



Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 26, 2026

Ascension Lutheran Church
Landover Hills, Maryland
Church Phone: 301-577-0500
www.alutheranchurch.com

Welcome and Notices

Prelude

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

Kevin J. Sadowski

(Stand)

Confession & Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,

C: **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Gathering Hymn

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!”

ELW 385 Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872-1955, alt.; ©1958, ren. 1986 Hymns Ancient and Modern, admin. Hope Publishing Company; Music: Melchior Vulpius, 1570-1615
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- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our king!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

- 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day;
death's mighty stone is rolled away;
let all the world rejoice and say:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

- 3 Praise we in songs of victory
that love, that life, which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

- 4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing today with one accord,
the life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Kyrie (ELW p. 138)

The musical score consists of eight staves of music in a single system, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a double bar line. The lyrics are: "In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy." The second staff continues with: "For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord." The third staff continues with: "Lord, have mer - cy." The fourth staff continues with: "For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God," The fifth staff continues with: "and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord." The sixth staff continues with: "Lord, have mer - cy." The seventh staff continues with: "For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise," The eighth staff continues with: "let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy." The final staff continues with: "Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men." There are double bar lines at the end of the first, seventh, and eighth staves.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Canticle of Praise (ELW p.139)

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Power, riches, wisdom and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.**

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.

Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray

C: O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The First Lesson

Acts 2:42-47

R: A reading from Acts.

⁴² [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke

bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 23

(Read responsively)

¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² **He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;**

³ he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ **Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.**

C: 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

The Second Lesson

1 Peter 2:19-25

R: A reading from 1 Peter.

¹⁹ For it is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² “He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia Verse



The Gospel Lesson

John 10:1-10

R: The Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

10 “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

R: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

(Stand)

Hymn of the Day

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

ELW 789 Text: Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847

Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

- Savior, like a shepherd lead us;
much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us; we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us; we are yours.**

- 2 We are yours; in love befriend us,
be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear us children when we pray.
- 3 You have promised to receive us,
poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us,
grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.
- 4 Early let us seek your favor,
early let us do your will;
blessed Lord and only Savior,
with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.

Nicene 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

(Kneel/Sit)

Prayers

“Jesus, Remember Me”

ELW 616 Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community; © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994: © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE A-722315. All rights reserved.

**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

(After each portion of the prayers:)

A: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

(The prayers conclude:)

P: Let us pray for our nation,

C: Eternal God, amid all the turmoil and changes of the world, your love is steadfast and your strength never fails. In this time of danger and trouble, be to us a sure guardian and rock of defense. Guide the leaders of our nations with your

wisdom, comfort those in distress, and grant us courage and hope to face the future; through Jesus Christ, our savior and Lord. Amen.

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, the Word made flesh and the Light of the world.

C: Amen.

(Stand)

The Peace

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

C: And also with you.

All may greet one another with a word of peace: “Peace be with you” ... “God bless you” ... “God loves you”...

The Gathering of Gifts

Any tithes or offerings may be placed into the offering plate by the entrance to the Sanctuary at the beginning or the end of service. For those who are worshipping with us via live stream, please consider mailing your offering to the Church office or giving online through our website.

(Stand)

The Offering Hymn

“Create In Me A Clean Heart”

ELW 186 Text: Public Domain Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License No.

SB145702

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

The Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to

new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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.**

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth, and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

The Eucharistic Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

P: On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. In the same way also, he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it them, saying: Drink from this, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. This do, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he returns.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C: **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.**

(Sit)

Communion Distribution

Lutherans believe that in Holy Communion we are offered the Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. Baptized and Communicant members of all Christian denominations who share this belief with us are welcome to come forward to receive Holy Communion. Others, including children, may come forward to receive a blessing.

Communion Hymns

“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.

Communion Hymn 1

“Have No Fear, Little Flock”

ELW 764 Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4;

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Music: Heinz Werner Zimmermann, b. 1930: © 1973 Concordia Publishing House

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- 1 Have no fear, little flock;
have no fear, little flock,
for the Father has chosen
to give you the kingdom;
have no fear, little flock!**

- 2 Have good cheer, little flock;
have good cheer, little flock,
for the Father will keep you
in his love forever;
have good cheer, little flock!**

- 3 Praise the Lord high above;
praise the Lord high above,
for he stoops down to heal you,
uplift and restore you;
praise the Lord high above!**

- 4 Thankful hearts raise to God;
thankful hearts raise to God,
for he stays close beside you,
in all things works with you;
thankful hearts raise to God!**

Communion Hymn 2

“Lord, Who the Night You Were Betrayed”

ELW 463 Text: William H. Turton, 1856-1938, alt.

Music: Orlando Gibbons, 1583-1625

- 1 Lord, who the night you were betrayed did pray
that all your church might be forever one:
help us at ev'ry eucharist to say**

**with willing heart and soul, "Your will be done."
Oh, may we all one bread, one body be,
through this blest sacrament of unity.**

- 2 For all your church on earth, we intercede;
Lord, make our sad divisions soon to cease;
draw us all closer, each to each, we plead,
by drawing all to you, O Prince of peace;
thus may we all one bread, one body be,
through this blest sacrament of unity.**

- 3 And hear our prayer for wand'ers from your fold;
restore them, too, Good Shepherd of the sheep,
back to the faith your saints confessed of old,
and to the church still pledged that faith to keep.
Soon may we all one bread, one body be,
through this blest sacrament of unity.**

- 4 So, Lord, at length when sacraments shall cease,
may we be one with all your church above--
one with your saints in one unbroken peace,
one with your saints in one unbounded love;
more blessed still, in peace and love to be
one with the Trinity in unity.**

(Stand)

Post Communion Blessing

P: May this, the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you, keeping you steadfast in your faith for life everlasting.

