

**As they were watching,
Jesus was lifted up**

ACTS 1:9

MAY 17, 2026



EPIPHANY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

PRELUDE

THE GATHERING

WELCOME

OPENING SONG

Lord I Lift Your Name On High
by Rick Founds

Sing Two Times

VERSE

Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us

CHORUS

You came from heaven to earth to show the way
From the earth to the cross my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave from the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

A: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

C: Amen.

A: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Silence For Reflection

A: Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

A: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

A: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

A: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE PEACE

We receive and extend to one another the gift of Christ's peace. You may greet one another and say "peace be with you" or similar words.

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

C: **And also with you.**

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

C: **Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

THE WORD

Allelu, allelu, allelu, Alleluia! Praise ye the Lord!

Allelu, allelu, allelu, Alleluia	Praise ye the Lord Alleluia,
Praise ye the Lord!	Praise ye the Lord Alleluia,
Allelu, allelu, allelu, Alleluia	Praise ye the Lord Alleluia,
Praise ye the Lord!	Praise ye the Lord!

CHILDREN'S SERMON



A READING FROM

ACTS 1:1-11

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

[Luke writes:] In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach 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 he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he 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 the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own 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 he 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, “Men of Galilee, 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.”

A READING FROM

EPHESIANS 1:15-23

The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.

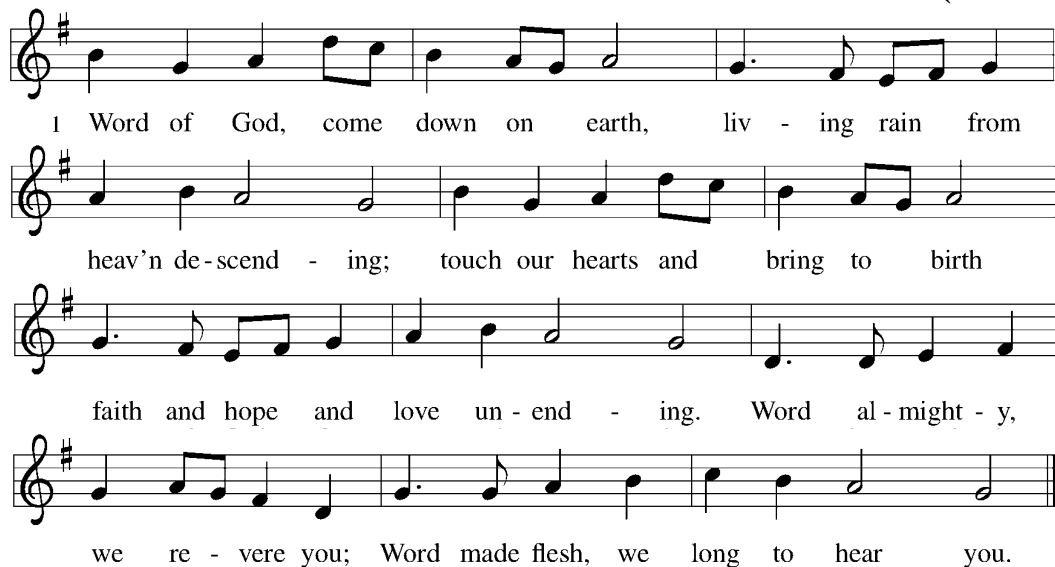
I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand 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 he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Word of God, Come Down on Earth (ELW 510)



1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
 heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
 faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
 we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

THE GOSPEL READING

LUKE 24:44-53

Congregation standing)

L: The Holy Gospel of St. Luke, beginning in the twenty-fourth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the eleven and those with 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, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he 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 he 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.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

PREACHING OF THE GOOD NEWS

MOMENT OF REFLECTION ON THE GOOD NEWS



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis-sion: "Heal the sick and
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea-sure: "Fa - ther, what they
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,
 this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,



and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness
 life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new
 dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the
 all that you so free - ly give. May your care and
 may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the



to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
 fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
 world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:
 mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
 cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:



Refrain
 With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

Each petition shall conclude with:

A: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

The Prayers conclude:

A: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C: Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR FORMATION LEADERS

THE MEAL

THE OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY

For the Fruit of All Creation (ELW 679)

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in a single system, all in a common time signature of 4/4. The first two staves are vocal lines, and the third is a piano accompaniment line. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes.

