



MAY 17, 2026
+ ASCENSION SUNDAY +

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PRELUDE

Jesus Shall Reign
Hymnal Selection 269, arr. Anna Laura Page
Brian Ward, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Libby Piotrowski and Emily Cody



CHORAL INTROIT

Rejoice, the Lord Is King
Hymnal Selection 271, verses 1 and 2
Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

* CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 47

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.

He subdued peoples under us and nations under our feet.

He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.

God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.

For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.

* OPENING HYMN 263

A Hymn of Glory

* INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER 887 (Using *sins*)

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of the Risen Christ be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER FOR THE JOURNEY

Rebecca Rodriguez

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Steve Paska, Reader

Easter Season Acts Reading

Acts 1:1-11

New Testament Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

* Gospel Reading

Luke 24:44-53

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

Libby Piotrowski

CHORAL ANTHEM

Hallelujah, Praise the Lord
from *Gospel Mass*
Robert Ray

Hallelujah. Praise the Lord.
Hallelujah. Let us praise the Lord.
Praise Him with stringed instruments.
Praise Him with dance.
Praise Him on the psalt'ry and harp.
Ev'rything that has breath ought to praise Him.
Hallelujah; Praise the Lord.
Hallelujah. Let us praise the Lord.

MESSAGE

Emily Cody

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Not Be Shaken
Norm Strauss

Led by Chris Hickey, Anders Johnson, Robert Johnson,
Samantha Johnson, Sam Parnin, and Brian Ward

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

Alleluia, Ring God's Praise
arr. Michael R. Keller

Chancel Handbell Choir, Sam Parnin, Director
He Lives

* Sung Response 253, verse 3

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 264

Crown Him with Many Crowns

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata on "Crown Him with Many Crowns"
Hymnal Selection 264, arr. Joel Raney
Sam Parnin, Organ

*Please remain seated for the postlude, pausing as the light of Christ is carried out
and imagining how you might carry that light into the world this week.*

** Please rise, in body or in spirit.*

A Hymn of Glory

In unison

1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through - out the
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of
 3 O Lord, our home - ward path - way bend that our un - wear - ied
 4 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to you let

world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be -
 Ol - ives stand, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! And with his faith - ful
 hearts as - cend, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Where, seat - ed on your
 earth ac - cord: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! You are, while end - less

fore un - trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God. Al - le - lu - ia!
 fol - low'rs see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther's throne, you reign as King of kings a - lone. Al - le - lu - ia!
 ag - es run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one. Al - le - lu - ia!

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

WORDS: The Venerable Bede, 673-735, tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978, © 1978

Lutheran Book of Worship

MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Cologne, 1623; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958,

© Oxford University Press

L.M. with Alleluias
 LASST UNS ERFREUEN

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Traditional

Not Be Shaken

Norm Strauss

1997 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing (Admin. by Integrity Music)
Vineyard Songs Canada (Admin. by Integrity Music)

I will de - clare my choice to the na - tions Shout for joy in the

I will de - clare my choice to the na - tions Shout for joy in the

5

con-gre-ga - tion. Wor-ship God all my days. Those who

con-gre-ga - tion, I will wor-ship God all my days. Those who

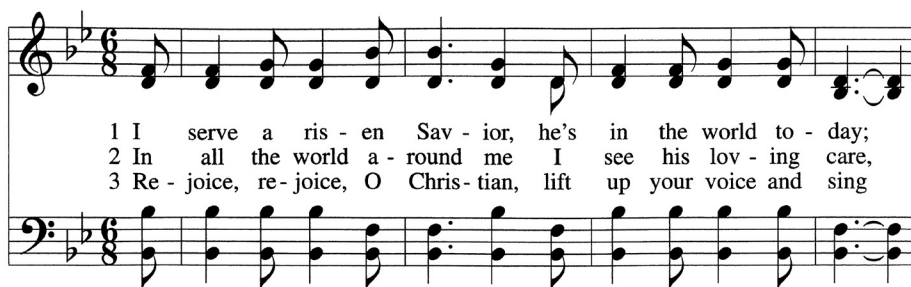
10

love the Lord are sa - tis - fied, those who trust in Him are just - ti - fied

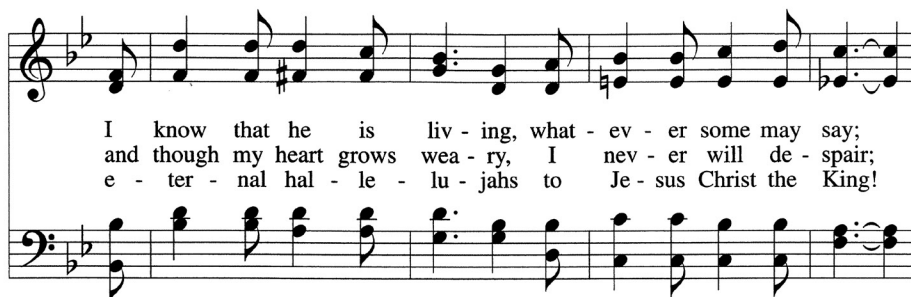
love the Lord are sa - tis - fied, those who trust in Him are jus - ti - fied I will

