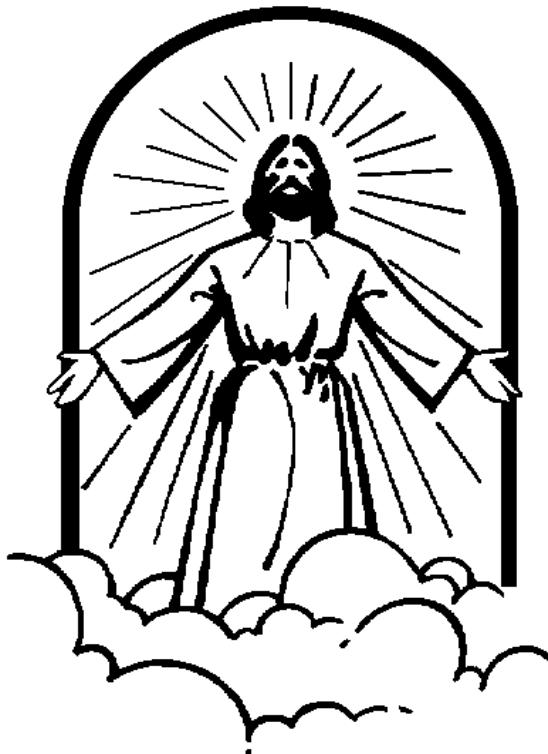


March 26, 2017



*Ascension Lutheran Church
A member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession
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Pastor: Terrel Kesterson – terrel_k@yahoo.com
Organist: Peggy Kesterson

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

Laetare – The 4th Sunday In Lent

“O Death, where is your sting? O Grave, where is your victory?” (1 Corinthians 15:55)

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 111 (page 147 in TLH)

HYMN 42 (TLH) “O Thou Love Unbounded”

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*

5:8-14

Luke 2:14; Rev.

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

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.

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!**

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 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 149 (TLH) "Come To Calvary's Holy Mountain"

SERMON: Isaiah 53:9

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST

And they made His grave with the wicked – but with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor *was any* deceit in His mouth.

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.**

The Offering from grateful hearts

HYMN 744 (WS) "How Great Thou Art"

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 175 (1st tune) (TLH) "When I Survey The Wondrous Cross"

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WELCOME, VISITORS! Please leave a record of your visit in our guest book in the entryway.

TODAY our USHER is Greg Suwanski. There is a NORTH AURORA CARE CENTER SERVICE at 3:00 PM, and a BATAVIA REHAB SERVICE at 4:00 PM.

FRIDAY: NO. AURORA CARE CENTER BIBLE STUDY: 10 AM.

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

NEXT SUNDAY our USHER is Tyler Louderman.

OUR CHURCH COUNCIL MEETS on SUNDAY, APRIL 9.

OUR VOTERS MEET on SUNDAY, APRIL 23.

DO WE WANT TO HAVE a CHURCH SPRING CLEANING DAY BEFORE EASTER?

ASCENSION FRUITS OF FAITH: Last Sunday's attendance was 24; and our offering was \$1,223.55.

CLC NEWS: Pastor David Schaller of Redeemer Lutheran Church,

Sister Lakes, MI, has the call to be interim pastor at Rock of Ages Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, MI. Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, FL, has called Pastor David Schaller to be their full-time pastor. Teacher Sherman Carstensen of Faith Lutheran School, Markesan, WI, has accepted the call to teach and help with the administration at Immanuel Lutheran School, Mankato, MN. The congregation has also called Pastor Neal Radichel of Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Fond du Lac, WI, to serve as pastor along with Pastor Joe Naumann. Redeemer Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has called Teacher Ann Sprengeler of Faith Lutheran School, Markesan, WI, to teach K-8 at its school. Teacher Joshua Ohlmann of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ, has returned the call to Grace Lutheran School, Sleepy Eye, MN. Debra Mayhew has accepted the call for pre-school there. Amy Mielke returned the call from Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, to teach grades 3-4 in their school.

The crucifixion, which ended with the triumphant cry, “It is finished” (John 19:30), was the offering of the all-sufficient sacrifice for the atonement of all sinners. The Man on the cross was the Lamb of God, who bears the sins of the world to carry them away from the face of God. The salvation of the whole world once hung by those three nails of the cross on Golgotha. As the fruit from the wood of the forbidden tree from which the first man once ate brought sin, death, and damnation upon the entire human race, so the fruits of the wood of the cross restored righteousness, life, and blessedness to all people.

On account of this, the cross is both holy and blessed! Once nothing but a dry piece of wood, it was changed, like Aaron’s staff, into a green branch full of heavenly blossoms and fruit. Once an instrument of torment for the punishment of sinners, it now shines in heavenly splendor for all sinners as a sign of grace. Once the wood of the curse, it has now become, after the Promised Blessing for all people offered Himself up on it, a tree of blessing, an altar of sacrifice for the atonement, and a sweet-smelling aroma to God. Today, the cross is still a terror – but only to hell. It shines upon its ruins as a sign of victory over sin, death, and Satan. With a crushed head, the serpent of temptation lies at the foot of the cross. It is a picture of eternal comfort upon which the dimming eye of the dying longingly looks, the last anchor of his hope and the only light that shines in the darkness of death. (C. F. W. Walther)