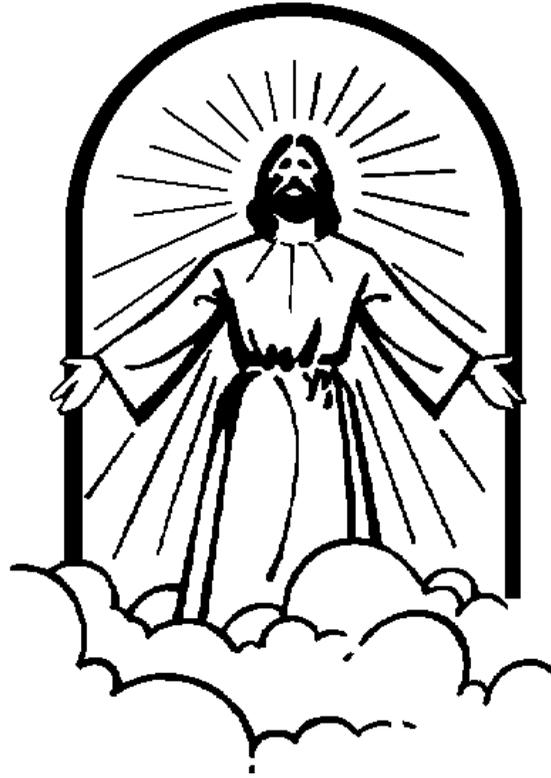


August 27, 2017



Ascension Lutheran Church
A member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession
(clclutheran.org)

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

The 12th Sunday After Pentecost

“Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.” (Psalm 37:5)

PRESERVICE MEDITATION: Psalm 56 (page 135 in The Lutheran Hymnal)

HYMN 19 (The Lutheran Hymnal) *“All Praise To God, Who Reigns Above”*

Service Of Word And Sacrament, setting 2 (page 12, Worship Supplement)

FIRST LESSON: Judges 7:1-2, 7-9, 16-22a

¹ Then Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the people who were with him rose early and encamped beside the well of Harod, so that the camp of the Midianites was on the north side of them by the hill of Moreh in the valley. ² And the LORD said to Gideon, “The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’” ... ⁷ Then the LORD said to Gideon, “By ... three hundred men ... I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all the *other* people go, every man to his place.” ⁸ So the people took provisions and their trumpets in their hands. And he sent away all *the rest* of Israel, every man to his tent, and retained those three hundred men. Now the camp of Midian was below him in the valley. ⁹ It happened on the same night that the LORD said to him, “Arise, go down against the camp, for I have delivered it into your hand.” ... ¹⁶ Then he divided the three hundred men *into* three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man’s hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “Look at me and do likewise; watch, and when I come to the edge of the camp you shall do as I do: ¹⁸ When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then you also blow the trumpets on every side of the whole camp, and say, ‘*The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!*’” ¹⁹ So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outpost of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just as they had posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers that were in their hands. ²⁰ Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers – they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing – and they cried, “The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!” ²¹ And every man stood in his place all around the camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled. ²² When the three hundred blew the trumpets, the LORD set every man’s sword against his companion throughout the whole camp; and the army fled.

PSALM OF THE DAY (*responsively*) – from Psalm 31

M: In You, O LORD, I put my trust; let me never be ashamed; deliver me in Your righteousness.

C: BOW DOWN YOUR EAR TO ME, DELIVER ME SPEEDILY; BE MY ROCK OF REFUGE, A FORTRESS OF DEFENSE TO SAVE ME.

M: For You are my rock and my fortress; therefore, for Your name’s sake, lead me and guide me.

C: INTO YOUR HAND I COMMIT MY SPIRIT; YOU HAVE REDEEMED ME, O LORD GOD OF TRUTH.

M: I will be glad and rejoice in Your mercy, for You have considered my trouble; You have

known my soul in adversities.

C: HAVE MERCY ON ME, O LORD, FOR I AM IN TROUBLE; MY EYE WASTES AWAY WITH GRIEF, YES, MY SOUL AND MY BODY!

M: But as for me, I trust in You, O LORD; I say, "You are my God." My times are in Your hand.

C: MAKE YOUR FACE SHINE UPON YOUR SERVANT; SAVE ME FOR YOUR MERCIES' SAKE.

M: Oh, how great is Your goodness, which You have laid up for those who fear You,

C: WHICH YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO TRUST IN YOU IN THE PRESENCE OF THE SONS OF MEN!

M: Blessed be the LORD, for He has shown me His marvelous kindness in a strong city!

C: FOR I SAID IN MY HASTE, "I AM CUT OFF FROM BEFORE YOUR EYES"; NEVERTHELESS YOU HEARD THE VOICE OF MY SUPPLICATIONS WHEN I CRIED OUT TO YOU.

M: Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints! For the LORD preserves the faithful.

C: BE OF GOOD COURAGE, AND HE SHALL STRENGTHEN YOUR HEART, ALL YOU WHO HOPE IN THE LORD.

SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10 rise

⁷ ...a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. ⁸ Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. ⁹ And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

The Apostles Creed (page 15, Worship Supplement)

HYMN 520:1-4 (alternate tune: #473) (The Lutheran Hymnal) "Commit Whatever Grieves Thee"

SERMON: John 9:1-7

WHEN GOD TESTS OUR FAITH

- 1. He has a gracious purpose in mind**
- 2. We place our trust in Him and His Word**
- 3. He will deliver us**

¹ Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. ² And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. ⁴ I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is

coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. ⁷ And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

OFFERTORY (page 16, Worship Supplement)

Psalm 51:10-12

The Offering from grateful hearts

HYMN 520:6-8, 10 (alt. tune: #473) (The Lutheran Hymnal) "Commit Whatever Grieves Thee"

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH, and THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION (page 21, Worship Supplement)

Numbers 6:24-26

HYMN 427:1, 3, 5, 7 (The Lutheran Hymnal) "How Firm A Foundation, Ye Saints Of The Lord"

WELCOME, VISITORS! We're very happy that you are here today! You are always welcome.

Please leave a record of your visit in our guest book in the narthex.

TODAY our USHER is Rick Louderman. After church we have SUNDAY SCHOOL and

BIBLE STUDY. (We're on Psalm 37:23.) Our North Aurora service is at 3:00 PM, and our Batavia Rehab Center service is at 4:00 PM.

FRIDAY: North Aurora Care Center Bible Study: 10:00 AM.

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

NEXT SUNDAY our usher is Greg Suwanski.

ASCENSION FRUITS OF FAITH: Last Sunday's offering was \$306.65 (needed each week: \$1,200.00); attendance was 15.

CHURCH WORK DAY: We're having an OUTSIDE work day after our Bible Study on SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17. We'll remove the old plants around the church sign, remove and burn branches on the property behind the church, etc. PLEASE BRING YOUR GARDEN HOSE(S) so we can attach them together and have water ready by the burn pile(s).

CLC NEWS: Pastor emeritus John Schierenbeck has returned the call from Immanuel

Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, to serve as part-time interim pastor. Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, has issued a 1-year interim call to several local, part-time teachers in order to staff its classroom for grades 3-4. The ladies who have accepted this call are Barbara Gurgel, Lynette Roehl, Kelly Beekman, and Valerie Hammett, who had returned the full-time call. Eric Libby has returned the call to teach 11/12 grade Religion at Immanuel Lutheran High School, Mankato, MN for the fall semester of 2017. The congregation has now called Pastor Doug Libby to the same position, and he has accepted.