





Trinity Lutheran Church
2105 King Avenue
Slayton, MN 56172
Rev. Jeff Williams
pastor@trinityslayton.info
<http://www.trinityslayton.info>

(Church) 507-836-8129
(Parsonage) 507-393-0723
(Cell) 720-234-9980

Ascension

Divine Service

May 14, 2026

Holy Communion is celebrated this evening at Trinity Lutheran Church in the glad confidence that our Lord, as His Words say, gives not only bread and wine, but also His true Body and Blood for us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. Our Lord invites to His table those who believe He is truly present, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive as He forgives us. Because Saint Paul reminds us that we can receive the Lord's Supper to our judgment, we are very careful to administer the Sacrament only to those who are properly prepared. When we receive Holy Communion, we publicly declare our agreement with the teachings of the church from which we receive it. *Therefore, if you are not yet a member of this congregation, a sister congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and if you have not previously spoken to the Pastor about Holy Communion, please refrain from coming forward to receive Communion until you have first spoken with the Pastor.* If you cannot receive the Lord's Supper but desire a blessing, please join us at the Communion rail and cross your arms over your chest to tell the pastor of your intent.

This evening's service is jointly hosted by
Saint Paul Lutheran Church, Fulda,
and Trinity Lutheran Church, Slayton.

Welcome in the name of our Ascended Lord.

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Opening Hymn
Confession

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

LSB 493
p. 203

Introit

P: Men of | Galilee,*
why do you stand looking into heaven? Alle- | luia.
This Jesus, who was taken up from you into | heaven,*
will come in the same way as you saw him go into
heaven. Alle- | luia.

C: **Clap your hands, all | peoples!***
Shout to God with loud | songs of joy!
For the LORD, the Most High, is | to be feared,*
a great king over | all the earth.
God has gone up | with a shout,*
the LORD with the sound of a | trumpet.
God reigns over the | nations;*
God sits on his | holy throne.

All: **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son***
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

P: Men of | Galilee,*
why do you stand looking into heaven? Alle- | luia.
This Jesus, who was taken up from you into | heaven,*
will come in the same way as you saw him go into
heaven. Alle- | luia.

Kyrie	p. 204
Gloria	p. 204
Collect	p. 205

P: Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and
mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns
with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know it; keep quiet.”

Then Elijah said to him, “Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.” And Elisha said, “Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.” And he said, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.” And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it and he cried, “My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more.

Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. And he took up the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water, saying, “Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho saw him opposite them, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.” And they came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.

Verse

**C: Alleluia. God has gone up | with a shout,*
the LORD with the sound of a | trumpet.
Alleluia. You ascend- | ed on high,*
leading a host of captives in your train. Alle- | luia.**

Second Reading

Acts 1:1-11 (ESV)

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to

do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Alleluia and Verse

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Gospel

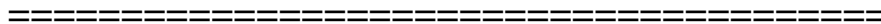
Luke 24:44-53 (ESV)

Then he 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 of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Extinguish paschal candle

Nicene Creed		p. 206
Hymn of the Day	<i>Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels</i>	LSB 491
Sermon		Luke 24:44-53
	<i>Pastor Ethridge</i>	
Prayers		
Lord's Supper		p. 208
Distribution	<i>On Christ's Ascension I Now Build</i>	LSB 492
	<i>The Infant Priest was Holy Born</i>	LSB 624
	<i>Draw Us to Thee</i>	LSB 701
Canticle	<i>Nunc Dimittis</i>	p. 211
Prayer		p. 212
Benedicamus		p. 212
Benediction		p. 212
Hymn	<i>Spread the Reign of God the Lord</i>	LSB 830



Participants

Officiant	Rev Jeff Williams	Trinity -- Slayton
Sermon	Rev Shawn Ethridge	St Paul -- Fulda
Organist	Mrs Kathy Schwartz	Trinity -- Slayton

The Paschal Candle

The Paschal Candle is an ancient tradition which signifies the presence of the glorified and risen Christ Jesus between Easter and the Ascension. We light the candle during the first Easter service, even before the proclamation that Jesus has risen from the dead, for in the pre-dawn darkness He broke the bonds of the tomb. His glorified body was present on Easter morning before the discovery of the empty grave by the women. During the Gospel reading on Ascension the candle is extinguished, though it stays near the Baptismal font as a reminder of Jesus promise to be with us always, even unto the end of the world.

Because Christ's resurrection is closely associated with Baptism, indeed we are buried with Him only to rise with Him, the candle is lit for Baptisms. Because of the faith that is created by the Holy Spirit working through the water and the Word, and the close connection of our hope in the resurrection with Baptism, this candle may also be lit for funerals.
