

Laetare – The 4th Sunday In Lent  
March 31, 2019



*Ascension Lutheran Church*  
*A member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession*  
*(clclutheran.org)*  
*oS850 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

*“As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.” (Psalm 103:12)*

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

**HYMN 279 (The Lutheran Hymnal) “Today Thy Mercy Calls Us”**

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

**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.

#### Responsive Reading of Psalm 85

L: LORD, You have been favorable to Your land; You have brought back the captivity of Jacob.

C: YOU HAVE FORGIVEN THE INIQUITY OF YOUR PEOPLE; YOU HAVE COVERED ALL THEIR SIN.

L: You have taken away all Your wrath; You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger.

C: RESTORE US, O GOD OF OUR SALVATION, AND CAUSE YOUR ANGER TOWARD US TO CEASE.

L: Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?

C: WILL YOU NOT REVIVE US AGAIN, THAT YOUR PEOPLE MAY REJOICE IN YOU.

L: Show us Your mercy, LORD, and grant us Your salvation.

C: I WILL HEAR WHAT GOD THE LORD WILL SPEAK, FOR HE WILL SPEAK PEACE TO HIS PEOPLE AND TO HIS SAINTS; BUT LET THEM NOT TURN BACK TO FOLLY.

L: Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.

C: MERCY AND TRUTH HAVE MET TOGETHER; RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PEACE HAVE KISSED.

L: Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

C: YES, THE LORD WILL GIVE WHAT IS GOOD;

L: and our land will yield its increase.

C: RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL GO BEFORE HIM, AND SHALL MAKE HIS FOOTSTEPS OUR PATHWAY.

#### The Apostle's Creed (page 15, Worship Supplement)

HYMN 156 (The Lutheran Hymnal) *"Not All The Blood Of Beasts"*

SERMON: Jeremiah 31:34

#### **GOD REMEMBERS OUR SIN NO MORE**

**I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.**

#### OFFERTORY (page 16, Worship Supplement)

Psalm 51:10-12

The Offering from grateful hearts

HYMN 360 (The Lutheran Hymnal) *"Oh, For A Thousand Tongues To Sing"*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH, and THE LORD'S PRAYER

#### BENEDICTION (page 21, Worship Supplement)

Numbers 6:24-26

HYMN 778 (Worship Supplement) *"Grace Has A Thrilling Sound"*

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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 Glenn Libby. In our BIBLE STUDY we're on Revelation 12:4.

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 Rick Louderman. NACC: 3:00 PM; BRC: 4:00 PM.

ASCENSION FRUITS OF FAITH: Our offering last Sunday was \$810.00 (needed each

week: \$1,157.00); our attendance was 5. Our General

Fund balance as of last Sunday was \$8.00. Our expenses are currently all paid.

UPCOMING DATES: MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE, APRIL 18, 7:30 PM; GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE, APRIL 19, 7:30 PM; EASTER

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, BRUNCH immediately following our service.

RETIREMENT: Professor Paul Sullivan recently announced his intention to retire from his call at ILC. We thank the Lord for his many gifts which our church body has enjoyed as he has prepared our young people for their service in His kingdom. May the Lord bless him and his wife, Jan, in this next phase of their life. Professor Sullivan writes: "It has been a privilege to have served as instructor at ILC these past twenty-two years, also as dean of students to have been entrusted with the physical and spiritual welfare of the high school students and collegians for twenty of those years. After prayerful thought, I've come to the conclusion that the Lord, through the normal aging process, is having my body tell me it is time to plan to retire after the 2019-2020 school year (God willing – our times are in his hands). 'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.' (Ecclesiastes 3:1)"

"If God's wrath is to be taken from me and I am to attain grace and forgiveness, this blessing must be earned from Him by someone. For God cannot be kind and gracious to sin and cannot remove punishment and wrath, unless sin has been paid for and satisfaction has been rendered. Now no one (not even an angel in heaven) was able to do away with the eternal, irreparable damage and the eternal wrath of God, which we had earned by our sins, except the eternal Person of God's Son Himself. And this He did by stepping into our place, taking our sins upon Himself, and answering for them as if He were guilty of them Himself." (Martin Luther)