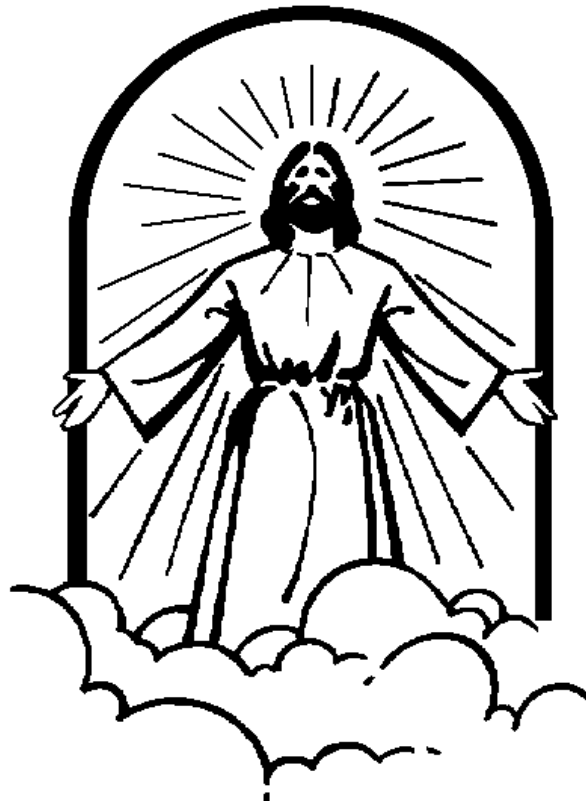


The 4th Sunday After Easter  
April 29, 2018



*Ascension Lutheran Church*  
*A member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession*  
*(clclutheran.org)*  
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Pastor: Terrel Kesterson – Organist: Peggy Kesterson

Ascension Lutheran is a family of Christians  
intent on sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and His victory over death

*“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.” (Matthew 16:24-25)*

**PRESERVICE MEDITATION:** Psalm 145 (pages 155-156 in The Lutheran Hymnal)

**HYMN 200:1-4** (The Lutheran Hymnal) *“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”*

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

**FIRST LESSON:** 1 John 4:1-11

<sup>1</sup> Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, <sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. <sup>4</sup> You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup> They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. <sup>6</sup> We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. <sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**PSALM OF THE DAY** (*responsively*) – from Psalm 28

**M:** To You I will cry, O LORD my Rock: Do not be silent to me,

**C:** LEST, IF YOU ARE SILENT TO ME, I BECOME LIKE THOSE WHO GO DOWN TO THE PIT.

**M:** Hear the voice of my supplications when I cry to You,

**C:** WHEN I LIFT UP MY HANDS TOWARD YOUR HOLY SANCTUARY.

**M:** Blessed be the LORD, because He has heard the voice of my supplications!

**C:** THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND MY SHIELD;

**M:** my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped;

**C:** THEREFORE MY HEART GREATLY REJOICES, AND WITH MY SONG I WILL PRAISE HIM.

**M:** The LORD is their strength,

**C:** AND HE IS THE SAVING REFUGE OF HIS ANOINTED.

**M:** Save Your people, and bless Your inheritance;

**C:** SHEPHERD THEM ALSO, AND BEAR THEM UP FOREVER.

SECOND LESSON – the Gospel: John 15:9-17 *rise*

<sup>9</sup> “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full. <sup>12</sup> This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. <sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. <sup>17</sup> These things I command you, that you love one another.

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

HYMN 200:5-8 (The Lutheran Hymnal) *“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”*

SERMON: Acts 11:19-26

### WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN

It means –

1. suffering, but receiving strength
2. spreading Christ’s saving Gospel
3. faithfully teaching Christ’s Word
4. being most blessed!

<sup>19</sup> Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the Word to no one but the Jews only. <sup>20</sup> But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. <sup>21</sup> And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. <sup>22</sup> Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. <sup>23</sup> When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. <sup>24</sup> For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. <sup>25</sup> Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. <sup>26</sup> And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

OFFERTORY (page 16, Worship Supplement)

Psalms 51:10-12

The Offering from grateful hearts

HYMN 423 (The Lutheran Hymnal) *“Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken”*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH, and THE LORD’S PRAYER

BENEDICTION (page 21, Worship Supplement)

Numbers 6:24-26

HYMN 507 (The Lutheran Hymnal) *“Spread, Oh, Spread, Thou Mighty Word”*

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WELCOME, VISITORS! Please leave a record of your visit in our guest book in the narthex. TODAY our USHER is Glenn Libby. There will be Sunday School after church, but we have a VOTERS MEETING instead of our Bible Study.

FRIDAY: No North Aurora Care Center Bible study this week.

SUNDAY: WORSHIP SERVICE: 10 AM; SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE STUDY: 11:15 AM.  
NEXT SUNDAY our usher is Rick Louderman. There will be no Sunday School or Bible Study next Sunday.

ASCENSION FRUITS OF FAITH: Our offering last Sunday was \$747.35 (needed each week: \$1,157.00); our attendance was 16. Our General Fund balance as of last Sunday was \$3,493.80.

ASCENSION DIRECTORY: There is a ROUGH DRAFT of our UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORY on the TABLE IN THE NARTHEX. Please look it over and make any necessary additions and corrections.

CC REPORT: A SUMMARY of the spring CLC COORDINATING MEETING is in your MAIL BOX. This summary contains reports from the various CLC BOARDS, as well as some information on the CLC CONVENTION in June.

CLC NEWS: Faith Lutheran Church of Markesan, WI, has called Principal Ted Quade of Messiah Lutheran School, Hales Corners, WI, to be principal/teacher. Redeemer Lutheran Church of Cheyenne, WY, has called teacher Kirsten Gullerud of St. Stephen Lutheran School, Mountain View, CA.

ARISE AND SHINE (20’s & 30’s, or thereabouts, RETREAT) is June 14th-17th at Camp JIM in Pillager, MN. This is a faith-building weekend. There will be delicious food, great fellowship, and plenty of activities. The theme this year is “Discipl(in)e.” The premise is that as disciples of Christ, we can expect to receive discipline. This is not something to lose hope over, “For the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and chastises every son whom He receives.” For information & registration see: [ariseandshineretreat.com](http://ariseandshineretreat.com). Child care is provided at no additional charge. (Try to register by May 25th, so child care assistance can be arranged.) If you have any questions, please contact us: Pastor Sam Rodebaugh – [sam.rodebaugh@gmail.com](mailto:sam.rodebaugh@gmail.com) – (414)534-7279 | Josh Ohlmann – [joshohlmann@swbell.net](mailto:joshohlmann@swbell.net) – (314) 874-9184 | Kym Stelter – [kjstelter@gmail.com](mailto:kjstelter@gmail.com) – (507) 327-2076.