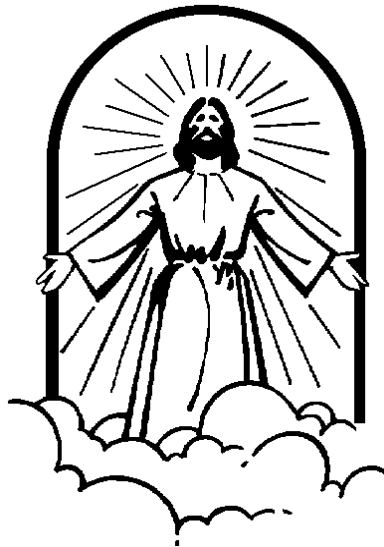


The Third Sunday After Epiphany

January 21, 2018



Ascension Lutheran Church

A member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession

(clclutheran.org)

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“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith.” (1 John 5:4)

PRESERVICE MEDITATION: Psalm 33 (page 131 in The Lutheran Hymnal)

HYMN 5 (The Lutheran Hymnal) “Lord, Open Thou My Heart To Hear”

A Service Of The Word, page 22 (Worship Supplement)

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 15:1-6

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.” ² But Abram said, “Lord GOD, what will

You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ Then Abram said, “Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!” ⁴ And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.” ⁵ Then He brought him outside and said, “Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶ And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

PSALM OF THE DAY (responsively) – from Psalm 19

L: The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul.

C: THE STATUTES OF THE LORD ARE TRUSTWORTHY, MAKING WISE THE SIMPLE.

L: The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart.

C: THE COMMANDS OF THE LORD ARE RADIANT, GIVING LIGHT TO THE EYES.

L: The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever.

C: THE ORDINANCES OF THE LORD ARE SURE AND ALTOGETHER RIGHTEOUS.

L: They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;

C: THEY ARE SWEETER THAN HONEY, THAN HONEY FROM THE COMB.

L: By them is Your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

C: WHO CAN DISCERN HIS ERRORS? FORGIVE MY HIDDEN FAULTS.

L: Keep Your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.

C: MAY THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH AND THE MEDITATION OF MY HEART BE PLEASING IN YOUR SIGHT, O LORD, MY ROCK AND MY REDEEMER.

SECOND LESSON – the Gospel: Matthew 8:1-13 rise

¹ When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. ² And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.” ³ Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. ⁴ And Jesus said to him, “See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.” ⁵ Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, ⁶ saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.” ⁷ And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.” ⁸ The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” ¹⁰ When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! ¹¹ And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ¹³ Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.” And his servant was healed that same hour.

THE NICENE CREED (page 5, Worship Supplement)

HYMN 291 (The Lutheran Hymnal) *“Lamp Of Our Feet Whereby We Trace”*

SERMON: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

THE FAITH GOD GIVES US

1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for. 3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. ... 8 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. 9 By faith he made his home in the Promised Land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11 By faith Abraham, even though he was past age – and Sarah herself was barren – was enabled to become a father because he considered Him faithful who had made the promise. 12 And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. 13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. 14 People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. 15 If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 Instead, they were longing for a better country – a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them. (NIV)

OFFERTORY (page 16, Worship Supplement)

Psalm 51:10-12

The Offering from grateful hearts

HYMN 381 (The Lutheran Hymnal) *“I Know My Faith Is Founded”*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH, & THE LORD’S PRAYER

VISITORS: It is a blessing to have you join us for worship today. We want you to be aware that because God’s Word urges us to be instructed and agreed in faith before taking the Supper together, we kindly ask those who are not in fellowship with the CLC to first meet with the pastor before coming to Communion. We want to share in this blessing with you and do so on the basis of a united understanding of Christ and His teachings. If you would like more information, the pastor would be happy to meet with you. You can read more about our practice of “Close Communion” in the blue trifold pamphlet in the entryway. Thank you for your understanding. *1 Cor. 1:10; 10:16-17; 11:18-29*

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT (page 17, Worship Supplement)

O LORD, NOW LET YOUR SERVANT – *Nunc Dimittis sung* (page 20, WS) Luke 2:29-32

THANKSGIVING (page 21, Worship Supplement) *sung* Luke 7:50; Psalm 100:2

BENEDICTION Numbers 6:24-26

HYMN 49 (The Lutheran Hymnal) *“Almighty God, Thy Word Is Cast”*

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 Greg Suwanski. Immediately following our church service we have our ANNUAL VOTERS MEETING. During the voters meeting, those who would like to can take down and put away our Christmas decorations.

TUESDAY: CHICAGO BIBLE STUDY at 6:00 PM at the home of Nate and Beth Ude, 3343 N. Leavitt St., #3.

FRIDAY: North Aurora Bible study at 10:00 AM.

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

NEXT SUNDAY our usher is Tyler Louderman. There will be a NORTH AURORA CARE CENTER SERVICE at 3:00 PM, and a BATAVIA REHAB CENTER SERVICE at 4:00 PM.

ASCENSION FRUITS OF FAITH: Our offering last Sunday was \$881.00 (needed each week: \$1,200.00); our attendance was 18. Our current General Fund balance is \$2,930.67.

ASH WEDNESDAY is THREE WEEKS FROM THIS WEDNESDAY, on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14. We will have a service at 7:30 PM.

CLC NEWS: Pastor Neal Radichel of Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Fond du Lac, WI, has accepted the call as co-pastor for Immanuel Lutheran Church of Mankato, MN.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: The pastor will read an announcement for nominations for synodical offices. (See also the back of the January Lutheran Spokesman.)