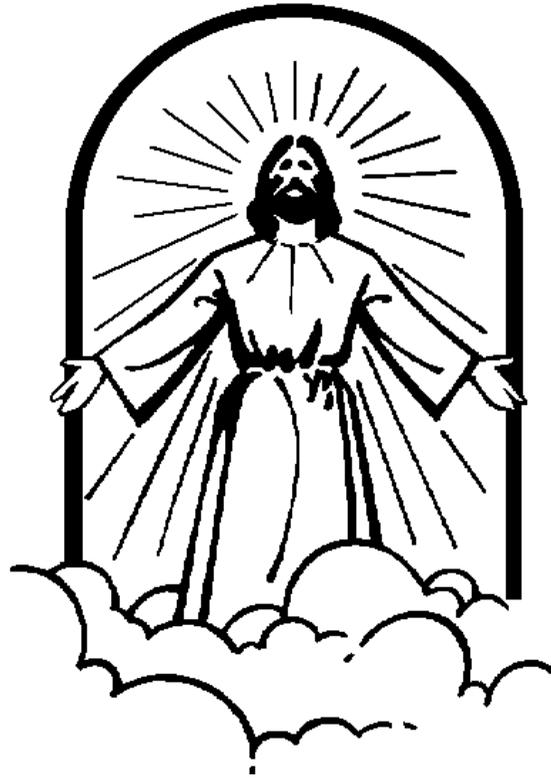


September 24, 2017



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 16th Sunday After Pentecost

“The blood of Jesus Christ [God’s] Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1 John 1:7b)

PRESERVICE MEDITATION: Psalm 25 (page 128 in The Lutheran Hymnal)

HYMN 281 (The Lutheran Hymnal) “The Savior Calls, Let Every Ear”

1. The Savior calls; let every ear
Attend the heavenly sound.
Ye doubting souls, dismiss your fear;
Hope smiles reviving round.
2. For every thirsty, longing heart
Here streams of bounty flow
And life and health and bliss impart
To banish mortal woe.
3. Here springs of sacred pleasures rise
To ease your every pain;
Immortal fountain, full supplies!
Nor shall you thirst in vain.
4. Ye sinners, come, ‘tis Mercy’s voice;
The gracious call obey;
Mercy invites to heavenly joys,
And can you yet delay?
5. Dear Savior, draw reluctant hearts;
To Thee let sinners fly
And take the bliss Thy love imparts
And drink and never die.

INVOCATION

L: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: 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 CLEANSSES US FROM ALL SIN.

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

C: IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, GOD IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS AND TO CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

L: Let us pray.

ALL: 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 TO US. FORGIVE US FOR JESUS' SAKE, RENEW US BY YOUR SPIRIT, AND LEAD US IN THE WAY EVERLASTING. AMEN.

L: Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach His 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.

FIRST LESSON: 1 John 3:1-9

¹ See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we will be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as He is pure. ⁴ Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that He appeared to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in Him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen Him or known Him. ⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as He is righteous. ⁸ Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. (ESV)

PSALM OF THE DAY (*responsively*) – from Psalm 130

M: Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD;

C: LORD, HEAR MY VOICE! LET YOUR EARS BE ATTENTIVE TO THE VOICE OF MY SUPPLICATION.

M: If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O LORD, who could stand?

C: BUT THERE IS FORGIVENESS WITH YOU, THAT YOU MAY BE FEARED.

M: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His Word I do hope.

C: MY SOUL WAITS FOR THE LORD MORE THAN THOSE WHO WATCH FOR THE MORNING – YES, MORE THAN THOSE WHO WATCH FOR THE MORNING.

M: O Israel, hope in the LORD; for with the LORD there is mercy. And with Him is abundant redemption.

C: AND HE SHALL REDEEM ISRAEL FROM ALL HIS INIQUITIES.

