

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

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Pastor: Terrel Kesterson – Organist: Peggy Kesterson



Invocavit – The First Sunday in Lent
February 18, 2018

“My God ... has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness.” (Isaiah 61:10)

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

HYMN 155 (alternate tune) (The Lutheran Hymnal) *“Sweet The Moments, Rich In Blessing”*

The Order Of The Confessional Service, pages 46-48 (The Lutheran Hymnal)

PASSION HISTORY, part 1: Jesus’ Betrayal and Arrest

When Jesus had spoken these words, and when they had sung a hymn, He went to the Mount of Olives as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him. They went over the brook Kidron, and they came to a garden named Gethsemane. Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: ‘I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But after I have been raised I will go before you to Galilee.”

But Peter answered and said to Him, “Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.” Jesus said to him, “Assuredly I say to you that today, even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.” But Peter spoke more vehemently: “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” And so said all the disciples.

When He came to the place, Jesus said to His disciples: “Sit here while I go and pray over there. Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, James and John, and He was withdrawn from the others about a stone’s throw. And He began to be sorrowful, troubled, and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.” And He went a little farther, and He knelt down. He fell to the ground on His face, and prayed. He said: “Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Let this cup pass from Me; if it is

Your will. Not My will, but Yours be done.” Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony He prayed more fervently; and His sweat became like great drops of blood, falling down to the ground. When He rose up from prayer, He came to His disciples and found them sleeping from sorrow. He said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch with Me one hour? Rise, watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing and ready, but the flesh is weak.” He went away again a second time and prayed, saying the same words, “O My Father, if this cup cannot pass from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.” And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him. So He left them and went away again and prayed the third time, saying the same words once more. Then He came to His disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough. Behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise up, let us be going. He who betrays Me is at hand.”

Now Judas, one of the twelve, who betrayed Jesus, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples. He received a detachment of troops and officers from the chief priests and the scribes and elders of the people, and came there with torches, weapons, swords and clubs. And while Jesus was still speaking, this great multitude came, and the one called Judas went before them. Now Judas had given them a sign, saying, “Whomever I kiss, He is the one; take Him, and lead Him away safely.”

Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, “Whom are you seeking?” They answered Him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I AM.” Then, when He said to them, “I AM,” they went backward and fell to the ground. Then He asked them again, “Whom are you seeking?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus answered, “I told you that I AM; therefore if you seek Me, let these go their way,” that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, “Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none.”

Judas drew near to Jesus to kiss Him. He went up to Him, and said to Him, “Hail, Master!” and kissed Him. And Jesus said to him, “Friend, why have you come? Are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

When those who were around Jesus saw what was going to happen, they said to Him, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him. And suddenly Simon Peter drew out his sword, and struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus. But Jesus answered and said, “Permit even this!” And He touched his ear and healed him. Then He said to Peter, “Put your sword into the sheath; for all who take the sword will die by the sword. Do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? But how then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?”

In that hour Jesus said to the chief priests and captains of the temple and elders who came to Him, “Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you in the temple, teaching, and you did not lay hands on Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.” All this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then the disciples forsook Him and fled. Now a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth thrown around his naked body; and the young men laid hold of him. And he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked.

PSALM OF THE DAY (*responsively*) – from Psalm 30

M: I will extol You, O LORD, for You have lifted me up.

C: O LORD MY GOD, I CRIED OUT TO YOU, AND YOU HEALED ME.

M: Sing praise to the LORD, you saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.

C: FOR HIS ANGER IS BUT FOR A MOMENT, HIS FAVOR IS FOR LIFE; WEEPING

MAY ENDURE FOR A NIGHT, BUT JOY COMES IN THE MORNING.

M: LORD, by Your favor You have made my mountain stand strong; You hid Your face, and I was troubled.

C: HEAR, O LORD, AND HAVE MERCY ON ME; LORD, BE MY HELPER!

M: You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,

C: TO THE END THAT MY GLORY MAY SING PRAISE TO YOU AND NOT BE SILENT. O LORD MY GOD, I WILL GIVE THANKS TO YOU FOREVER.

THE NICENE CREED (page 5, Worship Supplement)

HYMN 149 (The Lutheran Hymnal) “*Come To Calvary’s Holy Mountain*”

SERMON: Joel 1:13-14; 2:12-13; Revelation 7:9-14

FROM SACKCLOTH TO ROBES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

¹³ Gird yourselves and lament, you priests; wail, you who minister before the altar; come, lie all night in sackcloth, you who minister to my God; for the grain offering and the drink offering are withheld from the house of your God. ¹⁴ Consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly; gather the elders *and* all the inhabitants of the land *into* the house of the LORD your God, and cry out to the LORD. ... ¹² “Now, therefore,” says the LORD, “turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.” ¹³ So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the LORD your God, for He *is* gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm.

⁹ After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹ All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying: “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor and power and might, *be* to our God forever and ever. Amen.” ¹³ Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?” ¹⁴ And I said to him, “Sir, you know.” So he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

OFFERTORY (page 16, Worship Supplement)

Psalm 51:10-12

The Offering from grateful hearts

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

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 Lord’s 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 371 (The Lutheran Hymnal) “*Jesus, Thy Blood And Righteousness*”

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. In our BIBLE STUDY we’re discussing a brief history that led to the formation of our CLC.

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

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

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

NEXT SUNDAY our usher is Tyler Louderman. NORTH AURORA CARE CENTER SERVICE: 3:00 PM, BATAVIA REHAB CENTER SERVICE: 4:00 PM.

ASCENSION FRUITS OF FAITH: Our offering last Sunday was \$750.00, and on Ash Wednesday was \$342.00 (needed each week: \$1,157.00); our attendance last Sunday was 9, and on Ash Wednesday was 7. Our General Fund balance as of last Sunday was \$1,508.00.

CLC NEWS: Faith Lutheran Church of Markesan, WI, has called teacher Neil Bernthal of Immanuel Lutheran School, Winter Haven, FL, to teach middle grades and serve as the principal of their school.