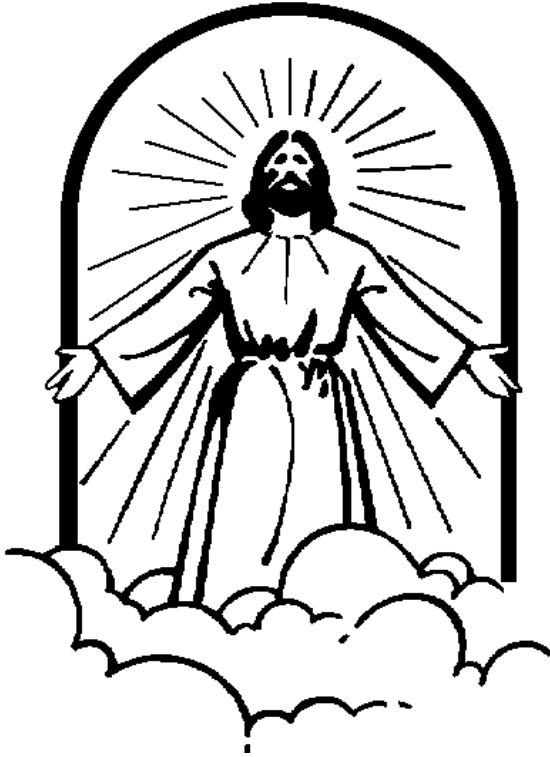


January 22, 2017



Ascension Lutheran Church

A member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession

(clclutheran.org)

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

The Third Sunday In Epiphany

“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” (Rev. 2:10)

Setting from Worship Supplement, page 12, Service of Word and Sacrament, setting 2. The Lutheran Hymnal (TLH) (hymns 1-660) is the RED book. Worship Supplement (WS) (hymns 701-800) is the TAN book. (If you have difficulty standing, please feel free to remain seated as needed.)

PRESERVICE MEDITATION: Psalm 23 (page 128 in TLH)

HYMN 39 (TLH) *“Praise To The Lord, The Almighty”*

INVOCATION (page 12, WS)

M: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

C: Amen.

**C: Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.**

Glory to God In the Highest – *Gloria In Excelsis* Luke 2:14; Revelation 5:8-14

**Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise;
Of heav'nly joy and peace on earth we sing.
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,
Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict'ry won,
Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.**

**Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,
At God's right hand in majesty most high;
Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,
With all the heav'nly host we glorify.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY (page 14, WS)

M: Let us pray ...

...through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Romans 8:24-30

²⁴ For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for *it* with perseverance. ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of* God. ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

PSALM OF THE DAY (*responsively*) – from Psalm 34

M: I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

C: My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; the humble shall

hear of it and be glad.

M: Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together.

C: I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

M: They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces were not ashamed.

C: This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

M: The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.

C: Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

SECOND LESSON – the Gospel: Luke 4:38-44 *rise*

³⁸ Now He arose from the synagogue and entered Simon's house. But Simon's wife's mother was sick with a high fever, and they made request of Him concerning her. ³⁹ So He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately she arose and served them. ⁴⁰ When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them. ⁴¹ And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, "You are the Christ, the Son of God!" And He, rebuking *them*, did not allow them to speak, for they knew that He was the Christ. ⁴² Now when it was day, He departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowd sought Him and came to Him, and tried to keep Him from leaving them; ⁴³ but He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent." ⁴⁴ And He was preaching in the synagogues of Galilee.

M: Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

Alleluia (sung) (page 14, WS)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written

that we may believe

that Jesus is the Christ,

the Son of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary;
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty.**

**From there He will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN 518:1-3, 7 (TLH) *“If Thou But Suffer God To Guide Thee”*

SERMON: Daniel 6:10-23

REMAIN FAITHFUL TO OUR FAITHFUL GOD

¹⁰ Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days. ¹¹ Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. ¹² And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king's decree: “Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?” The king answered and said, “The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter.” ¹³ So they answered and said before the king, “That

Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, does not show due regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day.”¹⁴ And the king, when he heard *these* words, was greatly displeased with himself, and set *his* heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him.¹⁵ Then these men approached the king, and said to the king, “Know, O king, that *it is* the law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed.”¹⁶ So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast *him* into the den of lions. *But* the king spoke, saying to Daniel, “Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.”¹⁷ Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed.¹⁸ Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no musicians were brought before him. Also his sleep went from him.¹⁹ Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions.²⁰ And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?”²¹ Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever!²² My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.”²³ Then the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.

M: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7

OFFERTORY *sung* (page 16, WS)

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence.
Take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore to me the joy of Your salvation.
Uphold with Your Spirit free.**

HYMN 651 (TLH) *“Be Still, My Soul”*

The Offering from grateful hearts

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

THE BENEDICTION (page 21, WS)

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN 761 (WS) *“In You Is Gladness”*

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WELCOME, VISITORS! You are always welcome. Please leave a record of your visit in our guest book in the narthex.

TODAY our USHER is Greg Suwanski. Our ANNUAL VOTERS MEETING, scheduled for today, has been postponed for a week or two. There is a NORTH AURORA CARE CENTER SERVICE today at 3:00 PM, and a BATAVIA REHAB SERVICE at 4:00 PM.

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

NEXT SUNDAY is a Communion Sunday.

CONGRATULATIONS and the Lord's blessings to Dave and Laurie Eserhut, who had a baby girl, Ava Rose, last Tuesday, January 17. Laurie and Ava are doing well.

WOMEN'S RETREAT: "Thy Will Be Done" is the theme for the Women's retreat APRIL 21-23 in Winona, MN, at the Riverport Inn, 900 Bruski Drive. The deadline to register and to reserve a room in the block is March 21. Registration and additional information may be found at ladiesretreat.clclutheran.net.

2017 "MAN UP" WEEKEND is intended to offer strength and encouragement for men 18 and older for their personal faith, family, and fellowship at church. The theme is: "Contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3). Included are Bible study, fellowship, leadership training, team and relationship building and worship, as well as several awesome outdoor activities. The retreat is September 22-24, at beautiful Wyalusing State Park near Prairie du Chien, WI, about an hour south of La Crosse. More information, pictures of the park and last year's events/activities, comments from last year's participants, and registration can be found at manup.clclutheran.org. The cost is only \$75 and includes lodging, meals, and activities. Registration deadline is August 1, 2017. If you have any questions please speak to Pastor Kesterson or contact Nathanael Mayhew at 404-729-4602 or ndmayhew@juno.com.