14

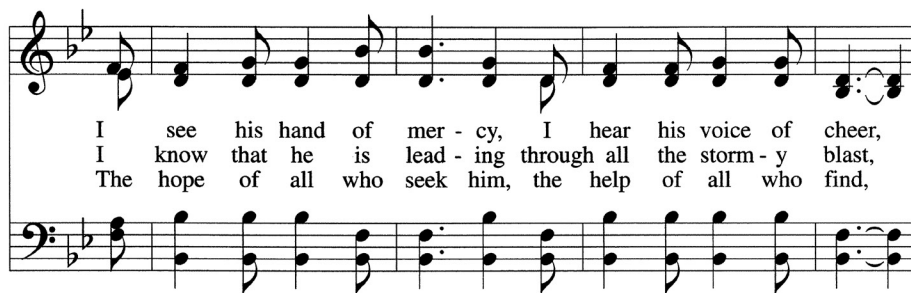
He Lives



1 I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, he's in the world to - day;
 2 In all the world a - round me I see his lov - ing care,
 3 Re - joice, re - joice, O Chris - tian, lift up your voice and sing



I know that he is liv - ing, what - ev - er some may say;
 and though my heart grows wea - ry, I nev - er will de - spair;
 e - ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ the King!

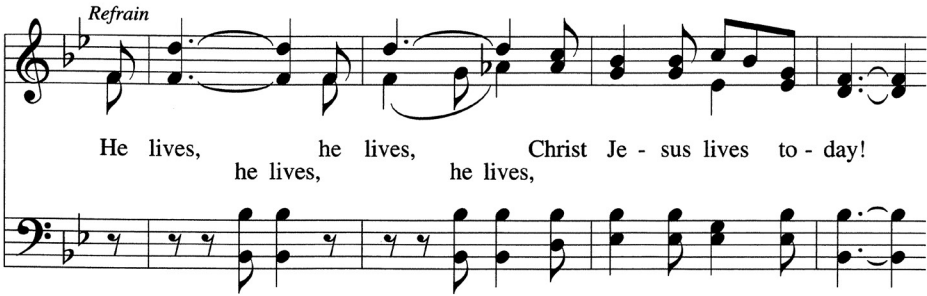


I see his hand of mer - cy, I hear his voice of cheer,
 I know that he is lead - ing through all the storm - y blast,
 The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find,



and just the time I need him he's al - ways near.
 the day of his ap - pear - ing will come at last.
 none oth - er is so lov - ing, so good and kind.

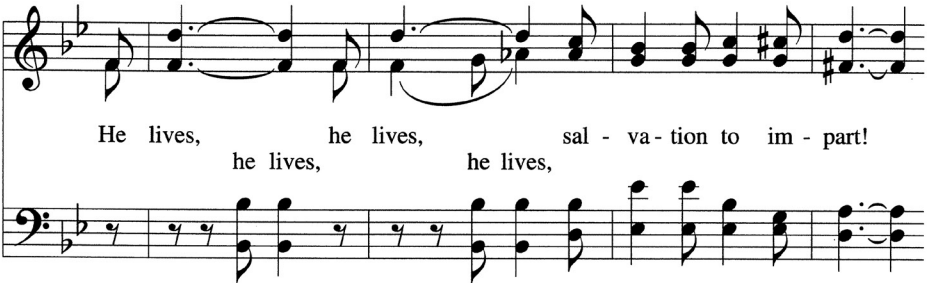
Refrain



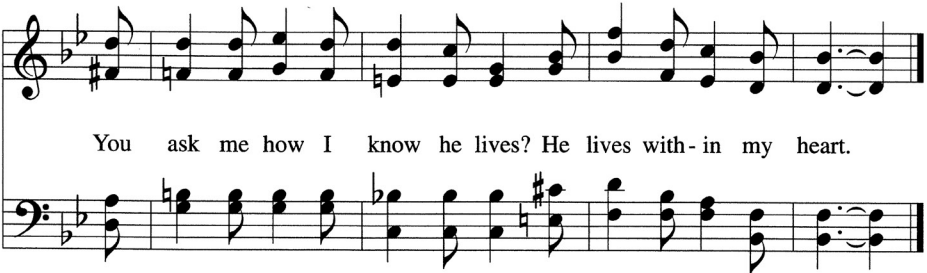
He lives, he lives, he lives, Christ Je - sus lives to - day!



