

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

Holy and ascended God, you have gathered us into one Body and hold us in your eternal Name, yet we confess we have lived as though we were our own. We grasp for control, we resist the waiting to which you call your Church, we grow anxious in the space between promise and fulfillment. We confess our impatience, our fear, and our failure to trust your abiding presence. Forgive us. Gather us again into your life. Hold us in your Name. Restore us to the unity for which Christ has prayed. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Leader: Sisters and brothers, the Spirit of God is resting on you, to restore, support, and strengthen you. Therefore, be at peace in the One who forgives and loves you; rise up and give God thanks.

People: Happy are those who put their trust in God.

***Congregational Response** “Glory to God” (back cover Hymnal)

*Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 1:6–14
Psalm 68 1–10, 32–35

Second Reading Gospel of John 17:1–11

Message “Held, Gathered, and Brought Home” Ryan M. Shelley

***Hymn** “Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!” 305

*Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to

** Please stand as you are able.*

hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Congregational Response** “Gloria Patri” (back cover Hymnal)

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

Minute For Mission Alex Moon

Invitation to Offering

The offering basket is located at the back of the west aisle of the sanctuary. Feel free to leave your offering at any time.

Offertory “They’ll Know We are Christians” (arr. Fred Bock)

***Doxology** 606

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Glorious God, everything that is given to us rains forth out of the abundance of your love, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Bless these gifts and our lives together that all we are and all we offer give glory to you; in the name of Christ, who is the way, truth, and life. Amen.

***Hymn** “Lift High the Cross” 826

*Benediction

Postlude “Once to Every Man and Nation” (Ebenezer)



Please use the Ritual of Friendship pads to let us know you’re with us today. Whether you are in person or on-line, you can also sign in at centralpreschurch.org/friendship

In Our Prayers

We pray for our community mental health professionals and the work they do.
We also pray for our Special Care friends, especially Kitty Mills and Hal Lafever.

Central Happenings

SUNDAY – May 17

10:00 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary/Online)

WEDNESDAY – May 20

10:00 a.m. Women of the Word [WOW] (Fitch Parlor)

12:00 p.m. Charity Knitters (Discipleship)

5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY – May 21

10:00 a.m. Library Team (Fitch Parlor)

The greeter this morning is Jan Overton.

The Aviators game outing is June 7 at 3:00pm. A few tickets are still available.
Sign up at the reception desk or email news@centralpreschurch.org.

In our effort to be inclusive of those who are unable to be with us in person, we live stream our worship services online. For those who are camera-shy, seating is available in the back two rows of the main floor or anywhere in the balcony.

Next Week is Pentecost. Wear a fiery color (red, orange, yellow) to worship.

We welcome our own Ryan Shelley back to the pulpit. Ryan is finishing his studies at Dubuque Theological Seminary and has worked at several area churches as part of his ongoing educational experience.

Pastor: Wil Reinowski
Transitional Administrator: Jessica Pisarski
Choir Director: Scott Hines
Adult Handbells: Janice Spitalniak
Organist: Doug Fletcher
Custodian: Bob Hill

A Mattew 25 Congregation
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Central Presbyterian Church

Ascension of the Lord

Held, Gathered, and Brought Home

Sunday, May 17, 2026



Welcome

Prelude "Voluntary on "Kremser"" (Gordon Young)

***Call to Worship** Alex Moon

Leader: Let God rise up, let all that opposes be scattered;

People: Let the righteous be joyful; let them rejoice before God.

Leader: Sing to God, sing praises to the Holy Name; lift up a song to the One who rides upon the clouds.

People: A defender of the vulnerable and a source of justice, God dwells among the people.

Leader: The Holy One gives power and strength to the people.

People: Let us worship God.

***Hymn** "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!" 263