DIVINE SERVICE SETTING FOUR

STANDING STRONG + GROWING TOGETHER + REACHING OUT

The Ascension Of Our Lord

May 16, 2021

AS WE GATHER

"I'll see you soon!" So says the parent, spouse, or friend leaving for an errand or a short trip, with certainty that time together will soon be had again. "I'll see you soon!" so says Jesus as He departs and ascends into heaven. And though it has not been hours or days or even weeks, rather nearly two thousand years later, we still hold to the certainty of His promise that we shall see Him again soon at His time. Until that day, though, we are wise to not stay looking up into the sky, as the disciples began to do long ago. Rather, we heed His mission to make disciples and keep ourselves prepared for that day. Even as we long to see Him soon, we know that Jesus is enough for us every day, and we take comfort in the fact that our ascended Lord Jesus remains present with us now, in this life, even amid troubles and trials. We hold on to His promises by the faith given, and we



anticipate that joyful day when He will come again in the same way He was taken up into heaven.

PRESERVICE MUSIC WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO WORSHIP

David Garcia, organ Pastor Stephen Heimer

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the

→ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

ASCENSION DAY FIRST READING & HYMN

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing" LSB 493 & Acts 1:1-11



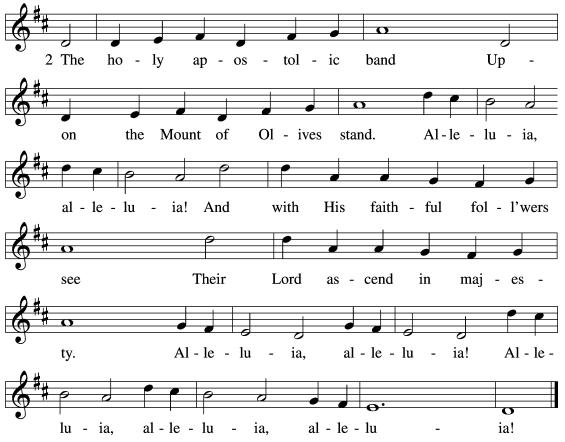


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P Our First Reading, the account of Christ's ascension, from Acts, the first chapter:

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?"
- P 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."



 $\textbf{Text:} \ \textcircled{0} \ \textbf{1978} \ \textbf{Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005077; Tune: Public domain}$

- 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."

All may stand and face the processional cross and sing:



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- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

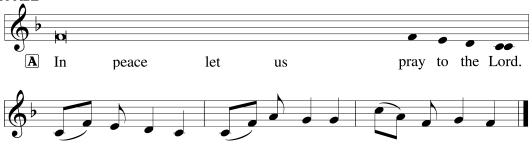
- P For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.
- He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord.
- **G** who made heaven and earth.
- **P** Let us then confess our sins unto our gracious Lord.
- We confess before God and before one another that we have failed to live in the image of Christ. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.
- P We stand guilty before our Father in heaven and are in need of His forgiveness.
- Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- P Because of and in Christ's continued presence through all our days,
- renew us and strengthen us for Christlike living and service in Your kingdom until the day when we ascend to the heavenly realm where we shall be in the presence of Christ forever and ever.

- P Jesus Christ, your ascended Lord, has heard your confession, and He alone has the power to forgive all sin. His presence and grace are enough for us in this time and eternally. God has promised His merciful forgiveness for the sake of His Son, Jesus, to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him in faith. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, in His stead and by His command, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- Amen.
- P God keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit, lead you in ways of faith and obedience, and finally bring you to live with Him forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- Amen.

C Lord, have mer - cy;





Christ, have mer-cy;

- A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- Lord, have mer cy; Christ, have mer cy. Lord, have mer cy.
- A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



- A Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.
- - C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS "Glory to God" LSB 946



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SALUTATION AND COLLECT

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- Let us pray. 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.

EPISTLE (Thanksgiving and prayer through our risen and ascended Savior) Ephesians 1:15–23

¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far 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 one to come. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

VERSE Romans 6:9; Matthew 28:20b

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia. Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL (Jesus fulfills all Scripture.) Luke 24:44–53

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁴Then [Jesus] 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." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And 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."

