

Cross of Glory

Lutheran Church & School



Ascension
Sunday, May 17, 2026

623-224-8839 ♦ www.crossofglory.org

Sunday 9am Worship

Pastor Zachary Pudlo
Mr. Andrew Aguilar, Principal



Growing in Faith — Living in Grace — Sharing His Glory

Welcome to our Worship Center

God defines a church as people gathering around Word and Sacrament.

As you join us in this gathering, we pray that Jesus' peace and power will fill you.

Worship Focus



I can walk through a cemetery where loved ones are buried. What do I feel? Sadness as I think of their departure? Fear that I will soon join them? Without the resurrection of Jesus, I fear death and I continue to cry.

But he lives, and it makes a difference. Jesus is the resurrection first fruits for the harvest of humanity. Dead is not dead forever. Death is not final at all! My deceased Christian loved ones are not gone forever. I will see them again. Jesus will do what he promised. He dries my tears. He takes away my fears.

Our journey through the Easter season takes this path:

Apr 12 He lives to give me proof and peace

Apr 19 He lives to restore my hope

Apr 26 He lives to be my Good Shepherd

May 3 He lives to be the only way to heaven

May 10 He lives to call me to live for him

May 17 He lives to rule all things for the Church

May 24 He lives to pour out his Spirit

HE LIVES TO RULE ALL THINGS FOR THE CHURCH Without the resurrection of Jesus, we would have to wonder who oversees the world. At times the world seems so chaotic. People claim to be in charge but they have limited power and strange ideas. Many of the ideas are harmful for Christians. Leaders seem to lead without acknowledging Jesus. But he lives, and it makes a difference. Jesus is head over everything for the Church. At the time of Ascension, he takes his proper place. The Festival of the Ascension is one of the oldest and most joyful celebrations in the Christian Church. It will be observed by Christians until Christ returns to take us to be with him.

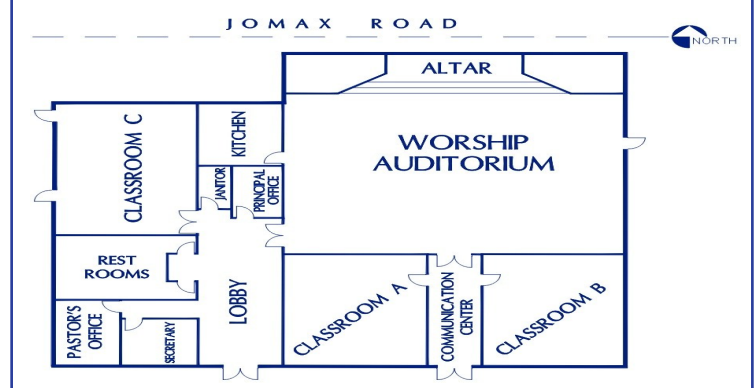
VISITOR INFORMATION

New to Cross of Glory? We are so glad you joined us today! We invite you to stay after the service to chat and join us for coffee time.

Would you like to learn more about us? We'd love to get to know you better as well. Connect with Cross of Glory by either:

- Using the **friendship register** at the end of each row to connect with us today.
- Emailing us at church.secretary@crossofglory.org

CHURCH MAP



FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

- Restrooms with changing tables located in lobby.
- Nursery for toddlers 2 years and younger accompanied by adult in Classroom A.
- Children in Church Program: Worship is a family affair, something that children best learn from their parents. We encourage parents to guide their children through the service. We invite children to come forward for the Children's Message during the service. Let's work together to bring up the next generation in the Word of the Lord!

God's People Gather and Lord's Supper

Gathering Rite on Worship

(Spoken Responsively;

Sung Responses "Oh, What High and Holy Privilege")



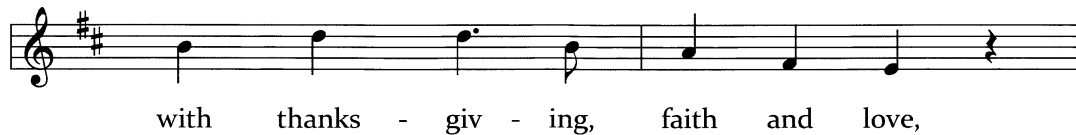
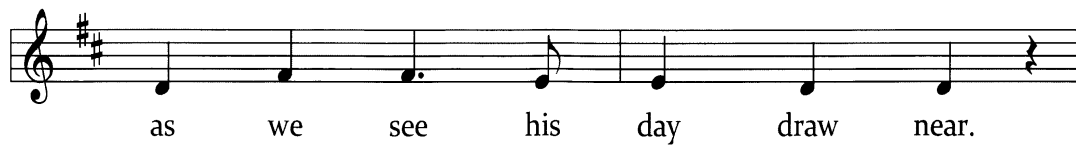
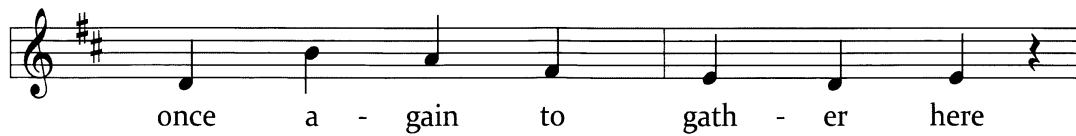
M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: I was glad when they said to me,

C: Let us go to the house of the Lord!