C: Amen.

Post Communion

"May the God of All Healing"

ELW 220 Text: Augsburg Fortress; © 2002 Augsburg Fortress

Music: Jayne Southwick Cool, b. 1947: © 2003 Augsburg Fortress

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**May the God of all healing enfold us in love,
fill us with peace, and lead us to wholeness and strength.**

Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

A: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

P: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Recessional

“God Be With You Till We Meet Again”

ELW 536 Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828-1904

Music: William G. Tomer, 1833-1896

- 1 God be with you till we meet again;
by good counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.**

Refrain

**Till we meet, (till we meet,)
till we meet, (till we meet again,)
till we meet at Jesus' feet; (till we meet,)
till we meet, (till we meet,)
till we meet, (till we meet again.)
God be with you till we meet again.**

- 2 God be with you till we meet again;
holy wings securely hide you,
daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again. *Refrain***

3 God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you;
God be with you till we meet again. *Refrain*

Sending

A: Go in peace and serve the Lord

 Thanks be to God!

Organ Postlude

*“Concerto
“Das ist der Tag, den Gott gemacht””*

Paul Fey

SERVING US IN WORSHIP

Pastor	Rev. Chris Agne
Assistant	Mary Tipton
Musician	Ben Harris
Reader	Doakes Family
Greeters	Dianne McGill
Altar Guild	Gloria Malachi, Roberta White, Barbara Thom
Ushers	John Corkill, Calvin Lee, Ekanem Ekanem
Counters	Dianne Yohe, Harry Sessums

Acknowledgments

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Prayer Requests

Please contact Pastor Chris for changes.

pastor@alutheranchurch.com

Please put your prayer requests in the Prayer Diary at the rear of the Sanctuary so we can add your need to our prayers.

Healing

Sharon Agne	Joan Prather
Olivia Powell	Rob Garrett
Dolores Prather	Ernestine Hayes
Helen Riley	Herman McNeil
Calvin Lee	Susie Nilsson
Zachary Plue	Kent & Walt Nilsson
Joyce Bailey	

In Remembrance

Jenny DeMaio	Alice Gaither
Helen Bell	Alice McNeil

Homebound

John DellaGatta	Lois Flemming
Olivia Powell	Arthur & Mildred Smith
Helen Riley	

Birthdays & Anniversaries This Week

Atinuke Doherty-Moore, Kevin Gonsales,
Charles Hiller, Leola Motley,
aChao Bush, Mfon Ekanem

Ascension Weekly

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Information & Notices

April 26, 2026

Services

Please Note

Divine Worship

Sunday at 9:00 am

Holy Communion is celebrated
in most services.

Holy Baptism

Arrangements for Baptism can
be made through the Church
Office.

Weddings

Weddings for active Ascension
members are arranged through
the Church Office.

Adult Bible Study: Bible study
meets on Sundays after
worship, at 10:30 am.

Staff:

Rev. Chris Agne.....Pastor
Gwen Neal.....Office Mgr.
Ben Harris.....Parish Musician

Office open Mon-Fri., 8-4:30
Closed Holidays

Please allow us to share Church
News with you via email. Send
your email address to the
Church Office at
office@alutheranchurch.com

This Week at Ascension

Sunday, April 26

Easter IV

9:00 am	Worship
10:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
12:00 pm	Lamb of God Worship Service
6:00 pm	Sunday @ 6

Wednesday, April 29

Midweek Bible Study, Noon

Saturday, May 2

Movie Night

Sunday, May 3

Easter V

9:00 am	Worship
10:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
12:00 pm	Lamb of God Worship Service
6:00 pm	Sunday @ 6

Coming Events

Saturday, May 2

3PM Movie Night

Serving Us in Worship, Sunday May 3

Pastor	Rev. Chris Agne
Assistant	Mary Tipton
Musician	Ben Harris
Reader	Kevin Pineda
Greeters	Vivian Licorish
Altar Guild	Ernestine Bivins, Vivian Licorish, Dianne McGill
Ushers	Dan Fulford, Jr., Carl Wilhoit Darrell Dockery
Counters	Vivian Licorish, Morris Hymes, Jr.

Whether in-person or online, your presence made our service special, strengthening our community and our hope. We hope you felt God's presence and are blessed with a wonderful week ahead. We look forward to sharing, praying, and growing in faith with you again soon!



Ascension Lutheran Church

Becoming Caring Servants Who Extend Life in Christ to Diverse People
7415 Buchanan St, Landover Hills, MD 20784 - (301)577-0500

Welcome! We are so glad you are here.

Scan the QR code to connect with us

- Read today's bulletin
- Make a financial offering
- Request a visit

**LET'S
connect**

