



485 Turnbull Bay Road, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168
www.trinitylutheranns.org (386) 428-4307
The Rev. Robert Vogl Brian Larson, Cantor
Assisting Minister: Chris Weinrich Lector: Fay Faller
Communion Distribution: Mia Parada, Cheryl Tucker
May 17, 2026 at 9:30am

Seventh Sunday of Easter + 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.



GATHERING

Prelude

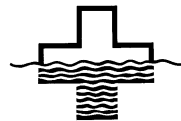
Ascended Triumph

Robert A. Hobby

Welcome

Stand

Thanksgiving for Baptism



Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb! **Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism. *Water is poured into the font.*

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. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

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. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

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. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

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. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn 393

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!

Stanzas 1,3,5 – All

St. 2 – women

St. 4 – Men



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall
2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives
3 To whom the shin - ing an - gels cry, “Why stand and gaze up - on the
4 “You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the por - tals of the
5 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac -



ring: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
stand, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! and with his faith - ful fol - l’wers
sky?” Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! “This is the Sav - ior!” thus they
sky.” Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! “Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall
cord: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! You are, while end - less ag - es



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.
see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty.
say, “this is his glo - rious tri - umph day!” Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty.”
run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.



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

Text: Bede, 673–735; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

Apostolic 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.**

Hymn of Praise: *This Is the Feast*

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



1. Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2. Sing with all the peo - ple of God and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his. *To Refrain*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *To Final Refrain*

Final Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God,



for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.



Al - - - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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.**

Sit

WORD

First Reading: 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.

A reading from Acts. [Luke writes:]¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.³ 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.⁴ 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;⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?”⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.⁸ 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.”⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.¹¹ 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.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 47 choir/congregation



¹ Clap your hands, | all you peoples; shout to God with a | joyful sound.

² **For the LORD Most High is | to be feared:
a great king over | all the earth,**

³ who subdues the | peoples under us, and the nations un- | der our feet;

⁴ **who chooses our inheri- | tance for us,
the pride of Jacob, | whom God loves.**

⁵ God has gone up | with a shout, the LORD with the sound | of the ram's horn.

⁶ **Sing praises to | God, sing praises;
sing praises to our | king, sing praises.**

⁷ For God is king of | all the earth; sing praises | with a song.

⁸ **God reigns o- | ver the nations;
God is en- | throned on high.**

⁹ The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the | God of Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is high- | ly exalted.

¹ **Clap your hands, | all you peoples;
shout to God with a | joyful sound.**

Second 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 Ephesians. ¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷ 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, ¹⁸ 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, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ 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, ²¹ 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. ²² And he has put

all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church,
²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

All sing the Alleluias; Choir sings the Verse.



Go and make disciples of all nations, ¹ says the Lord;

I am with you always, to the end ¹ of the age. (Matt. 28:19, 20)

Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁴⁴ [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.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ 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 ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ 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.” ⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.



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

Sit

Sermon

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Please stand when the hymn introduction begins.

Hymn of the Day LBW 159

Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels



1 Up through end - less ranks of an - gels, cries of tri - umph
2 Death-de - stroy - ing, life - re - stor - ing, prov - en e - qual
3 To our lives of wan - ton wan - d'ring send your prom - ised
4 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to breathe the



in his ears, to his heav'n - ly throne as - cend - ing,
to our need, now for us be - fore the Fa - ther
Spir - it guide; through our lives of fear and fail - ure
Spir - it's grace! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



hav - ing van - quished all their fears, Christ looks down up -
as our broth - er in - ter - cede; flesh that for our
with your pow'r and love a - bide; wel - come us, as
Oh, to see the Fa - ther's face! Al - le - lu - ia!



on his faith - ful, leav - ing them in hap - py tears.
world was wound - ed, liv - ing, for the wound - ed plead!
you were wel - comed, to an end - less Eas - ter - tide.
Al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to feel the Son's em - brace!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919

Music: ASCENDED TRIUMPH, Henry V. Gerike, b. 1948

Nicene Creed With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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.

Sit or kneel

Prayers of Intercession

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. *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.

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.**

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.**

P: 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.**

Stand

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

MEAL

Sit

Setting the Table + Presentation of Gifts

Choir *Though the Mountains Quake and Tremble* David Lee, 2025

*Though the mountains quake and tremble, though the hills be swept away,
you are yet our strength and refuge; in our fear we rise and say:*

Yesterday, today, forever, Jesus Christ is still the same.

Though we have no lasting city, still we seek the one to come.

*None has seen the peaceful kingdom, yet in us its rivers run:
you, O Lord, are dwelling with us, you our shelter, you our home.*

*Though the nations rage in folly, armies rise and shadows grow,
you who hold us in your palm here snap the spear and break the bow.*

Ever merciful, you call us: I am God; be still and know.

*Though the mountains quake and tremble, though they crumble into dust,
you, O God, have been our helper; in your kindness we will trust.*

Yesterday, today, forever, Jesus Christ abides with us.