Sung by Congregation:



God's people long to gather together for strength from him and for mutual encouragement. The beginning of this worship service focuses on the gathering of God's people to receive his gifts of Word and sacrament and to respond with praise, thanksgiving, and service. It's a time for believers to be spiritually fed and strengthened in their faith.

M: That you would allow us to gather in worship not out of duty but with joy and delight,

C: We praise you, Lord!

M: That you would bring us to a place where you promise to meet your people,

C: We praise you, Lord!

M: For the blessing of seeing the sacred symbols of your house and the mutual encouragement found in seeing one another,

C: We praise you, Lord!

M: For being with us in all places and through all situations, and bringing us together as members of one body of Christ,

C: We praise you, Lord!

Sung by Congregation:

2. Oh, what high and ho - ly priv - 'lege,
voic - es raised in prayer and praise;
bold - ly bring - ing great pe - ti - tions,
glad - ly sing - ing hymn of faith.
May his grace at work a - mong us
cleanse and heal us from our sin,
that our prayers may not be hin - dered



M: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: the maker of heaven and earth.

M: Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

C: Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. In what I have done and left undone; I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. I have not loved others as you command. For this I deserve your punishment now and forever.

I am sorry for my sins. I repent of them. I beg for your mercy. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for us. Cleanse me from my sins. Release me from my guilt. Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.

M: Jesus says to his people, "If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven." Do you believe this?

C: Yes, I believe.

M: In the name and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ,
I forgive you all your sins.

C: Amen.

Sung by Congregation:



"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Christ said to his disciples, "If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven". The pastor speaks for God and announces God's forgiveness to those who made confession.

Do our hearts not burn with - in us
as we see God's pro - mis - es
find their fin - al yes in Je - sus,
lead - ing us to right - eous - ness!



Holy Baptism

Wyatt Sean Casper
Kalli Eileen Casper
Oliver David Flateau

Hymn of Response: Baptized in Water

Congregation sings Vs. 1,2 and 4
Ensemble sings Vs. 3

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ our King:
Heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,
faithfully now God's praise we sing.**

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our King:
One with his rising, freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praise we sing.**

Ensemble:

*You cleanse me, Lord with this water of grace;
your Holy Spirit now dwelling in me.
Now I'm your child, I will live for your glory,
sharing your gift of eternity.*

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our King:
Born of one Father, we are his children,
joyfully now God's praise we sing.**

First Reading

Acts 1:1–11



Jesus ascends to rule over all things as his Church serves as his witnesses.

¹In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ²until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

⁶Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

⁹After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

The Children's Message

(All children are invited to sit in front with Pastor)

Gospel

Luke 24:44–53

⁴⁴He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵²Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.



Before he ascends, Jesus promises to send the disciples power from on high to carry out the mission of the Church.



Hymn of the Day: A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

CWH 472

This hymn follows the theme of the readings and sets the stage for the sermon.



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New songs through-
2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the
4 “You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the
6 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to



out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Mount of Ol - ives stand, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
por - tals of the sky.” Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
you let earth ac - cord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Christ, by a road be - fore un - trod, as - cends un -
and with his fol - low - ers they see their Lord as -
“Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall see re - turn - ing
You are, while end - less a - ges run, with Fa - ther



to the throne of God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
cend in maj - es - ty. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
in great maj - es - ty.” Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
and with Spir - it one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: The Venerable Bede, 673–735, abr.; tr. Composite Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Köln, 1623 Text and tune: Public domain

In the sermon the Pastor proclaims God's Word and applies that word to modern life and problems. He stresses both what God demands of us (the Law) and what God does for us through Jesus Christ (the Gospel).

Sermon

Ephesians 1:15–23

¹⁵For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, ¹⁶I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to

come. ²²And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

The Nicene Creed

(Spoken in Unison)



After hearing the word of God, the worshiper responds with this confession of faith.

The Nicene Creed was written in 325 A.D. to address false ideas about the divinity of Jesus Christ. That explains why the second article of the Nicene Creed is longer than its counterpart in the Apostles' Creed.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**



Song of the Season: I Know that My Redeemer Lives

This is a hymn selected for the current church season that is generally new to our congregation, usually introduced first by a soloist, and repeated for several weeks to assist the congregation in learning the hymn.



