

Sunday Worship Service – May 17, 2026

Using material from various sources as indicated in the footnotes.

Welcome and Announcements

A Moment for Reflection

Call to Worship ¹

Risen with Christ, let us seek the realities of the Spirit.

Our life is hidden with Christ in God.

He who descended is also ascended far above the heavens,
that he might fill all things.

**When Christ, our Life, appears,
we shall appear with him in glory! Alleluia!**

Opening Prayer

Let us pray:

**Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior
ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things:
mercifully grant us faith to recognize his abiding presence
with his people on earth, even to the end of the ages;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory for ever. Amen.**

Gathering Hymn “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!” #393

1. **A hymn of glory let us sing!
New hymns throughout the world shall ring: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ, by a road before untrod, ascends unto the throne of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
2. **The holy apostolic band upon the Mount of Olives stand,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
and with his faithful foll’wers see their Lord ascend in majesty.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
3. **To whom shining angels cry, “Why stand and gaze upon the sky?”
Alleluia! Alleluia!
“This is the Savior!” thus they say, “this is his glorious triumph day!”
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

¹ *Call to Worship & Opening Prayer The New Handbook of the Christian Year* © 1992 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN. All rights reserved.

4. **“You see him now, ascending high up to the portals of the sky.”
Alleluia! Alleluia!
“Hereafter Jesus you shall see returning in great majesty.”
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
5. **O risen Christ, ascended Lord, all praise to you let earth accord:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
You are, while endless ages run, with Father and with Spirit one.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Thanksgiving for the Waters of Baptism ²

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O holy and gracious God, for the gift of water.

(water is poured in the font)

In the beginning of creation your Spirit moved over the waters.

In the waters of the flood you destroyed evil.

You led the children of Israel through the sea
into the freedom of the promised land.

In the river Jordan, John baptized our Lord
and your Spirit anointed him.

By his death and resurrection Jesus Christ, the living water,
frees us from sin and death and opens the way to life everlasting.

We have put on Christ. In him we have been baptized. Alleluia! Alleluia!

We thank you, O God, for the gift of baptism.

In the waters of baptism you confirm to us that we are
buried with Christ in his death, raised to share in his resurrection,
and are being renewed by the Holy Spirit.

We have put on Christ. In him we have been baptized. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Pour out upon us and on your whole church the gift of your Holy Spirit,
so that all who have passed through the waters of baptism
might be dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

² from *The Worship Sourcebook: Second Edition* © 2013, Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2850 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI. All rights reserved.

We have put on Christ. In him we have been baptized. Alleluia! Alleluia!

To God be all honor and glory, dominion and power, now and forever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we gather to worship this day.

Hymn of Praise “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” #857

**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.**

**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. *(repeat song)***

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.

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Acts picks up where the gospel according to Luke ends, with a small overlap. Luke and Acts are by the same author, whom we call Luke. Both books are written to Theophilus, meaning lover of God. This may be a person, but it may be any reader who loves God. In this reading Jesus, before he is lifted into heaven, 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. A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the first chapter:

Theophilus, the first scroll I wrote concerned everything Jesus did and taught from the beginning, right up to the day when he was taken up into heaven. Before he was taken up, working in the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus instructed the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed them that he was alive with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days, speaking to them about God’s kingdom. While they

were eating together, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised. He said, “This is what you heard from me:” John baptized with water, but in only a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

As a result, those who had gathered together asked Jesus, “Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?”

Jesus replied, “It isn’t for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority.” Rather, 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 end of the earth.”

After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going away and as they were staring toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood next to them. They said, “Galileans, why are you standing here, looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you saw him go into heaven.”

Here ends the reading.

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Psalm 47³

O Ho - ly One, O Ho - ly One, you cher - ish the whole world.

Clap your hands, all you peoples, give joyful shouts for the Holy One,
who is awesome and revered, mighty sovereign over all the world.

The Holy One subdues nations under us, sets them at our feet,
**choosing for us our inheritance,
the pride of Jacob whom God loved. (Refrain)**

The Holy One ascends amid acclamations
and the sound of the horn.

**Sing praises, sign praises to our God!
Sing, O sing to the divine Majesty!**

³ from *Songs for the Holy One: Psalms & Refrains for Worship* © 2004 Thomas Barnett and Donald Patriquin.
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The Holy One reigns over the world!

**Sing hymns of praise to the One seated on a holy throne
supreme over all nations.**

The leaders of the people assemble
with the people of Abraham's God.

**For the rulers of the earth belong to the Holy One,
the One who is highly exalted. (Refrain)**

Scripture Reading: 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. A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians, the first chapter:

Since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, this is the reason that I don't stop giving thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers.

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God's call, what is the richness of God's glorious inheritance among believers, and what is the overwhelming greatness of God's power that is working among us believers.

