



WELCOME TO  
ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH!

**Passion 4      March 15, 2015**

For God so loved the world that He gave  
His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him  
should not perish but have everlasting life. *Jn 3:16*

### **A Service of Word and Sacrament**

TLH (hymns 1-660) is the RED book, WS (hymns 701-800) is the TAN book  
(If you have difficulty standing, please feel free to remain seated as needed)

**NOTE TO VISITORS:** Accepting the Lord's Supper at our congregation is a profession of agreement with all the doctrines we confess (1 Cor. 10:17; 1 Cor. 11:27f). Because we don't want you to bind yourself to a confession you don't understand or agree with, we ask that if you are not a members of a CLC congregation, you first meet with the pastor before coming to communion today. You can read about our practice of close communion in the blue trifold pamphlet in the entry way. Thank you for your understanding. Please feel free to talk with the pastor after the service.

Preservice Devotion: Prayer for Penitence #52, forepart of TLH p.107

#### OPENING HYMN

**TLH 380**

*Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ*

#### INVOCATION AND ABSOLUTION

Minister (M) In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation (C, spoken) Amen.**

*Matthew 28:19*

M God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

*1 John 1:5b-2*

**C If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

M If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

M Let us pray.

**C Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us.**

**Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.**

M Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for our only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

#### KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy

M In peace let us pray to the Lord.

- C Lord, have mercy.**  
 M For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.  
**C Lord, have mercy.**  
 M 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.  
**C Lord, have mercy.**  
 M For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.  
**C Lord, have mercy.**  
 M Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.  
**C Amen.**

Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,  
 Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer,  
 All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:  
 Thy peace be with us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

M The Lord be with you.

*Luke 1:28*

**C And also with you.**

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

M Let us pray, ... one God, now and forever,

**C Amen.**

**FIRST LESSON**

**Numbers 21:4–9**

<sup>4</sup>Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. <sup>5</sup>And the people spoke against God and against Moses: “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For *there is* no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread.” <sup>6</sup>So the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord that He take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

<sup>8</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery *serpent*, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.” <sup>9</sup> So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

#### PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 107:1–9,19

M Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!

**C For His mercy endures forever.**

M Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,

**C Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,**

M And gathered out of the lands, From the east and from the west,

**C From the north and from the south.**

M They wandered in the wilderness in a desolate way;

**C They found no city to dwell in.**

M Hungry and thirsty,

**C Their soul fainted in them.**

M Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble,

**C And He delivered them out of their distresses.**

M And He led them forth by the right way,

**C That they might go to a city for a dwelling place.**

M Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness,

**C And for His wonderful works to the children of men!**

M For He satisfies the longing soul,

**C And fills the hungry soul with goodness.**

M Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble,

**C And He saved them out of their distresses.**

#### GOSPEL LESSON (rise)

M Lord, sanctify us by Your truth;

**C Your Word is truth. Amen.**

#### John 3:14–21

<sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

<sup>18</sup> “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

<sup>21</sup> But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

M O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C Thanks be to God.**

CREED ~

The Nicene Creed

**C 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 on 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.**

HYMN

TLH 245

*God Loved the World So that He Gave*

SERMON

### **Ephesians 2:1–10**

And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, <sup>3</sup> among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

<sup>4</sup> But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised *us up* together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,

<sup>7</sup> that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

## Its Not About You, It Is For You

M The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

*Philippians 4:7*

### OFFERTORY

*Psalms 51:10-12*



**C** Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

### HYMN

TLH 375

*If Thy Beloved Son, O God*

### GATHERING OF OUR THANK OFFERING

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**C** 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!



A Service of the Sacrament



M The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

M Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

M Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

M It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, who on the tree of the cross gave salvation to all mankind, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, might likewise by this tree be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS ~ Holy, Holy, Holy *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



**C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Sa - ba - oth;**



**Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo-ry; Ho-san - na,**



**Ho - san - na, Ho-sanna in the high-est. Bless-ed is He,**



**Bless-ed is He, Bless-ed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.**



**Ho-san - na, Ho-san- na, Ho-san-na in the high-est.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*Matt. 26, Mk 14, Lk 22, 1 Cor. 11*

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and, when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, 'Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, 'Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.'

PAX DOMINI

*John 20:19*

M The peace of the Lord be with you always!



**A - men.**

**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the  
 world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that  
 tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.  
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the  
 world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.



## DISTRIBUTION



M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord,

1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and a-dore Thee,  
 2 Thy ho-ly bod-y in-to death was giv-en,  
 3 May God be-stow on us His grace and fa-vor  
 In thanks-giv-ing bow be-fore Thee. Thou with Thy  
 Life to win for us in heav-en. No great-er  
 That we fol-low Christ our Sav-ior And live to-  
 bod-y and Thy blood didst nour-ish Our weak souls that  
 love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast there-  
 geth-er here in love and u-nion Nor de-spise this  
 they may flour-ish: O Lord, have mer-cy!  
 of re-mind us! O Lord, have mer-cy!  
 blest Com-mu-nion! O Lord, have mer-cy!  
 May Thy bod-y, Lord, born of Mar-y, That our  
 Lord, Thy kind-ness did so con-strain Thee That Thy  
 Let not Thy good Spir-it for-sake us; Grant that  
 sins and sor-rows did car-ry, And Thy blood for us plead  
 blood should bless and sus-tain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;  
 heav'n-ly-mind-ed He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see  
 In all tri-al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer-cy!  
 Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mer-cy!  
 Days of peace and u-ni-ty: O Lord, have mer-cy!

## BENEDICTION

*Numbers 6:24-26*

M The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**C Amen.**

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Thomas Nelson.

**Welcome!** We wish a warm welcome to our guests this morning. It is our mission to share the good news that God gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him has eternal life (John 3:16-17). May that good news go with you. Feel free to sign our guest book in the entry way. For more information about our church see the visitor comment cards and brochures in the entry way or visit our website at [AscensionBatavia.org](http://AscensionBatavia.org). We hope to see you again!

**Participating in this Service of the Word**

Music Asst.: P. Louderman      Lead Usher:      R. Louderman  
Minister:      Pastor D. Pfeiffer      Comm. Asst.:      D. Eserhut