



Ascension Lutheran Church
A member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession
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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 1st Sunday After Easter
April 8, 2018

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (1 Peter 1:3)

PRESERVICE MEDITATION: Psalm 111 (page 147 in The Lutheran Hymnal)

HYMN 733 (Worship Supplement) *“This Joyful Eastertide”*

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

FIRST LESSON: 1 John 5:1-6

¹ Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. ⁵ Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶ This is He who came by water and blood – Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.

Responsive Reading from Psalm 16

P: Keep me safe, O God, for in You I take refuge.

C: I SAID TO THE LORD, “YOU ARE MY LORD; I HAVE NO GOOD APART FROM YOU.”

P: As for the saints who are in the land, they are the glorious ones in whom is all my delight.

C: THE SORROWS OF THOSE WILL INCREASE WHO RUN AFTER OTHER GODS.

P: The LORD is the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You have made my lot secure.

C: THE BOUNDARY LINES HAVE FALLEN FOR ME IN PLEASANT PLACES; SURELY I HAVE A DELIGHTFUL INHERITANCE.

P: I will praise the LORD, Who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.

C: I HAVE SET THE LORD ALWAYS BEFORE ME. BECAUSE HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN.

P: Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure,

C: BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON ME TO THE GRAVE, NOR WILL YOU LET YOUR HOLY ONE SEE DECAY.

P: You have made known to me the path of life;

C: YOU WILL FILL ME WITH JOY IN YOUR PRESENCE, WITH ETERNAL PLEASURES AT YOUR RIGHT HAND.

SECOND LESSON: John 20:19-31 *rise*

¹⁹ Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them,

“Peace be with you.”²⁰ When He had said this, He showed them *His* hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.²¹ So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”²² And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.²³” If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained.”²⁴ Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.²⁵ The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”²⁶ And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace to you!”²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.”²⁸ And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”³⁰ And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

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

HYMN 198 (The Lutheran Hymnal) “*He’s Risen, He’s Risen, Christ Jesus, The Lord*”

SERMON: Acts 3:12-20

GREAT BLESSINGS FROM OUR LIVING SAVIOR

¹² So when Peter saw *it*, he responded to the people: “Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let *Him* go. ¹⁴ But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵ and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. ¹⁶ And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which *comes* through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. ¹⁷ Yet now, brethren, I know that you did *it* in ignorance, as *did* also your rulers. ¹⁸ But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come



from the presence of the Lord,²⁰ and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before.

OFFERTORY (page 16, Worship Supplement)

Psalm 51:10-12

The Offering from grateful hearts

HYMN 728 (Worship Supplement) “*Christ Is Living*”

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH, and THE LORD’S PRAYER

BENEDICTION (page 21, Worship Supplement)

Numbers 6:24-26

HYMN 761 (Worship Supplement) “*In You Is Gladness*”

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 in our BIBLE STUDY we’re discussing the CLC pastoral conference’s response to 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.

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.

ASCENSION FRUITS OF FAITH: Our offering last Sunday was \$731.00 (needed each week: \$1,157.00); our attendance was 36. Our General

Fund balance as of last Sunday was \$3,411.00.

OUR CHURCH COUNCIL MEETS on SUNDAY, APRIL 22.

WE HAVE A VOTERS MEETING on SUNDAY, APRIL 29.

CLC NEWS: ILC Professor Paul Schaller has announced his retirement from the full time public ministry effective at the end of the 2018-19 academic year.



“You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here” (Mark 16:6). Martin Luther comments on this: “Know then – sin, death, devil, and everything that assails me – that you are missing the mark. I am not one of those who are afraid of you. For Christ, my dear Lord, has presented to me that triumph and victory of His by which you were laid low. And from this very gift of His I derive my name and am called a Christian. There is no other reason. My sin and death hung about His neck on Good Friday, but on the day of Easter they had completely disappeared. This victory He has bestowed on me. This is why I do not worry about you.”