In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
In our world-wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de-spair - ing,



OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray together.

C: Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts!

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION

We practice "Open Communion," acknowledging that Jesus welcomes all persons, sinners and saints alike, to the table. All means ALL. Please come forward by the center aisle and receive the Sacrament in a continuous line, exiting by the side aisles. **Communion is by intinction.** We offer a chalice of wine and a chalice of white grape juice in which you may dip the bread. Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask for them at the altar, if needed. The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. The communicant may say: Amen.

Infants who are not yet ready to receive food will receive a blessing. Parents who have questions about the practice of open communion may instruct their children to receive just a blessing.

Communion can be served to those who are not physically able to join us for worship. Please speak with an usher if you know of someone who would desire communion from Sunday's table brought to them.

COMMUNION HYMN

O Christ, Our Hope (ELW 604)



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's
2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den
3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som
4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us
5 All praise to you, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry



might-y Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by
of our sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to
has been paid; you reign a - bove at God's right hand, in
of our pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by
ev - er be to Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest through



ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:
make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.
robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.
mer - cy pu - ri - fied, by mer - cy pu - ri - fied.
all e - ter - ni - ty, through all e - ter - ni - ty!



COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace until life everlasting.

C: Amen.

THE SENDING

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

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

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

At Your Name

by Phil Wickham, Tim Hughes

Verse 1

At Your name

The mountains shake and crumble

At Your name

The oceans roar and tumble

At Your name angels will bow

The earth will rejoice

Your people cry out

Chorus

Verse 2

At Your name

The morning breaks in glory

At Your name

Creation sings Your story

At Your name angels will bow

The earth will rejoice

Your people cry out

Chorus / Bridge / Chorus 2x /

Instrumental

End

Yahweh Yahweh

We love to shout Your name oh Lord

Chorus

Lord of all the earth we shout Your name

Shout Your name

Filling up the skies with endless praise

Endless praise

Yahweh Yahweh

We love to shout Your name (oh Lord)

Bridge

There is no one like our God

We will praise You praise You

There's no one like our God

We will sing we will sing

There is no one like our God

We will praise You praise You

There's no one like our God

We will sing we will sing

There is no one like our God

We will praise You praise You

Jesus you are God we will sing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSED AND SENT TO SERVE

A: Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed!

A: May we be open to the Holy Spirit. May we remind ourselves that God continues to do a new thing. May we receive Christ's blessing so that we can share these holy gifts with those who are yet to experience them. We live this way so that..

C: Everyone knows that God loves them!

A: Go in peace, don't stop believing!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE



If you are worshipping with us at 9:00 am we kindly ask that you leave your bulletin on the back table on your way out for those that are worshipping at 11:00 am if you did not make notes. We wish to be good stewards of our environment and resources.

*** Our services are live-streamed and recorded for later viewing. We also utilize images from our services and activities on our website. If you do not want images of you or your family on our website, please inform us via an email to communications@epiphanysuwanee.org.*



EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship Services

9:00 am & 11:00 am (in-person and online)

Ministers: The People of God

Pastor: Chris Hermansen

Minister of Youth: Kris Perkola

Director of Worship and Music: Steve Belfield, Interim

Worship Production: Steve Belfield

Worship Accompanist: Anna Keiserman, Ph. D.

Church Administrator: Bonnie Bradberry

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Word of God, Come Down on Earth (ELW 510)

Text: James Quinn, SJ, b. 1919
Music: Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673
Text © James Quinn, S.J., Selah Publishing Co., Inc., North
American agent. www.selahpub.com
Tune: Public Domain

Lord You Give the Great Commission (ELW 579)

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934
Music: Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991
Text © 1978 and music © 1942, Ren. 1970 Hope Publishing
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O Christ, Our Hope (ELW 604)

Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, adapt.
Music: Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561
Text & Music: Public Domain

For the Fruit of All Creation (ELW 679)

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000
Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958
Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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Tune: Public Domain

Lamb of God

ELW Holy Communion Setting Four
admin. Augsburg Fortress Text & Music: Public Domain

At Your Name (CCLI Song #5942543)

Phil Wickham, Tim Hughes
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- ◆ Text EPIPHANYGA to 73256
- ◆ Use your bank's online bill pay feature to set up recurring giving
- ◆ Mail a check to Epiphany
- ◆ Drop it in the offering plate on Sunday

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