

Ascension Lutheran Church

A member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession

(clclutheran.org)

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“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10, NASB)

PRESERVICE MEDITATION: Psalm 146 (page 156 in The Lutheran Hymnal)

HYMN 744 (Worship Supplement) “How Great Thou Art”

(the following is all spoken):

INVOCATION

M: We begin in the name of our Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: In the name of God who has made us His children, sending forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” (Galatians 4:6)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

M: Let us join with the prodigal son, arise, and go to our Father, and confess to Him,

C: Father, I have sinned against You, and I am not worthy to be called Your child.
(Luke 15:18-19)

M: It is true, as the Apostle Paul also writes in Galatians chapter four

C: Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elemental principles of the world.

M: But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law.

C: He has redeemed us who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons!
(Galatians 4:3-5)

M: We stand before God, justified and forgiven!

C: Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ! (Romans 5:1)

FIRST LESSON: Lamentations 3:21-26, 31-33

²¹ This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. ²² *Through* the LORD’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. ²³ *They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.* ²⁴ “The LORD *is* my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I hope in Him!” ²⁵ The LORD *is* good to those who wait for Him, to the soul *who* seeks Him. ²⁶ *It is good that one* should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. ... ³¹ ...the Lord will not cast off forever. ³² Though He causes grief, yet He will show compassion according to the multitude of His mercies. ³³ For He does not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men.

PSALM OF THE DAY (*responsively*) – from Psalm 90

M: LORD, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

C: Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

M: You turn man to destruction, and say, “Return, O children of men.”

C: For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night.

M: You carry them away like a flood; they are like a sleep. In the morning they are like grass which grows up:

C: In the morning it flourishes and grows up; in the evening it is cut down and withers.

M: The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years,

C: Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

M: So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

C: Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days!

M: Let Your work appear to Your servants, and Your glory to their children.

C: And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; yes, establish the work of our hands.

SECOND LESSON: James 4:13-16 rise

³ Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; ¹⁴ whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. ¹⁵ Instead you *ought* to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

– The Apostles' Creed –

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

And 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 785 (Worship Supplement) *“Children Of The Heavenly Father”*

SERMON: Matthew 6:24-34

LIVE EACH DAY WITH THE LORD

24 No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. 25 Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? 28 And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, “What shall we eat?” or “What shall we drink?” or “What shall we wear?” 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. (NIV)

The Offertory (spoken)

Psalm 51:10-12

ALL: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take 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 be converted to You.

The Offering from grateful hearts

HYMN 789 (Worship Supplement) *“Consider How The Birds Above”*

GENERAL PRAYER, and THE LORD’S PRAYER

THE BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God the Father,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. †
C (SPOKEN): AMEN.

Hymn: “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus” (#738, Worship Supplement)
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood;
“Jesus out of ev’ry nation has redeemed us by His blood.”

Alleluia! Bread of heaven, here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to You from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners, earth’s Redeemer, hear our plea
Where the songs of all the angels sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in our sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us; faith believes, nor questions how.
In our daily lives He leads us, ev’ry day His blessings pour.
Never shall we lose His promise: “I am with you evermore!”

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.

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

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

THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 7: COUNCIL MEETING after our Bible Study.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28: ANNUAL VOTERS MEETING immediately following our morning service.

Have a blessed new year!