

Ascension of Our Lord

Sunday May 17, 2026

Introduction to the day

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.

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.

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

A reading from Acts.

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.

PSALM: Psalm 47

God has gone up with a shout. (Ps. 47:5)

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

A reading from Ephesians.

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.

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.

GOSPEL MESSAGE - 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?

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

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 Chris Burchat, Natasha Gagnon-Burchat, Shirley Glickman, Donna L. Hoffman, Glenda Panke, Marilyn Schneider, Carolyn Schroeder, Heather Schruder, Doug Sell, Kimberly Thom, Roy Zadow and those in long term care facilities and senior residences. In this moment of silence, we name out loud or in the quiet of our hearts those who need your healing touch. 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.**

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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,**

forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

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

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

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Announcements:

Sunday, May 17th – Ascension of Our Lord

9:00 AM - Bonnechere – Holy Communion
10:30 AM – Grace – Holy Communion
Holy Baptism

Monday, May 18th

9: 00 AM to 3:00 PM - Quilting at Grace

Tuesday, May 19th

10:00 AM – Bible Study
7:00 PM – Property Committee

Wednesday, May 20th

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM – Cuddles and Hugs Quilting

Thursday, May 21st

9:00 AM to 11:30 AM – Toy Bus
10:00 AM – Grace Choir

Friday, May 22nd

Pastor’s Day Off

Saturday, May 23rd

1:00 PM – Grace Cemetery
Graveside Service for Delmer Byers

Sunday, May 24th - Day of Pentecost

9:00 AM – Bonnechere – Holy Communion
10:30 AM - Grace – Holy Communion
Confirmation Sunday

Affirmation of Baptism

On Sunday May 24th, we will be celebrating the "Affirmation of Baptism" of our four students. Over the past 2 years, they have been working hard in learning the books of the Bible and church doctrine. They will also be given his "First Communion" during this service. They have come a long way from when they began their journey. We all should be proud of what they have accomplished."

Just a Reminder: Our Summer Schedule

Starting June 7, 2026 to Sunday, August 30th services times are as follows:

9:00 AM – Grace, Eganville

10:30 AM – St. John’s, Bonnechere - 3rd and 4th Sunday of the month