1. I know that my Re - deem - er lives.
2. He lives! The tomb is emp - ty still.
3. I know that my Re - deem - er lives,
5. I know that my Re - deem - er lives.



What hope this sweet as - sur - ance gives; that
Re - demp - tion's pro - mise he ful - filled. No
and all my life is bound to his. In
In life and death I trust in him. My

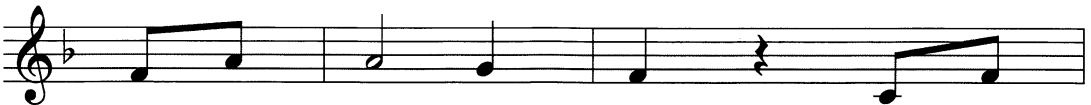


he who gave his life for me,
con - dem - na - tion now re - mains,
realms a - bove he in - ter - cedes,
soul se - cure, my fu - ture safe,



a - rose with heal - ing in his wings. *To Vs. 2*
the stone of death is rolled a - way.
our sin - less Sav - ior, per - fect Priest. *To Vs. 4*
he'll not for - sake me to the grave.

Refrain



My Re - deem - er lives. My Re -



deem - er lives. On hea - ven's



throne and in my ver - y soul, I



know that my Re - deem - er lives.

Repeat Refrain after Vs. 5

Prayer

(Spoken by Minister)

If you brought a monetary gift today for the work of the church, please place your offering in the receptacle at one of the two entrances to the sanctuary either before or after the service.

Lord's Prayer

(Spoken in Unison)

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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

Holy Communion

The Preparation

(Spoken Responsively)

M: I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another,

C: so that there may be no divisions among you, and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. (1 Cor. 1:10)

M: Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ?

C: And is not the bread that we break, a participation in the body of Christ?

M: Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body:

C: for we all partake of the one loaf. (1 Cor 10:16-17)

Guests and Members

We are so glad you worshipped with us today! Please use this QR code to let us know you joined us.



Offering: The gifts of Gods people are a response to God's blessings. If God has moved you to thank him in this way, you can use this QR code to give an offering.



We speak to God as our Father as Jesus taught us. (Matthew 6)

The responsive reading from I Corinthians reminds the communicants of the necessity of the unity of faith and preparation required as we receive the body and blood of Christ.

M: Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.

C: A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. (1 Cor 11:26-28)



Sanctus is a Latin word meaning "Holy". The Sanctus contains words from Isaiah's vision of God (Isaiah 6:3) and the crowd's response on Palm Sunday when Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem (Matthew 21:9). We join them in spirit by singing their words as we anticipate Christ's coming in the sacrament.

Holy, Holy, Holy Sanctus

CWH 945

Ensemble sings:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.*

Congregation sings:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Tune: Per Harling, b. 1948 Text: Public domain
Tune: © 2004 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716



The pastor speaks the words which Jesus spoke when he instituted the Supper with his disciples in the Upper Room. With these words the bread and wine are consecrated, that is, set apart for God's use in this special meal.

Words of Institution

(Spoken by Minister)

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



Agnus Dei is a Latin phrase meaning "Lamb of God". John the Baptist spoke these words as he pointed to Jesus coming toward him (John 1:29). As Christ comes to us in the Holy Supper, we recognize him as the Lamb of God sacrificed for us to free us from the bondage of sin and death.

Refrain

Lamb of God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the world's sin,
Lamb of God, Lamb of God, have mer-cy up-on us.

Verses

1 As high as the heav'ns are o-ver the earth, so great is your
love for us. As far as the east is from the west, so
far have you re-moved our sin. *Refrain*

Text: traditional *Agnus Dei*, alt.; Psalm 103:11-13, para. Kenneth T. Kosche, b. 1947 Tune: Kenneth T. Kosche, b. 1947
Text and tune: © 1993 Art Masters Studios, Inc., admin. Lorenz Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 711716

Distribution of Sacrament

We follow the Scriptural practice of **CLOSE COMMUNION**. If you have not communed here prior to today, you should speak with our pastor before the service. We would like to help you establish the unity which comes from a common confession of faith (1 Corinthians 10:17) before expressing that union together at the Lord's Table. It is not our intent to judge hearts, but to remain faithful to the truth of God's Word. Those who have established that connection as members of sister WELS or ELS congregations may register by checking the box in the attendance record book at the end of your row. Thank you for honoring our practice.

