



*Ascension Lutheran Church*  
*A member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession*  
*(clclutheran.org)*  
*oS85o Wenmoth Road*  
*Batavia, Illinois 60510-9711*  
*(630) 879-9455*  
ascensionbatavia.org – ascensionbatavia@gmail.com

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

## The Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

February 24, 2019

*“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.”*  
(Ephesians 4:31-32)

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

**HYMN 767** (Worship Supplement) *“Church Of God, Elect And Glorious”*

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

**FIRST LESSON:** Genesis 45:3-8, 15

<sup>3</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph; does my father still live?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph said to his brothers, “Please come near to me.” So they came near. Then he said: “I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For these two years the famine *has been* in the land, and *there are* still five years in which *there will be* neither plowing nor harvesting. <sup>7</sup> And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. <sup>8</sup> So now *it was* not you *who* sent me here, but God. ... <sup>15</sup> Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

Responsive Reading from Psalm 103

**L:** Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

**C:** BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL, AND FORGET NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS:

**L:** Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases,

**C:** WHO REDEEMS YOUR LIFE FROM DESTRUCTION, WHO CROWNS YOU WITH  
LOVINGKINDNESS AND TENDER MERCIES,

**L:** The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.

**C:** HE DOES NOT TREAT US AS OUR SINS DESERVE OR REPAY US ACCORDING TO  
OUR INIQUITIES.

**L:** For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear  
Him.

**C:** AS FAR AS THE EAST IS FROM THE WEST, SO FAR HAS HE REMOVED OUR  
TRANSGRESSIONS FROM US.

**L:** As a father has mercy on his children, so the LORD has mercy on those who fear Him.

**C:** THE MERCY OF THE LORD IS FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING ON  
THOSE WHO FEAR HIM, AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS TO CHILDREN’S  
CHILDREN.

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38a, 42-49 *rise*

<sup>35</sup> But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?" <sup>36</sup> Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain – perhaps wheat or some other *grain*. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as He pleases. ... <sup>42</sup> So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. *The body* is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man *was* of the earth, *made* of dust; the second Man *is* the Lord from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As *was* the *man* of dust, so also are those *who are made* of dust; and as *is* the heavenly *Man*, so also are those *who are* heavenly. <sup>49</sup> And as we have borne the image of the *man* of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *Man*.

The Apostles' Creed (page 15, Worship Supplement)

HYMN 546:1-2, 4-5 (The Lutheran Hymnal) "*How Lovely Shines The Morning Star*"

SERMON: Luke 6:27-38

### BE MERCIFUL, AS GOD IS MERCIFUL

**<sup>27</sup> But I say to you who hear: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. <sup>29</sup> To him who strikes you on the *one* cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold *your* tunic either. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask *them* back. <sup>31</sup> And just as you want men to do to you, you**



*"Father, forgive them."*

**also do to them likewise. <sup>32</sup> But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> And if you lend *to those* from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you?**

**For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. <sup>36</sup> Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. <sup>37</sup> Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be**

**forgiven. <sup>38</sup> Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.**

OFFERTORY (page 16, Worship Supplement)

Psalms 51:10-12

The Offering from grateful hearts

HYMN 411 (The Lutheran Hymnal) "*From Eternity, O God*"

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH, & THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

HYMN 652 (The Lutheran Hymnal) "*I Lay My Sins On Jesus*"

\*\*\*\*

WELCOME, VISITORS! Please leave a record of your visit in our guest book in the narthex. TODAY our usher is Rick Louderman. In our Bible Study we're discussing gender dysphoria.

NACC SERVICE: 3:00 PM; BRC SERVICE: 4:00 PM.

FRIDAY: NORTH AURORA CARE CENTER BIBLE STUDY: 10:10 AM.

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

NEXT SUNDAY our usher is Greg Suwanski.

ASCENSION FRUITS OF FAITH: Our offering last Sunday was \$1,831.18 (needed each week: \$1,157.00); and our attendance was 17. Our

General Fund balance as of last Sunday was \$435.00. Our expenses are currently all paid.

DAILY REST: Copies of the new CLC devotion book *Daily Rest* are available on the table in the narthex. The first issue is free of charge, compliments of the Board of Education. Issues are produced four times a year, at a yearly cost of \$15.00.

"Christ says: Remember, children, of what spirit you are, namely, of the Holy Spirit, who is a Spirit of peace, not of division. Peter forgot this in the garden, and was rebuked when Christ said to him: Put the sword into the sheath. The Christian Church does not require fighting, but suffering. The Holy Spirit permits it now, and maintains His silence that Christ is thus crucified and abominably dealt with. Because we have the pure doctrine, it happens also to us that everything that is great in the world uses power and might against this doctrine. But God alone upholds His doctrine, else it would have been destroyed long ago.... But since they vilify the doctrine and defend their godless estate, we cannot hold silence but must speak against them. In this we are like John and James, and in our heart desire revenge upon the godless tyrants.... Here everyone should repent thoroughly and pray God that He would keep us from such murderous thoughts. We should not desire revenge, but have compassion, and remember why the Son of Man is come, namely, that we should not desire judgment and revenge upon the sinners." (Martin Luther)