



WELCOME TO
ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Passion 3 February 28, 2016

The Lord is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any
should perish but that all should come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

A Service of the Word

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)

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

OPENING HYMN

TLH 149 (red hymnal)

Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19

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

Congregation (C, spoken) Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

1 John 1:5b-2

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

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.

♪ Sing (w intro, TLH 146:3):

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

Ezekiel 33:7-20

⁷ “So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me. ⁸ When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked *man*, you shall surely die!’ and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked *man* shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

¹⁰ “Therefore you, O son of man, say to the house of Israel: ‘Thus you say, “If our transgressions and our sins *lie* upon us, and we pine away in them, how can we then live?” ’ ¹¹ Say to them: ‘As I live,’ says the Lord God, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?’

¹² “Therefore you, O son of man, say to the children of your people: ‘The righteousness of the righteous man shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression; as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall because of it in the day that he turns from his wickedness; nor shall the righteous be able to live because of *his righteousness* in the day that he sins.’ ¹³ When I say to the righteous *that* he shall surely live, but he trusts in his own righteousness and commits iniquity, none of his righteous works shall be remembered; but because of the iniquity that he has committed, he shall die. ¹⁴ Again, when I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ if he turns from his sin and does what is lawful and right, ¹⁵ if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has stolen, and walks in the statutes of life without committing iniquity, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ¹⁶ None of his sins which he has committed shall be remembered against him; he has done what is lawful and right; he shall surely live.

¹⁷ “Yet the children of your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ But it is their way which is not fair! ¹⁸ When the righteous turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, he shall die because of it. ¹⁹ But when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is lawful and right, he shall live because of it. ²⁰ Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ O house of Israel, I will judge every one of you according to his own ways.”

PSALM OF THE DAY *responsively*

Psalm 85

M Lord, You have been favorable to Your land;

C You have brought back the captivity of Jacob.

M You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people;

C You have covered all their sin.

M You have taken away all Your wrath;

C You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger.

M Restore us, O God of our salvation,

C And cause Your anger toward us to cease.

M Will You be angry with us forever?

C Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?

M Will You not revive us again,

C That Your people may rejoice in You?

M Show us Your mercy, Lord,

C And grant us Your salvation.

M I will hear what God the Lord will speak,

C For He will speak peace

M To His people and to His saints;

C But let them not turn back to folly.

M Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,

C That glory may dwell in our land.

M Mercy and truth have met together;

C Righteousness and peace have kissed.

M Truth shall spring out of the earth,

C And righteousness shall look down from heaven.

M Yes, the Lord will give what is good;

C And our land will yield its increase.

M Righteousness will go before Him,

C And shall make His footsteps our pathway.

GOSPEL LESSON (*rise*)

M Lord, sanctify us by Your truth;

C Your Word is truth. Amen.

Luke 13:1-9

¹ There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all *other* Galileans, because they suffered such things? ³ I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all *other* men who dwelt in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

⁶ He also spoke this parable: "A certain *man* had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷ Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, 'Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?' ⁸ But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize *it*. ⁹ And if it bears fruit, *well*. But if not, after that you can cut it down.'

M O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

CREED ~ The Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into 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 Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN

TLH 331:1-4 (red hymnal)

Yea, as I Live, Jehovah Saith

SERMON

1 Corinthians 10:1–13

¹ Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, ² all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. ⁵ But with most of them God was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. ⁷ And do not become idolaters as *were* some of them. As it is written, “*The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.*” ⁸ Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; ⁹ nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; ¹⁰ nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*.

<p>Lead Us Not Into Temptation, But Deliver Us From Evil</p>

M The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:7*



HYMN

TLH 144:1-4 (red hymnal)

Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing

GATHERING OF OUR THANK OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (**congregation's part in bold**)

O Lord, most merciful God, you do not desire any should perish, **but that all people should come to repentance.**

Grant us such mercy, O God, that your anger with sin would not be held against us, but that your saving grace would enable us to repent of our sins and turn to you for forgiveness. **Grant this mercy also to those who do not yet know Christ or who have strayed.** Lead them by the threat of your wrath and the promise of your love in Christ that they might turn to you and be saved.

O Lord, lead us not into temptation. **Guard and keep us so that the devil, the world and our flesh would not deceive us.** Do not allow their deceit to lead us into misbelief, hopelessness, or any other shameful or sinful acts. Although we are tempted, teach us to recognize the way of escape **and, in the end, keep the victory through Christ Jesus our Lord.**

We pray, O Lord, for this congregation and its pastor. Grant that through Your Spirit, our unity of faith and love would remain strong against all temptation. **Remove all bitter envy and anger from our midst.** Teach us to treasure our fellowship as a gift from you. Help us reach out in love to those members who have not been active. Open their hearts to your word, that they might see the great danger of temptation and might seek your aid by coming to hear your word and receive the Sacrament. **Grant that they would return and that we would all be strengthened.**

O Holy Spirit, hear our prayer for the sake of Pastor Paul Naumann as he considers his current call to Ascension, Tacoma and the call to be professor at Immanuel Lutheran Seminary which you've extended through the ILC call committee. As he considers the needs of his congregation and the students and responsibilities set before him at Immanuel, bless him with humble heart. Keep him from self-seeking and stir up a fervent desire to offer his gifts where ever you would make use of them for the purpose of your kingdom. Make use of the consolation of fellow brethren to advise and direct him in his decision. **In that decision, O Spirit of God, give to him peace of heart with his heavenly Father and confidence to go forward in the Lord, through Jesus Christ.**

O Lord God who gives bread to the hungry and strength to the weak. We ask your mercy upon all who are hungry, homeless, oppressed, and alone. **Teach your people to be mindful of their struggles.** Visit their needs according to your will and show them the hope they have in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We especially ask your blessing upon the outreach efforts of our bread distribution that this food may reach those in need, and that it would offer opportunity to share the one thing truly needful in our Lord Jesus and the hope of salvation. Bless also our ministries at the Batavia Apartments, at Batavia Rehab, and at North Aurora Care Center. **Let your word have free course to teach, encourage, and save.**

We pray also for our neighbors and communities. Watch over the men and women who serve in our military. **Keep them safe from harm and protect their families when they are away.** Guide the efforts of our government and all world leaders according to your mercy. **Keep evil from prevailing and uphold what is just and good in your sight.** Bless our families with a sense of responsibility and duty toward their station in life. **Overcome all discord, hatred, and lust that the family unit would be preserved and that fathers and mothers would raise their children to know and honor you.**

For these and all who have asked our prayers, we offer these requests through Jesus Christ our Lord ...

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

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.**

CLOSING HYMN

TLH 144:5 (red hymnal)

Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing

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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. We hope to see you again!

Participating in this Service of the Word

Music: L. Louderman Lead Usher: T. Louderman
Minister: Pastor D. Pfeiffer