Distribution Hymn: Come to Jesus

*Come unto Jesus, all you who are weary;
come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel.
Here bring your wounded hearts, broken and needy;
come unto Jesus, mighty to heal.*

*Come unto Jesus, all you who are helpless;
come to his loving arms, feel his embrace.
Here give him glory for his love is endless;
come unto Jesus to his table of grace.*

Ensemble sings verses;
Congregation sing refrains

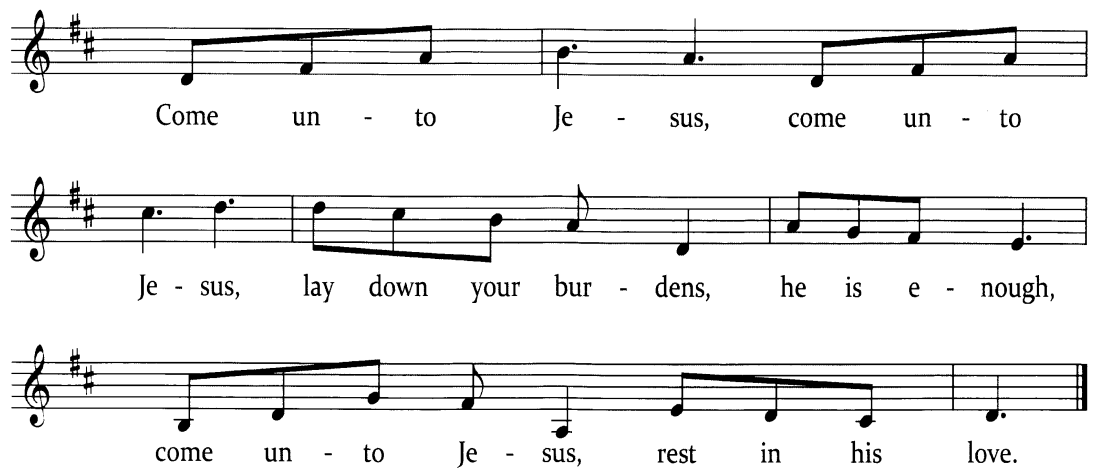


This hymn is sung by the congregation during the distribution of the Lord's Supper.

Gluten-free wafers are available on the small tables at the front.

Alcohol-free white grape juice can be taken from the wine tray.

Congregation sings:



Come un - to Je - sus, come un - to
Je - sus, lay down your bur - dens, he is e - nough,
come un - to Je - sus, rest in his love.

*Joy of the comfortless, light for the straying,
hope of the penitent, peace in our strife;
here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying:
"My yoke is easy; my burden is light." (Refrain)*

*Come taste the Bread of Life, broken for sinners;
drink from the cup of his promise made sure.
Feast at his table as sons and as daughters;
flowing is yours evermore. (Refrain)*

*Come taste the Bread of Life, broken for sinners;
drink from the cup of his promise made sure.
Feast at his table as sons and as daughters;
flowing is yours evermore. (Refrain 2x)*

*We offer our thanks
and express our faith
in what God has
done for us and has
promised to do for
us in the future.*

Thanksgiving and Proclamation

(Spoken Responsively)

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

C: **his mercy endures forever.**

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Blessing

(Spoken Responsively; Sung Responses
"Oh, What High and Holy Privilege")



We close the worship service with the words, "Go in peace." - we are at peace because we know that Christ has liberated us who believe from sin, the law's bondage, and spiritual slavery, enabling us to live a life of freedom through faith and love. (Galatians 5:1)

4. Oh, what high and ho - ly priv - 'lege,
this com - mun - ion that we share
with the Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it
and his peo - ple ev - 'ry - where.
As we go, with God's great bless - ing,
in the keep - ing of his grace;
go in peace, to love and ser - vice,
till we join a - gain in praise.
gain in praise, till we join a -
gain in praise.



On Christmas Eve, we lit the Christ Candle to symbolize Christ, the light of the world, who came to fulfill God's promise of salvation. Today, as we celebrate Christ's Ascension and completion of his work on earth, the Christ Candle is removed. We, who now have Christ's light in us are reminded to share the light to the world until he comes again in glory.

M: Go in peace. Christ Jesus has set you free.

C: Thanks be to God.

Choir

Peace I Leave With You

Words and Music by Jeffrey Bleresch

Ways to Serve

Worship Volunteers	May 17th	May 24th	May 31st
Counters	Len Collyard Bob Decker	Nick Nickolai Michael Ryan	Karin Hansen Rebecca Jahns
Communion	Shannon		
Cleaners	Koutia/Piepenbrink	Gullerud	Plitzuweit/Peterson
Greeters	Plitzuweit Family	Van Poppelen Family	Piepenbrink Family
Ushers	John Kull Dean Ellis	Brian Ehinger Trey Ehinger Kade Ehinger	Jon Naber Rich Kugler Kelly Simpson
Sunday Refreshments	Paula Considine Maggie Stevenson	Stacey Aguilar Nancy Schirripa	Ally Kelley Sharon Wilson Sugirtha Samuel
A/V	Elise Plitzuweit Bentley Ryan	Stacey Aguilar Joel Ditter	Shannon Gullerud Aaron Gullerud

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