoicing in our Baptism, which creates faith in our hearts and daily renews us, we laud and magnify Your holy name. With joy we join in the unending praise of the angels and archangels and all who rejoice in light eternal, as we sing together:

**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** “At the Lamb’s High Feast” Charles Ore

**Hymn** “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” LSB 465  
Verses 1-2, 4

**Hymn** “The Church’s One Foundation” LSB 644  
(as many verses as time permits)

**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** “At the Lamb’s High Feast” LSB 633  
Verses 1-4, 7

**Congregational Concerns**

**Dismissal**

**Pastor:** Go in peace.  
Serve the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Postlude** “At the Lamb’s High Feast” Michael Burkhardt

**SERVING IN WORSHIP**

<b>OFFICIANT / PREACHER</b>	Pastor John Larson
<b>MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP / ORGANIST</b>	Michael Zehnder
<b>HANDBELL DIRECTOR</b>	Stephanie Roettjer
<b>CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER</b>	Ann Kirkpatrick
<b>PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR</b>	Meg Stenman
<b>ELDERS</b>	4:00 pm Jeff Dunker; 8:00 am Bob Olsen; 10:30 am Michael Lawrenz
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	8:00 am Ellise Friend; 10:30 am Tobin Lawrenz
<b>LECTORS</b>	4:00 pm Dick Castleman; 8:00 am Dennis Lord; 10:30 am Jackie Warren
<b>COMMUNION SERVERS</b>	4:00 pm Dick Castleman; 10:30 am Jackie Warren
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Tanya Schmitt, Laura Banko

✠ ✠ ✠

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