This power is conferred by the energy of God's powerful strength. God's power was at work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and sat him at God's right side in the heavens, far above every ruler and authority and power and angelic power, any power that might be named not only now but in the future. God put everything under Christ's feet and made him head of everything in the church, which is his body. His body, the church, is the fullness of Christ, who fills everything in every way.

Here ends the reading.

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Gospel Acclamation "Voice of Creation"

Voice of creation, open our ears to hear your word.

Source of salvation, open our hearts to hold your love.

Soul's inspiration, open our minds to know your grace.

Three in relation, transform our lives with your embrace. (repeat)

Gospel Reading: Luke 24:44-53

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 24th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law from Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled. Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. He said to them, “This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. Look, I’m sending to you what my Father promised, but you are to stay in the city until you have been furnished with heavenly power.”

He led them out as far as Bethany, where he lifted his hands and blessed them. As he blessed them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. They worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem overwhelmed with joy. And they were continuously in the temple praising God.

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: Filling Everything

Hymn of the Day “Dear Christ, Ascended from the Earth” ⁴

1. **Dear Christ, ascended from the earth, your arms stretched out above through every culture, every birth, to draw an answering love.**
2. **Still east and west your love extends and always, near and far, you call and claim us as your friends and love us as we are.**
3. **Where age and gender, class and race, divides us to our shame, you see not labels but a face, a person, and a name.**
4. **May we, accepted as we are, yet called in grace to grow, reach out to others, near and far, your healing love to show.**

Apostles’ Creed

We confess our faith together using the words of the Apostles’ Creed:

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

⁴ Words by Brain A. Wren © 1980 Hope Publishing Company. Music by Gordon Slater © Oxford University Press.

**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 to the dead.
 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 Intercession ⁵

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 will end with "Merciful God" and the congregational response "receive our prayer."

A brief silence.

Gracious God, your Son Jesus ascended to fill all time and space and is present with all people. By your Holy Spirit, lead your church and its leaders in faith, hope, and love, and in sharing the presence of Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Majestic God, your Son Jesus entrusts his ministry to his followers to care for all you have created. Instill in us a commitment to sustainable ecological practices. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, your Son Jesus sits at your right hand and rules the cosmos. Inspire national and local politicians to lead with equity and fairness, raise up advocates and activists for those seeking justice, and cultivate peace throughout the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, your Son Jesus carries with him the scars of suffering as our wounded healer. Guide with your wisdom the work of surgeons, pharmacists, midwives, and all medical specialists, and bring your healing touch to all who are sick (*especially...*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Caring God, your Son Jesus reveals the depths of your love and gathers all people to himself. Accompany us in our work and play to make your presence known in all that we do. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

⁵ *Prayers of Intercession* from **Sundays and Seasons** (sundaysandseasons.com) © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN.

Life-giving God, by his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus destroyed death forever. With thanksgiving we remember those who rest from the labors, assured of your promise of everlasting life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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. **Amen.**

We gather these prayers together with the words our Lord taught us:

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Sharing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

People may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

Offering Prayer⁶

(Offering Plate is placed on the Altar)

Let us pray:

**O God, for your power and might, we praise you.
For your love and mercy, we thank you.
For giving us your Spirit and your every blessing,
we honor you with our lives and gifts.
Received from our hand the fruit of our industry,
in ministry to a world in need of your glory.
In the name of the one who ascended to heaven,
that we might have fullness of life here on earth,
we pray. Amen.**

⁶ *Offering Prayer* written by B.J. Beu, from **Abingdon Worship Annual 2026** © 2025 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN

Sending Hymn “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus” #392 (verses 1-3)

1. **Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:
“Jesus out of ev’ry nation has redeemed us by his blood.”**
2. **Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! he is near us; faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him
 when the forty days were o’er,
shall our hearts forget his promise: “I am with you evermore”?**
3. **Alleluia! Bread of heaven, here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! here the sinful flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth’s redeemer, hear our plea
where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.**

Blessing ⁷

May God who created heaven and earth,
create in you hope that lasts into eternity.

May the risen and ascended Christ
rain his grace upon you from heaven’s realm.

May the Spirit who empowers the faithful of every generation,
comfort and guide you throughout your time on earth.

May the triune God place heaven’s song in your heart,
that your life’s song would resonate in harmony with God’s will.

The peace and joy of heaven be yours,
this day and forever more. Amen.

Benediction Song “May the Grace of Christ Attend Us” (#963 Voices United)

**May the grace of Christ attend us, and the love of God surround us,
And the Holy Spirit keep us, now and ever. Amen.**

Commission

Go in peace, inspired by the risen Christ to love and serve.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude – Beth Hendricksen

⁷ *Benediction* written by Dennis Hendricksen © 2023.