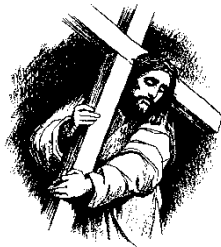


Ascension Lutheran Church
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Pastor: Terrel Kesterson – Organist: Peggy Kesterson



Laetare – The 4th Sunday In Lent
March 11, 2018

“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. You are My friends.”
(John 15:13-14a)

PRESERVICE MEDITATION: Psalm 86 (page 140 in The Lutheran Hymnal)

HYMN 23 (The Lutheran Hymnal) “Hallelujah! Let Praises Ring”

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

PASSION HISTORY, part 4 – The Guiltless For The Guilty

The Jews were the more fierce, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place.”

When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if the Man were a Galilean. And as soon as he knew that He belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing. And the chief priests and the scribes stood there and vehemently accused Him.

Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe and sent Him back to Pilate. That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for before that they had been at enmity with each other.

Then Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, said to them, “You have brought this Man to me as one who misleads the people, and indeed, having examined Him in your presence, I have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him. No, neither did Herod, for I sent Him to him, and indeed nothing worthy of death has been done by Him. I will therefore chastise Him and release Him.”

Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished, whomever they requested. And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas, who was chained with his fellow-insurrectionists. He had been thrown into prison for a certain insurrection made in the city, and for murder. And the multitude cried aloud and began to ask Pilate to do just as he had always done for them. For it was necessary for him to release one to them at the feast.

Therefore when they had gathered together, Pilate answered them, saying, “You have a custom, that I should release someone to you at the Passover. Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” For he knew that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy.

While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, “Have nothing to do with that just Man; for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him.”

But the chief priests and elders stirred up the crowd and persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor answered and said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?”

Then they all cried out at once, saying, “Not this Man, but Barabbas. Away with this Man, and release to us Barabbas.” He was chained with his fellow rebels who had committed murder in the rebellion.

Pilate therefore, wishing to release Jesus, again called out to them. He said to them, “What then do you want me to do with Jesus, who is called Christ, Him whom you call the King of the Jews?” And they all shouted, “Let Him be crucified!” The governor said to them, “Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let Him go.”

But they were insistent. They cried out more exceedingly, demanding with loud voices, “Let Him be crucified!” When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but that rather a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, “I am innocent of the blood of this just person. You see to it.”

And all the people answered and said, “His blood be on us and on our children!”

Wanting to gratify the crowd, Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they requested, and he released Barabbas to them.

Responsive Reading from Psalm 66

L: Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth!

C: SING OUT THE HONOR OF HIS NAME; MAKE HIS PRAISE GLORIOUS.

L: Come and see the works of God;

C: HE IS AWESOME IN HIS DOING TOWARD THE SONS OF MEN.

L: Oh, bless our God you peoples!

C: AND MAKE THE VOICE OF HIS PRAISE TO BE HEARD.

L: Come and hear, all you who fear God,

C: AND I WILL DECLARE WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR MY SOUL.

L: Blessed be God,

C: WHO HAS NOT TURNED AWAY MY PRAYER, NOR HIS MERCY FROM ME.

The Apostle's Creed (page 15, Worship Supplement)

HYMN 363 (The Lutheran Hymnal) *"To Our Redeemer's Glorious Name"*

SERMON: Genesis 3:1-14; John 3:16

GOD'S LOVING SACRIFICE FOR US

Genesis 3:1-14 ¹ Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² Then He said, "Take now your son, your only *son* Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. ⁵ And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." ⁶ So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid *it* on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. ⁷ But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. ⁹ Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. ¹⁰ And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." ¹² And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only *son*, from Me." ¹³ Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind *him* was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said *to* this day, "In the Mount of The LORD it shall be provided."

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,

that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

OFFERTORY (page 16, Worship Supplement)

Psalm 51:10-12

The Offering from grateful hearts

HYMN 723 (Worship Supplement) *"What Wondrous Love Is This"*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH, and THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION (page 21, Worship Supplement)

Numbers 6:24-26

HYMN 244 (The Lutheran Hymnal) *"Glory Be To God The Father"*

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/Bible study we'll CLEAN UP our church and fellowship hall for the Tour Choir concert this Tuesday. In our BIBLE STUDY we're discussing the WELS/ELS/CLC JOINT STATEMENT. There will be a NORTH AURORA CARE CENTER SERVICE at 3:00 PM, and a BATAVIA REHAB SERVICE at 4:00 PM.

TUESDAY: Immanuel Lutheran College TOUR CHOIR CONCERT HERE at 7:00 PM.

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

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

NEXT SUNDAY our usher is Greg Suwanski. CHARLI HUBBARD will be BAPTIZED during our service next Sunday.

ASCENSION FRUITS OF FAITH: Our offering last Sunday was \$1,579.00 (needed each week: \$1,157.00); our attendance was 21. Our General

Fund balance as of last Sunday was \$819.08.

SPECIAL SERVICES: We will have a MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE on MARCH 29 at 7:30 PM, and a GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE on MARCH 30 at 7:30 PM.

THE FEBRUARY CLC FINANCIAL REPORT is in your MAILBOX.

CLC NEWS: Trinity Lutheran Church of Watertown, SD, has called teacher Collette Krause as full-time teacher/principal for grades K-8. St. John's Lutheran Church of Clarkston, WA, has called Brian Fox of Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, and supervisor of the boys' dormitory at ILC, as teacher/principal at Valley Bible Academy. Heidi Nelson of Grace Lutheran Church, Fridley, MN, has accepted the call to teach lower grades at its school. Teacher Neil Bernthal of Immanuel Lutheran School, Winter Haven, FL, has returned the call to Faith Lutheran School, Markesan, WI. Luther Memorial Lutheran Church of Fond du Lac, WI, has called Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer of Trinity Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA.