

ASCENSION SUNDAY OBSERVED
MORNING WORSHIP ~ May 17, 2026 ~ 9:30 AM
First Christian Reformed Church, Sioux Center, Iowa

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude: *“Partita over Psalm 99: God, the LORD, Is King”*

Willem van Twillert

Welcome

*Hymn of Preparation: **“The LORD Is King, Enthroned in Might” PFAS #99A:1-3 (LUYH 726)**

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

*Call to Worship

Pastor: Jesus Christ has come into heaven and is at God’s right hand—
with angels, authorities, and powers in submission to him.

**People: Since we have a great high priest who has gone into heaven—
Jesus, the Son of God—let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.
Let us praise his holy name!**

Pastor: Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!

**People: Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanks, honor, power, and strength
be to our God forevermore!**

Pastor: Alleluia, Amen!

People: Alleluia!

—based on Hebrews 4:14; Revelation 5:10,12

*God’s Greeting

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Grace, mercy, and peace are yours, from God the Father Almighty,
from the Lord Jesus, and from the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen!

*Hymn of Praise: **“Praise Him! Praise Him!” The Sing! Hymnal #856:1-3**

GOD RECONCILES US TO HIMSELF

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

God’s Will for Our Lives

*Song of Response: **“Jesus Is Our King” LUYH #602:1,2,4**

GOD COMES TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Reading of Scripture: Romans 2:1-16 (New Testament p. 185)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: *THE STANDARD FOR JUDGMENT AND THE IMPARTIALITY OF GOD*

*Song of Response: **“Depth of Mercy” LUYH #702:1-2**

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

Prayers of the People

Offertory: *“Andante cantabile, from Symphony No. 4”*

Charles-Marie Widor

Offerings: (1) First CRC Ministry Fund and Christian Education Fund; (2) Denominational Pledge

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

*Hymn of Dedication: **“God Has Gone Up with Shouts of Joy!” SANC #154:1-3**

*Sending and Benediction

*Doxology: **“Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God” LUYH #953:1-2**

*Postlude: *“Fugue over Psalm 47: Nations, Clap Your Hands”*

Margaretha Christina de Jong

*indicates that those who are able are invited to stand

Worship Leader: Rev. Kurt Monroe

Organist: Leendert van Beek

EVENING WORSHIP ~ May 17, 2026 ~ 6:00 PM
First Christian Reformed Church, Sioux Center, Iowa

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude: *“Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise”* Michael Burkhardt, Charles Callahan, Wilbur Held
“The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns” Robert Hobby
“O Worship the King” López

Welcome

*Song of Preparation: **“Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow” LUYH #239:1-3**

*Call to Worship

Leader: Jesus ascended in triumph,
raising our humanity to the heavenly throne.

People: All authority, glory, and sovereign power are given to him.

Leader: There he hears our prayers and pleads our cause before the Father.
Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

People: Come, let us worship and bow down. —from *Our World Belongs To God*, paragraph 27

*God’s Greeting

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Grace, mercy, and peace are ours, from God the Father Almighty,
from the Lord Jesus, and from the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen!

WE SING GOD’S PRAISE

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 (Old Testament p. 651)

Singing the Psalm: **“Give Praise to God with Reverence Deep” LUYH #212:1,4**

Song of Praise: **“He Is Lord” LUYH #227:1-4**

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Reading of Scripture: Romans 8:1-17 (New Testament p. 191)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Statement of Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Lord’s Day 20 (*What We Believe Vol. 1, p. 36*)

Sermon: *THE HOLY SPIRIT*

Prayer of Application

*Sermon Response: **“For Your Gift of God the Spirit” Grey Psalter Hymnal #416:1-5**

WE OFFER OURSELVES TO GOD

Congregational Prayer

Offertory: *“O Divine Redeemer”*

Gounod

Ah! Turn me not away, receive me, tho' unworthy, Ah! Turn me not away, receive me tho' unworthy!
Hear thou my cry, hear thou my cry, behold, Lord, my distress!

Answer me from thy throne, haste thee, Lord, to mine aid, thy pity show in my deep anguish! Thy pity show in my deep anguish!
Let not the sword of vengeance smite me, tho' righteous thine anger, O Lord! Shield me in danger, O regard me!
On thee, Lord, alone will I call.

O divine Redeemer! O divine Redeemer! I pray Thee, grant me pardon, and remember not, remember not my sins!
Forgive me, O' divine Redeemer! I pray Thee, grant me pardon, and remember not, remember not, O, Lord my sins!

Night gathers round my soul; fearful, I cry to Thee; Come to mine aid, O Lord! Haste Thee, Lord, haste to help me!
Hear my cry! hear my cry! Save me, Lord, in Thy mercy; hear my cry, hear my cry! Come and save me, O Lord!

O, divine Redeemer! O divine Redeemer! I pray Thee, grant me pardon, and remember not, remember not, O Lord, my sins!
Save in the day of retribution, from Death shield Thou me, O my God! O, divine Redeemer, have mercy! Help me, my Savior!

Offering: Crossroads Prison Ministries

WE ARE SENT TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD

*Hymn of Dedication: **“Come, Holy Ghost, Our Hearts Inspire” The Sing! Hymnal #863:1-4**

*Sending and Benediction

*Moment of Meditation

*Postlude: *“Day by Day”*

Fettke

*indicates that those who are able are invited to stand

Worship Leader: Dr. Charles Veenstra | Organist: Emily Sybesma | Pianist: Abby Finley
Reader: Eric Eekhoff | Vocalist: Scott Visser | Accompanist: Leah Zuidema | Prayer Leader: Janna Wesselius

Music streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-723392 and CCLI license #1114896. All rights reserved.