

THE OFFERING

OFFERING VOLUNTARY — Jill Sousek

COMMUNION

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER [TRADITIONAL]

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY — Jill Sousek

BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

BENEDICTION

HYMN #855 — *Crown Him With Many Crowns*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE — Jill Sousek

Ascension
Day



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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Ascension of Our Lord

MAY 17, 2026

WELCOME TO ZION

PRELUDE — Jill Sousek

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

The sign of the cross ☩ may be made in remembrance of Baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us through your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us through your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for Your word: Gracious God, **have mercy on us through your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God, **have mercy on us through your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us through your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us through your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us through your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in Christ's righteousness. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

HYMN #634 — *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And, also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING — *Acts 1:1-11*

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering Jesus presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the dominion of God. While staying with them, Jesus ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore dominion to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by divine authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When Jesus had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “You Galileans, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

SECOND READING — *Ephesians 1:15-23*

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation, as you come to know God, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which God has called you, what are the riches of God’s glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is

the immeasurable greatness of God’s power for us who believe, according to the working of God’s great power. God put this power to work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and seated him at the right hand of Power in the heavenly places, 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 age to come. And God has put all things under the feet of Christ and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is the body of Christ, the fullness of the one who fills all in all.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL — *Luke 24:44-53*

[Jesus said,] 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, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled. Then Jesus opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” Then Jesus led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

CHILDRENS’ SERMON — Pastor Scott Ludford

THE SERMON — Pastor Scott Ludford

HYMN #482 — *I Come with Joy*

BAPTISM — *Aspyn Eileen Patzer* [SEE INSERT-10:30 AM]

APOSTLES’ CREED [5 PM & 8 AM]

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.** ... In the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