Text: Kate Bluett, 2025

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray. 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.**

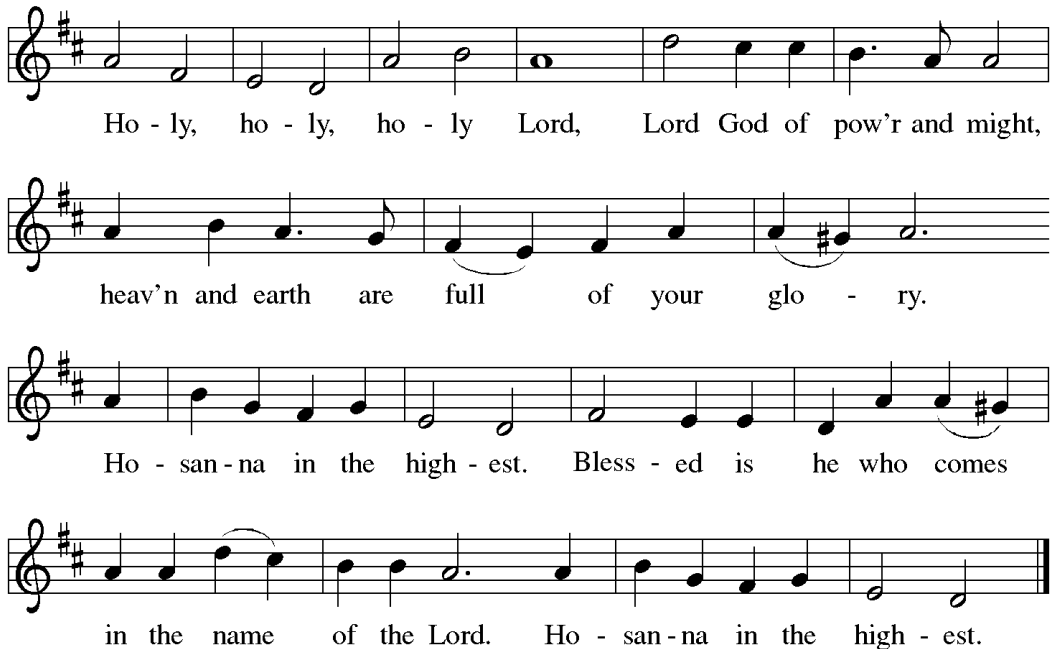
Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ; who, enthroned forever at your right hand, intercedes for us as our great high priest. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n 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.

Eucharistic Prayer

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.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us. ***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

Invitation to Communion

*Gluten-free wafers are available. Please ask your server.
Red wine and white grape juice are available in each tray.*



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.

Communion Hymn 826

Thine the Amen



1	Thine the	a - men	thine the	praise	al - le - lu - ias	an - gels	raise
2	Thine the	life	e - ter - nal - ly	thine the	prom - ise	let there	be
3	Thine the	tru - ly	thine the	yes	thine the	ta - ble	we the
4	Thine the	king - dom	thine the	prize	thine the	won - der	full sur - prise
5	Thine the	glo - ry	in the	night	no more	dy - ing	on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread
 thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee
 thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be
 thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways
 thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup
 gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry
 then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war
 thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least
 then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
 gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
 thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
 then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.
 thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
 Music: THINE, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

Table Blessing and Communion Prayer

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

A: Let us pray. 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.**

SENDING

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.**

Sending Hymn 825

You Servants of God

1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, and pub - lish a -
 2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save, yet still he is
 3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -
 4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all glo - ry and

broad his won - der - ful name; the name, all - vic - to - rious, of
 nigh, his pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion, his
 loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the
 pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless - ing, with

Je - sus ex - tol; his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all!
 tri - umph shall sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king!
 an - gels pro - claim, fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
 an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fin - ite love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
 Music: LYONS, attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737–1806

Sit

Announcements

Dismissal Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God!**

Voluntary A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing Paul Manz

*Everyone is invited to enjoy light refreshments and conversation
in the fellowship hall following worship.*



Commemorations this Week

Thursday, May 14 Matthias, Apostle Matthias was the apostle added to the Twelve after Jesus' resurrection, as a replacement for the dead Judas Iscariot. He had traveled among the followers of Jesus throughout the Lord's ministry. Formerly commemorated on February 24, Matthias's celebration is moved to May 14 in agreement with most Western calendars.

Monday, May 18 Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160 Erik is considered the patron saint of Sweden. As king of that nation, he tried to bring peace in the region, and to spread Christianity in Scandinavia. He was also known for his attempts to make fair laws and to protect those who were poor or sick.

Thursday, May 21 Helena, mother of Constantine, died around 330 Influenced by her son to become Christian, Helena (or Helen) lived an exemplary life of faith. She is also remembered for traveling through Palestine building churches on the sites she believed to be associated with Christ's life.

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The comic strip *Agnus Day* is a lectionary-based comic strip. Each week, Rick (the one with the dark nose) and Ted discuss one of the assigned readings from the Common Lectionary. Their conversation drives at a point and sometimes sparks a laugh. *Agnus Day* is the creation of Pastor James Wetzstein, a Lutheran pastor who serves as one of the campus pastors at Valparaiso University. *Agnus Day* appears with the permission of www.agnusday.org.



A New Song

The Ascension of Our Lord is best seen as the second of four stanzas in a song. The first stanza tells the story of Easter. On Good Friday, Jesus died a real death, not a pretend sleep or a fake death in order to do business with the devil or to lie in some “in-between” place, but an actual death. On Easter, a love very powerful, very strong, and very real overcame this shocking death and brought in new life for all.

The second stanza of our holy song is the ascension. So far, Jesus’ followers had experienced his horrific death, followed by deep grief, and then the wonderful surprise of Easter. At his ascension, Jesus gathers the disciples and promises they will never be abandoned. The Holy Spirit is coming after Jesus’ physical departure. This prepares the disciples for the next stanza.

The third stanza tells the story of the Day of Pentecost. The story of Pentecost shows, in the strongest of ways, that the Holy Spirit has now taken the reins. The Spirit is the empowerment of the very breath of life, the creative energy of all that is, love in all its fullness. Watch out, world—the Spirit is on the move!

The final stanza of this holy song is all about you and the church. How have you been created in the image of God, with gifts to use and to share? When have you been touched by the grace, love, and forgiveness of God? How will you and the church continue the song by sharing grace, love, and forgiveness with others in your community and the world?

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)