

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY

Woodridge United Methodist Church

Sunday, May 17th, 2026

Ascension Sunday

Music to Prepare Our Hearts

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Dianne: Easter people, in this season of Eastertide, we remember the blessings God gives us—the blessings of Resurrection, salvation, and new life in Christ.

Many Voices: We come to praise God for the blessings of Easter!

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

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

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

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

Dianne: Easter people, we gather today to remember Christ's Ascension, when Jesus was taken up into heaven while blessing his disciples, marking not the end but the next chapter of God's salvific work among us.

Many Voices: We come to bless God with our praise as God continues to bless us with all that we need to live as God's Resurrection people. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"O Christ, When You Ascended" (*v. 1-3 only*)

W&S #3087

*Passing the Peace

Opening Prayer

Dianne: O God of glory, sovereign of all nations, the risen and ascended Christ call us to carry your message of life to all people. Led by the power of your Holy Spirit, may we witness always to the hope to which we are called as we share Christ's love to the ends of the earth.

All: Amen.

Blessing Our Children

Offering Ourselves

Blessing our Gifts with Music

*Doxology

*Offering Prayer

All: God of blessing, 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 these 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.

Scripture Readings

New Testament Lesson
Gospel Lesson

Acts 1:1-11 *(CEB)*
Luke 24:44-53 *(CEB)*

Dianne: The Word of God for the People of God.
Many Voices: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Song

"He Is Exalted"

TFWS #2070

Proclaiming

"Restore the Kingdom Now"

Pastor Dave

Praying

Joys & Concerns
Prayers for the People
Lord's Prayer

***Closing Hymn**

"Thine Be the Glory"

UMH #308

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Going Forth to the World