

Seventh Sunday of Easter
ASCENSION SUNDAY
Theme: Living the Sequel

Sunday, May 17, 2026



“When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.”

Acts 1:9

GATHERING

Prelude:

“Be Thou My Vision”

Robert Lau

Call to Worship

Leader: Easter people, as we come to the close of Eastertide, we remember the blessings God gives us—the blessings of Resurrection, salvation, aspirations and dreams.

People: We come to praise God for the blessings of Easter—for new life in Christ.

Leader: We recall the blessings of creation—of clean air and water, of food and shelter, of beauty and awe.

People: We come to praise God for the blessings of creation!

Leader: We share in the blessings of community—of family and friends, of church and home, of help that is given and received.

People: We come to praise God for the blessings of community!

Leader: Easter people, we gather today to remember Christ’s Ascension, when Jesus was taken up into heaven while blessing his disciples, marking the next chapter of God’s saving work among us.

People: We come to praise our God for the One who continues to bless us. With gratitude we receive all we need to live as God’s Resurrection people. Thanks be to God!

*Hymn: #757 “Today We Are Called to Be Disciples” (*with Bell Choir*)

*Prayer of the Day and Confession

Today, Ascending Christ, we are faced with a wonderful truth to proclaim but also an awesome and uncomfortable responsibility. While we claim to celebrate the ascension of our Lord, so often the way we live shows our lack of faith in His power to deal with the world. Let us confess the incongruity between our faith and practice.

We recognize that You have authority over all things, but we live in a world where twisted authority, greed, power and violence seem to be in control. And so, as You call us, we pray: “Come, Lord Jesus, set the world aright.”

We celebrate You as the Way, Truth, and Life. We recognize that in You our life is made whole and full; but we live in a world where death, brokenness, and need appear to be everywhere. And so, as You call us, we pray: “Come, Lord Jesus, set the world aright.”

We celebrate the invitation to live God’s dream; but we live in a world where dreams and hearts are broken daily, and hope seems all but lost. And so, as you call us, we pray:

“Come, Lord Jesus, set the world aright” praying as You have taught us: “*Our Father...who art in heaven. . .*”

Word of Assurance

Leader: We come, O Lord, this day singing of your lordship over all creation.

People: With You and because of You, we are not powerless in the face of today’s events. We live with confidence today and in hope of life to come.

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Anthem:

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

Bell Choir

Scripture: Acts 1:6-11 Ephesians 1:2-23 Luke 24:45-53

Sermon:

“Why Look Up”

*Hymn: #258 “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

God who blesses us always, even as Christ ascended, you did not leave us alone. While he was blessing them, you were preparing us to carry the story forward, to be your witnesses, to live in hope and power. In this sacred act of giving, we return a portion of what you have entrusted to us. May our gifts be a blessing to others, as Christ has been to us. Clothe us with courage. Remind us that your Spirit goes with us. And send us, renewed and ready, to be your church in the world. AMEN

Announcements

Prayers of the People

*Hymn: #353 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

*Charge and Benediction

Leader: Lord Christ, as You rise to the heavenly realm, we rise up in confident living and giving.

People: As Christ is seated in authority, God grants us the blessing of authority to accomplish all things good.

Leader: As we go, the understanding, wisdom, and grace to follow the way of Christ is granted.

People: Therefore, in all ways we are lifted up. AMEN

Postlude: "An Irish Blessing" Brian Glyncannon
"God be with you on your road, every way you go."

(Please remain seated)

The End of Worship
The Beginning of Service

*Those who wish may stand

Rev. James Shuler, Interim Pastor
Mrs. Dianne Yuninger, Organist/Choir Director

Leacock Presbyterian Church

First met in Leacock Township in 1724, recognized by the Synod in 1740, moved to Paradise in 1840.



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