He walks with me and talks with me a - long life's nar - row way.



He lives, he lives, he lives, sal - va - tion to im - part!



You ask me how I know he lives? He lives with - in my heart.

Crown Him with Many Crowns

264

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne.
 2 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave,
 3 Crown him the Lord of love, be - hold his hands and side,
 4 Crown him the Lord of peace— his King - dom is at hand;
 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,

Hark! how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!
 who rose vic - to - rious to the strife for those he came to save.
 rich wounds yet vis - i - ble a - bove in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
 from pole to pole let war - fare cease and Christ rule ev - 'ry land!
 Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fably sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee and
 His glo - ries now we sing who died and reigns on high; he
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight, but
 A cit - y stands on high, his glo - ries it dis - plays, and
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail, for thou hast died for me; thy

hail him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 died e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 down - ward bend their won - d'ring eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 there the na - tions "Ho - ly" cry in joy - ful hymns of praise.
 praise and glo - ry shall not fail through all e - ter - ni - ty. A - men.

Welcome to North Park Covenant Church online!

We're glad you're here.

If you're new here today, we invite you to email the co-pastors at copastors@npcovenant.org to learn more about us and, perhaps, get a little more connected.

Childcare is available in the toddler room (lower level, off the hallway south of the parlors) during the worship service for any wee ones ages 0 through 5 needing a place to wiggle and play. We always happily welcome children in the service but recognize that sometimes parents need a break so they can focus on worship.

If giving digitally is more your style, this handy QR code will take you directly to our online giving portal. It's a great pathway to one of the most powerful and sustainable ways to support NPCC. In the portal, you can make an account, set up recurring gifts, and even include a little extra to offset processing fees. However you give, know that we are deeply grateful for your generosity and doing all we can to equip this church family to live for God's glory and neighbors' good.



Vida Plena, a Spanish-speaking Covenant church plant that meets here, invites you to worship every Sunday at 1:30 pm. For more information, contact Pastor Dany Flores at 872-357-9080.

Members and friends are invited to be a part of a Saturday-morning trash brigade, working to clean up an area of our community inspired by this month's community prayer. They meet at 10 am each week, and this coming Saturday, you can join them at the intersection of St. Louis and Catalpa. Please reach out to Janette and Roderick Smith at rjonberber@sbcglobal.net for more details. All are welcome; no need to RSVP!

The final meeting of the year for the North Park Readers will be on Tuesday, May 26 at 7 pm. We will meet at Tre Kronor and will discuss *An American Summer* by Alex Kotlowitz. If you have any questions please contact Helen Arkema at helen.arkema@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

You're invited to a free concert by Mosaic Winds woodwind quartet, who, you may remember, participated in our worship service on April 26. Featuring tales of travel through classical, ghibli (Japanese animation), and more, this concert will take place on Saturday, May 30, at 4 pm at Unity Lutheran Church (1212 W. Balmoral, Chicago). All are welcome!

On May 31, at 3 pm, Sam Parnin will perform an organ recital here at NPCC! It will include works by J.S. Bach, Jean Langlais, Charles-Marie Widor, Dieterich Buxtehude, and more! The program will showcase a variety of styles, moods, and sounds. While the music will be the main focus, there will also be commentary on the background of the pieces and composers. All are welcome to come and enjoy!

The church block party is on June 7! If you are interested in helping with set-up (around 8 am) or clean-up, please reach out to Pastor Libby.

VBS is just around the corner! Vacation Bible School registration opened May 1, and we already have a good number of kids signed up to attend. Hooray! VBS can not happen without the help of the whole church body. Some of you will volunteer your time in one of many possible areas, some of you will pray for the kids and leaders throughout the week, and some of you will donate items needed to make the week a success. The list of needed items for this year's *What's Cookin'?* theme [can be found here](#). If you have questions about any of the items, please reach out to Pastor Jeanette or Pastor Libby.

Sam Parnin and Eunji Lee invite you to share in their joy as they are married in our sanctuary on Saturday, June 20, at 11:30 am, followed by a reception in our parlors. [Please RSVP here](#). Eunji and Sam's registry [can be found here](#).

**Lectionary texts for
Sunday, May 24:**

Acts 2:1-21

Psalms 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 20:19-23

Covenant missionaries Fabio and Johnna Muniz and their two girls will be returning to the States, specifically the North Park neighborhood, for a year, beginning August 6. It will be really fun to have them around, and they hope to get involved at NPCC. They have secured housing for the month of August, but they are still in need of a car that fits four to borrow or rent for the year.

If you are willing or able to consider this request, please reach out to Pastor Libby, and she will put you in contact with the Muniz family.