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 22:23-33 *rise*

²³ The same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him and asked Him, ²⁴ saying: "Teacher, Moses said that if a man dies, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife and

raise up offspring for his brother. ²⁵ Now there were with us seven brothers. The first died after he had married, and having no offspring, left his wife to his brother. ²⁶ Likewise the second also, and the third, even to the seventh. ²⁷ Last of all the woman died also. ²⁸ Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her." ²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. ³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven. ³¹ But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, ³² 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." ³³ And when the multitudes heard *this*, they were astonished at His teaching.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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 149 (The Lutheran Hymnal) "*Come To Calvary's Holy Mountain*"

1. Come to Calvary's holy mountain,
Sinners, ruined by the Fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain
Flows to you, to me, to all,
In a full, perpetual tide,
Opened when our Savior died.
2. Come in poverty and meanness,
Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness,
From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white;
Ye shall walk with God in light.
3. Come in sorrow and contrition,
Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty free remission,
Here the troubled peace, may find.
Health this fountain will restore;
He that drinks shall thirst no more.

4. He that drinks shall live forever;
'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never
Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died,
Sealed when He was glorified.

SERMON: 2 Kings 5:1-14

GOD CLEANSED US FROM OUR DISEASE OF SIN

¹ Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but a leper. ² And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife. ³ Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy." ⁴ And Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus said the girl who is from the land of Israel." ⁵ Then the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. ⁶ Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy. ⁷ And it happened, when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy? Therefore please consider, and see how he seeks a quarrel with me." ⁸ So it was, when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Please let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹ Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean." ¹¹ But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.' ¹² Are not the Abanah and

the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. ¹³ And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean?'" ¹⁴ So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

OFFERTORY (*spoken*)

Psalm 51:10-13

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You.

The Offering from grateful hearts

HYMN 388 (The Lutheran Hymnal) "*Just As I Am, Without One Plea*"

1. Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
2. Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
3. Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
4. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
5. Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6. Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down.
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH, and THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION (page 21, Worship Supplement)

Numbers 6:24-26

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 376 (The Lutheran Hymnal) *“Rock Of Ages, Cleft For Me”*

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood
From Thy riven side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.

2. Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

3. Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly, –
Wash me, Savior, or I die!

4. While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee!

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. In our BIBLE STUDY we're discussing ways to respond to objections that some people have to God and His Word.

WEDNESDAY: CHICAGO BIBLE STUDY, 6:00 PM, at the home of Nate and Beth Ude.

THURSDAY: Adult instruction class at North Aurora Care Center: 10:00 AM.

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. No North Aurora service or Batavia Rehab Center service next Sunday.

ASCENSION FRUITS OF FAITH: Last Sunday's offering was \$306.00 (needed each week: \$1,200.00); attendance was 16.

THE CLC AUGUST FINANCIAL REPORT is in your MAILBOX.

THANK YOU to those who helped with our church cleanup last Sunday afternoon. We were able to remove the old plants around the church sign and level the ground around it, and remove four of the burn piles. The back of our property not only looks nicer, it's also easier to mow.

OCTOBER MEETINGS: CHURCH COUNCIL: 8th, VOTERS: 22nd.

JOINT REFORMATION SERVICE: There will be a JOINT REFORMATION SERVICE on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, at Faith Lutheran Church, Markesan, WI, at 3:00 PM.

It is an evangelical word and the sweetest comfort in every way for miserable sinners, where Ezekiel 18:23, 32 says: "I do not desire the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn and live," like Psalm 30:5: "For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime." Then there is Psalm 109:21: "How sweet is Your mercy, O Lord" and "For I am merciful" (Jeremiah 3:12) and also Christ's saying in Matthew 11:28: "Come to Me, all you who labor, and I will give you rest," and that in Exodus 20:6: "I show mercy to many thousands, to those who love Me." What, indeed, does almost more than half of Holy Scripture contain but sheer promises of grace, in which mercy, life, peace, and salvation are offered by God to men? And what else do words of promise have to say but this: "I do not desire the death of a sinner"? Is it not the same thing to say, "I am merciful," as to say, "I am not angry, I do not want to punish, I do not want you to die, I want to pardon, I want to spare? And if these divine promises were not there to raise up consciences afflicted with the sense of sin and terrified with the fear of death and judgment, what place would there be for pardon or hope? ... He does not say, "I do not desire the death of a man," but, "I do not desire the death of a sinner," plainly showing that He is speaking of the penalty of sin, which the sinner experiences for his sin, namely, the fear of death. And he lifts up and comforts the sinner from his affliction and despair, so as not to quench the smoking flax and break the bruised reed (Isaiah 42:3), but to give hope of pardon and salvation, so that he may rather be converted (by turning to salvation from the penalty of death) and live, that is, be at peace and happy with an untroubled conscience. (Martin Luther)