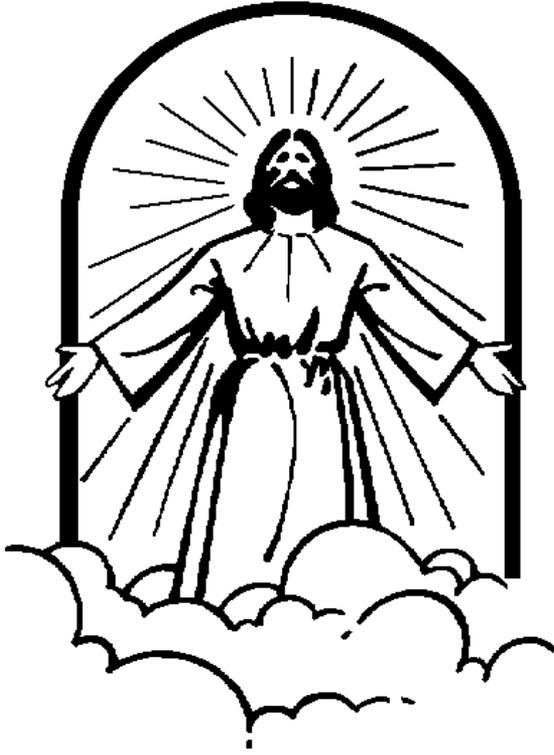


April 23, 2017



Ascension Lutheran Church

A member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession

(clclutheran.org)

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Pastor: Terrel Kesterson – terrel_k@yahoo.com

Organist: Mark Kuehne

Ascension is a family of Christians intent on sharing the Good News of
Jesus Christ and His victory over death

First Sunday After Easter

“Jesus Christ our Lord ... was ... declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness ... by the resurrection from the dead.”

(Romans 1:3-4)

Setting from Worship Supplement, page 12, Service of Word and Sacrament, setting 2. The Lutheran Hymnal (TLH) (hymns 1-660) is the red book. Worship Supplement (WS) (hymns 701-800) is the TAN book. (If you have difficulty standing, please feel free to remain seated as needed.)

PRESERVICE MEDITATION: Psalm 16 (page 125 in TLH)

HYMN 193 (TLH) *“Christ The Lord Is Risen Today”*

INVOCATION (page 12, WS)

M: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

C: Amen.

**C: Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.**

Glory to God In the Highest – *Gloria In Excelsis*

Luke 2:14; Rev. 5:8-14

**Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise;
Of heav'nly joy and peace on earth we sing.
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,
Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict'ry won,
Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.**

**Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,
At God's right hand in majesty most high;
Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,
With all the heav'nly host we glorify.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY (page 14, WS)

M: Let us pray ...

...through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Job 19:25-27

²⁵ For I know *that* my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; ²⁶ and after my skin is destroyed, this *I know*, that in my flesh I shall see God, ²⁷ Whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. *How* my heart yearns within me!

PSALM OF THE DAY (*responsively*) – Psalm 98

M: Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things;

C: His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.

M: The LORD has made known His salvation;

C: His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.

M: He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;

C: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

M: Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth;

C: break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.

M: Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of a psalm,

C: with trumpets and the sound of a horn; shout joyfully before the LORD, the King.

M: Let the sea roar, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell in it;

C: Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills be joyful together before the LORD,

M: for He is coming to judge the earth.

C: With righteousness He shall judge the world, and the peoples with equity.

SECOND LESSON Romans 1:1-6

¹ Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated to the Gospel of God ² which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, ³ concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, ⁴ *and* declared *to be* the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. ⁵ Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, ⁶ among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ.

M: Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

Alleluia (sung) (page 14, WS)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
These words are written
that we may believe
that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Apostles' Creed (page 15, WS)

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 198 (TLH) *“He’s Risen, He’s Risen, Christ Jesus, The Lord”*

SERMON: Matthew 12:38-42

BELIEVE IN THE CRUCIFIED, RISEN JESUS

³⁸ Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.” ³⁹ But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹ The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah *is* here. ⁴² The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon *is* here.”

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

OFFERTORY (sung) (page 16, WS)

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence.
Take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation.
Uphold with Your Spirit free.**

The Offering from grateful hearts

HYMN 245 (TLH) *“God Loved The World So That He Gave”*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER (page 17, WS)

**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.**

THE BENEDICTION (page 21, WS)

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN 203 (TLH) "*Morning Breaks Upon The Tomb*"

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WELCOME, VISITORS! Please leave a record of your visit in our guest book in the entryway.

TODAY our USHER is Tyler Louderman. Our CHURCH COUNCIL MEETS after our Bible Study. There will be a NORTH AURORA CARE CENTER SERVICE at 3:00 PM, and a BATAVIA REHAB SERVICE at 4:00 PM.

TUESDAY: CHICAGO BIBLE STUDY at 6:00 PM at the home of Nathan Odenbach.

FRIDAY: NORTH AURORA CARE CENTER BIBLE STUDY: 10:00 AM.

SUNDAY: WORSHIP SERVICE: 10:00 AM; SUNDAY SCHOOL and BIBLE STUDY: 11:15 AM.

NEXT SUNDAY our USHER is Glenn Libby. We have a VOTERS MEETING after church.

ASCENSION FRUITS OF FAITH: attendance: Maundy Thursday: 12, Good Friday: 7, Easter: 23; offering total for all three services: \$1,243.36.

MISSION FESTIVAL: ILC professor Paul Naumann will be our guest speaker for our Mission Festival service on SUNDAY, JUNE 25. Professor Naumann will also speak to us about outreach during our Bible Study.

CLC NEWS: Pastor Matt Hanel of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Dallas, TX, has the call to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN. Mr. Benjamin Hanel has accepted the call to teach Social Studies at Immanuel's school.

“Christ was raised for our justification.” (Romans 4:25)

Here Paul turns my eyes away from my sins and directs them to Christ, for if I look at my sins, they will destroy me. Therefore I must look to Christ who has taken my sins upon Himself, crushed the head of the serpent and become the blessing. Now these sins no longer burden my conscience, but rest upon Christ, whom they try to destroy.

Let us see how they treat Him. They hurl Him to the ground and kill Him. O God; where is now my Christ and my Savior? But then God appears, delivers Christ and makes Him alive; and not only does He make Him alive, but He translates Him into heaven and lets Him rule over all.

What has now become of sin? There it lies under His feet. If I then cling to this, I have a cheerful conscience like Christ, because I am without sin. Now I can defy death, the devil, sin and hell to do me any harm. As I am a child of Adam, sin does indeed lead to my death. But since Christ has taken my sins upon Himself, has died for them, has

suffered Himself to be slain on account of my sins, they can no longer harm me; for Christ is too strong for them. They cannot hold Him. He breaks forth and overpowers them, ascends into heaven, taking sin and sorrow captive, and rules there over all throughout eternity.

Now I have a clear conscience, am joyful and happy and am no longer afraid of this tyrant, for Christ has taken my sins away from me and made them His own. But they cannot remain upon Him; what then becomes of them? They must disappear and be destroyed. This then is the effect of faith. He who believes that Christ has taken away our sin, is without sin, like Christ Himself, and death, the devil and hell are vanquished as far as they are concerned and they can no longer harm us. (Martin Luther)