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple blessing God.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

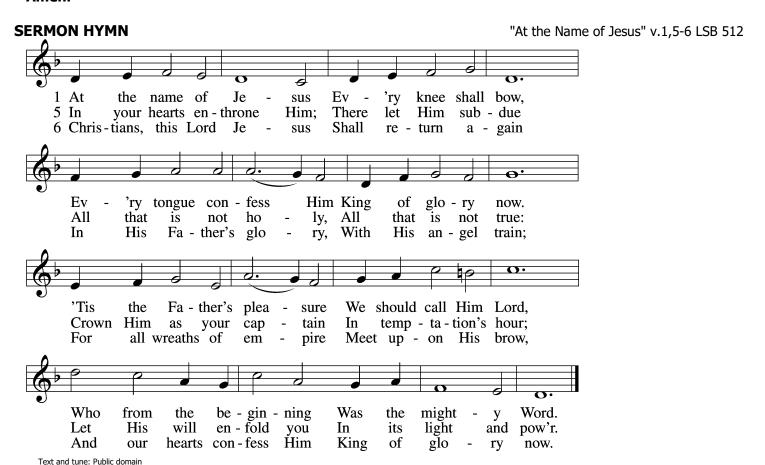
NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life

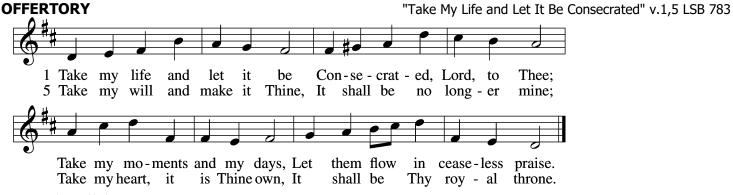
of the world to come. Amen.



OFFERING

"All Creatures of Our God and King" by Sandra Eithun

Zion Handbell Choir



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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Ascended Lord, Jesus Christ, we rejoice as we bring our prayers to Your throne of grace. We pray for the whole Christian Church, that through it the will of God be done among us on earth and that in it we may rejoice in hearing the Good News of the Gospel. Ascended Lord, in Your mercy,

- **C** hear our prayer.
- As all things on this earth are under Your feet, we pray for the nations of the world and for those who lead them, that justice, security, and peace be known around the globe by Your mercies, provisions, and grace. Ascended Lord, in Your mercy,
- **G** hear our prayer.
- P We pray for the Church and for this congregation, that we use wisely the time and all resources You have given us, accomplishing Your will to further Your mission by the power of the Holy Spirit. Ascended Lord, in Your mercy,
- hear our prayer.
- We pray for all those with special needs facing trial and troubles in spirit or body, and all those whose cares and challenges are of concern to us, [Sepecially...]. Assure them and us of Your continuing presence in their lives and in our lives also. For the times in our lives when we wonder if Jesus is enough, remind us that because of Christ's ascension, His presence remains each day as He continually pours out His gifts of grace, mercy, and forgiveness. Ascended Lord, in Your mercy,
- **©** hear our prayer.
- With gratefulness, ascended Lord, we thank You for the faithful witness of those no longer with us here on earth who rejoice in Your eternal care. Inspire us by their faithful witness and help us serve You and others in love all our days. Ascended Lord, in Your mercy,
- hear our prayer.

Additional petitions may follow.

- Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- **G** Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

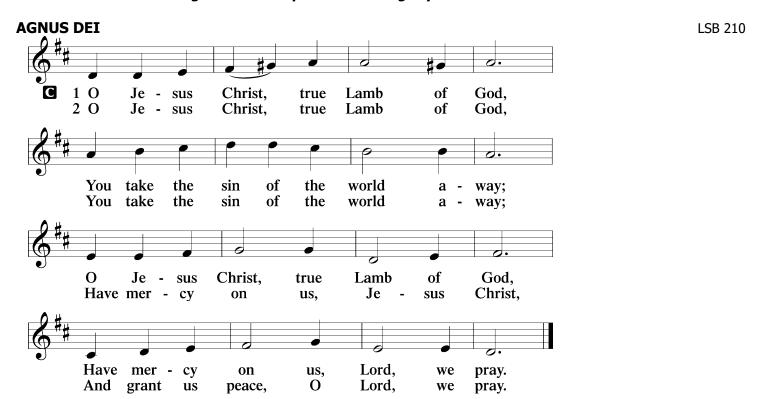
- **P** The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- **W**e lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **■** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who after His resurrection appeared openly to all His disciples and in their sight was taken up into heaven that He might make us partakers of His divine life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



LORD'S PRAYER

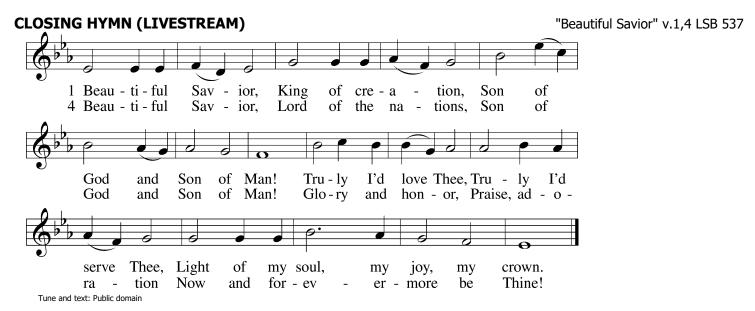
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the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



BENEDICTION

- P "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." (Acts 1)
- P Go out into the world with peace and joy, for this same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven. The blessing of God Almighty—Father, → Son, and Holy Spirit—abide with you always.
- Amen.
- P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- **G** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- P Christ is risen, ascended, and glorified!
- He sits at the right hand of the Father, enthroned in power and glory.
- P Alleluia!
- Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Livestream ends and the Service of the Sacrament continues

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Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Here our Heavenly Father promises anew His unconditional love, renews His pledge of forgiveness in Christ, and offers His Holy Spirit as strength for daily faith and life. If you are a visitor to Zion, we invite you in the Name of Jesus to commune with us. However, since God reminds us that thoughtless or faithless reception of the Sacrament can incur His judgment (1 Corinthians 11:27-32), the Scriptures call those who commune to personally examine themselves and in their communing publicly confess:

- H I am a baptized Christian and I trust in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.
- **⅓** I am a sinner in need of God's forgiveness.
- **→** I believe that Christ is truly present with His body and blood under the bread and wine offering me forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.
- Through His grace and strength, I will live to God's glory, in ministry with His people, in mission to His world.

Children are invited to accompany parents to the altar for the blessing. We trust that your communion with Christ and His people will strengthen your faith, increase your love, and empower your witness to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If you have questions about your communing, please speak with the Pastor.

+ + +

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- Plessed are You, almighty God, for all that was written has been fulfilled, and Your promises remain through Christ, who was born, lived a perfect life, sacrificially died, victoriously rose, and gloriously ascended into heaven. The forgiveness won for us is enough amid our broken and sinful lives, and in His presence now at this Table we ask that You grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Until the day Christ returns in the same way He went into heaven, gather us from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.
- P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.

RECEPTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Ushers will guide one household a time forward to receive the Lord's Supper, which will be placed upon a stand before each communicant. Please remain standing. The plastic containers for the elements may be carried away with you and placed in baskets located to the left or right of the chancel area as you return to your seats.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face To Face" v.1-4 LSB 631 "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" v.1-4 LSB 821 "Christ Sits at God's Right Hand" v.1-5 LSB 564 "How Great Thou Art" LSB 801

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

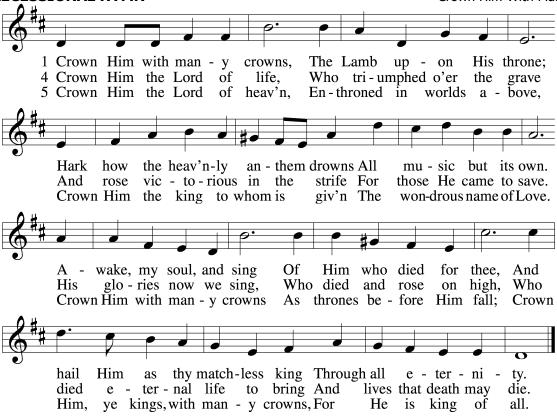
- Let us pray. We give thanks to You, ascended Lord, Jesus Christ, as Your Father has made You head over everything for the Church. In body and blood in, with, and under bread and wine, You have given us the gift of Yourself as You forgive our sins and strengthen our faith. Help us to know that Your presence with us each day through every trial and trouble is enough for our souls. Fix our eyes upon Your coming Kingdom, and grant that Your Church, strengthened by Your presence, live in faithful confidence and hope with all the grace You supply; through Your name above all names, who reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

DISMISSAL

- With the power He has given through His Spirit, as His loved and forgiven people and as His witnesses here, nearby, and to the ends of the earth, go in peace as you serve our risen and ascended Lord.
- Thanks be to God!

RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Crown Him With Many Crowns" v.1,4-5 LSB 525



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Offerings

You can contribute offerings using three main methods:

Online donations: You can make a secure contribution from your credit card or bank account at www.zionelpaso.org. We use Vanco, a reputable agency which specializes in donations to churches and nonprofits. Your contribution can be set up to be recurring, such as each week or month, or as a one-time donation.

Mail donations: Mail your check to the Zion church office at 2808 Pershing Drive, El Paso, TX 79903. The mail is checked every day.

Donations via an app: If you prefer using your phone or tablet, you can download the Vanco Give Plus app. You can easily set up an account and donation through the app.

Your offerings and support are crucial to our congregation and we are very grateful for your support!



ZION STEWARDSHIP OF + TIME + TALENT + TREASURE

Preacher & Celebrant: Pastor Stephen Heimer

Organist: David Garcia

Elders: Tim Eyerman, John Williamson

Reader: Mary Sanchez

Acolyte: Gabryelle Rodriguez, Victoria Ochoa

Camera Operator:Jaden HeimerSound Director:Brenna RodriguezOffering Counter:Sharon AmastaeAltar Guild:Peggy Djerf

THIS WEEK AT ZION

5/18	Tuesday	5:00 PM	Confirmation Class
		7:00 PM	Eastside Bible Study
5/19	Wednesday	6:00 PM	Council Meeting
5/20	Thursday	7:00 PM	"Acts" Bible Study
5/22	Saturday	1:00 PM	Victoria Ochoa Quinceañera Service
5/23	Sunday	9:15 AM	"Exodus" Bible Study
	•	10:30 AM	Pentecost Day Worship Service with Communion

Altar Flowers today are given by Debi Livingston to the glory of God and in thanks for His countless blessings!





Quinceañera Service for Victoria Ochoa.

Join the Ochoa family in celebrating Victoria's quinceañera! The service will take place at 1:00pm on Saturday, May 22, 2021, at Zion Lutheran Church. All Zion family and friends are welcome!

Funeral Service for Bob Geyer. In the early hours of Saturday, May 1st, our brother in Christ, Bob Geyer, passed away. The funeral service for Bob will be on Saturday, June 5, 2021. The time of the service has not yet been determined and will be in a future announcement.

Birth of Donovan Sellers. Congratulations to Andrew & Martha Sellers on the birth of their son, Donovan, on May 5th! We pray in thanksgiving for the safe delivery of Baby Donovan! Please continue to pray for the health and strength of Martha and their newborn son.

CPH Reads Summer Reading Program. CPH Reads is a summer reading program through Concordia Publishing House. From June 1 to August 13, 2021, children of all ages can keep track of the books they read to earn points and possibly win prizes! If you would like some inspiration on what your children could read, you can find reading lists for all age ranges at **cph.org/reads**. To find more information on CPH Reads, create a family account, and log your points, visit **cph.org/reads**. If you would like a physical card to track your points, you can pick them up in the Zion office. If you log 1,000 points by August 13, your family will be entered to win an Amazon Fire HD Tablet!





Offering Envelopes. If you would like a box of weekly offering envelopes for 2021, please call Shirley Batts or the church office at (915) 566-4667.

Interested in Volunteering?

Each week we aim to thoughtfully spread the Word of God and keep all members of our Zion family connected to our church. Our volunteer opportunities include:

- Updating our marquee sign with the weekly Bible verse
- Preparing candles for worship services
- Putting up and taking down the outdoor flags
- Designing posters and graphics
- Maintaining and beautifying church grounds
- Making trips to the post office
- Folding monthly newsletters
- And more!



No matter your skillset, we are happy to welcome anyone interested in stewardship opportunities at Zion. If you are interested, please call the church office at (915) 566-4667. You can also let us know in our worship service RSVP form, found on the weekly worship service post at www.zionelpaso.org. We would love to have you help in any way you can!

This Week's Memory Verse: May 10-16, 2021

"Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go"
Acts 1:11



Zion Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10:00am—3:00pm

Visit our website: zionelpaso.org **Follow us on Facebook**: facebook.com/zionlutheranelpaso/



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

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