A wonderfully tangible way to care for students at North Park University is to contribute to the Viking Pantry, the community food pantry on campus. During the summer break, which runs from May 9 through August 9, the dining hall is not open. Therefore, there is no access to food and basic needs. For students who remain on campus, this can be especially difficult.

Ending today, May 17, we will collect items to bring to the pantry. There is a labeled bin in the narthex for your donations. Please see the [Amazon Wish List](#).

As we celebrate the good work done by North Park Church Cooperative Preschool, we invite you to send in your photos and memories of the Preschool over the years. Any photos and stories you would like to share can be emailed to [Ann-Marie in the church office](#). We will collect these to share with the church at a celebration in honor of the Preschool in the fall.

The Friendship Center food pantry seeks passionate community members to join its Board of Directors at a time when food insecurity is rising in our communities. They especially welcome candidates with experience in marketing, communications, or development/fundraising, though all backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Board members are asked to participate in bi-monthly meetings and a modest annual give/get commitment to support our mission. If interested, please contact Steve Paska at stevepsk@gmail.com.

for your prayers this week

- **Community prayer:** With the school year coming to a close and all of the exciting and difficult changes that come with that transition, we pray specifically for the students, staff, and faculty at North Park University and Northeastern Illinois University.
- **Paula Schuetz**, in need of major foot surgery and appreciative of prayers as she contemplates having that done
- **Diane Haglund**, diagnosed with severe spinal stenosis, which causes weakness in her legs
- Zeynab's daughter, **Soofia**, released this past Wednesday after a lengthy stay in a detention center
- **Dorothy Schmidt**, who has a wound on her leg that isn't healing properly
- **Craig Johnson**, Pastor Libby's dad, home from the hospital and struggling with side effects of chemotherapy
- **Bruce Strom**, home again after a time in Brandel Care Center for physical therapy
- **Ann Marie Strom**, to continue autoimmune infusions, as her recent biopsy revealed the presence of cancerous cells
- **Eileen Thorpe**, on hospice care
- **Shirley Finney**, Janice Finney's mother, on hospice care
- **Betty Boyd**, Jon's mother, on hospice care
- **Sara Gortner**, Ann Boyd's mother, on hospice care
- **Tami Losey**, Marti Hindaileh's sister, diagnosed with bone degeneration in her spine, as well as arthritis, which is causing the pain she's been experiencing
- **Steve Brown**, home again after being hospitalized with an infection
- Rosemary Slaughter's cousin's son, **Doug**, diagnosed with stage 1 cancer, and she asks that we pray he will come to know the Lord and experience healing
- Joline and Steve Paska's friend **Maggie**, now in remission and anticipating immunotherapy treatments over the next two years
- **Barb and John Goode**, as they adjust to life with in-home caregivers
- **Sandy Edstrom**, still struggling with sciatica pain
- **Melanie Jones**, for strength to live with chronic pain
- **Zeynab and her two sons**, awaiting word about their asylum case
- **Anna and Peter Kim**, missionaries in Taiwan, request prayer for Peter, as he continues to work as a counselor in training; for wisdom and help to know how best to provide Eva a good future in the midst of her special needs; and for their children, as they all look for summer jobs

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The Church Calendar This Week

The calendar is available at www.npcovenant.org/calendar and is updated as changes occur.

Monday, May 18

- 9:15 am Women's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
- 10:30 am Staff Meeting (Staff Conference Room)
- 3:45 pm Von Steuben Boys' Basketball Practice (Gym)
- 4 pm Last Tutoring Session of the School Year (Parlors)
- 6:30 pm Geezerball (Gym)
- 7:30 pm Centering Prayer (Staff Conference Room)

Tuesday, May 19

- 8 am Last Men's Bible Study of the Season (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
- 4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 6 pm Cudahy Basketball (Gym)
- 7 pm Executive Council Meeting (Large Conference Room)

Wednesday, May 20

- 10 am Wednesday Women's Bible Study (Edstrom Home)
- 3:45 pm Von Steuben Boys' Basketball Practice (Gym)
- 6 pm Last Gather Dinner of the Season (South Garden; Parlors in case of rain)
- 6:30 pm Last Contemporary Music Rehearsal of the Season (Choir Room)
- 7 pm Knit or Not (Coffee Lounge)
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir End-of-Season Party (Borgeson-Carlstrom Home)

Thursday, May 21

- 4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, May 22

- 10 am NPCCP Caterpillars End-of-Year Party (South Garden)
- 1 pm Prayer Group Gathering (Edstrom Home)
- 1:45 pm NPCCP Butterflies End-of-Year Party (South Garden)

Saturday, May 23

- 8 am Geezerball (Gym)
- 10:15 am Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Sunday, May 24

- 10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 1:30 pm Vida Plena Covenant Church Worship Service (Parlors)
- 7 pm AA Meeting (Parlors)

