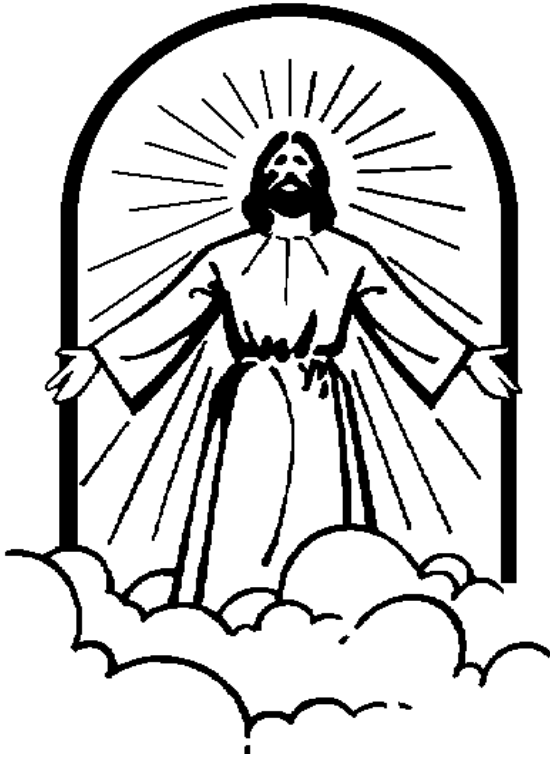


February 12, 2017



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

Septuagesima Sunday

“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:26)

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 100 (pages 144-145 in TLH)

HYMN 339 (TLH) *“All Hail The Power Of Jesus’ Name”*

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, 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: Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. ⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, ⁹ having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, ¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth – in Him. ¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹² that we who first trusted in Christ

should be to the praise of His glory. ¹³ In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the Word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

PSALM OF THE DAY (*responsively*) – from Psalm 103

M: 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:

M: 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,

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

C: Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.

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

C: He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities.

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

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

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

C: As for man, his days are like grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes.

M: For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

C: But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children.

SECOND LESSON – the Gospel: Matthew 5:17-29 *rise*

¹⁷ Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. ¹⁹ Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. ²¹ You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.” ²² But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, “Raca!” shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, “You fool!” shall be in danger of hell fire. ²³ Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny. ²⁷ You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not commit adultery.” ²⁸ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

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 723 (WS) *"What Wondrous Love Is This"*

SERMON: Jeremiah 31:31-34

WE ARE GOD'S PEOPLE THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST!

³¹ "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah – ³² not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them," says the LORD. ³³ "But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days," says the LORD: "I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ No

more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," says the LORD. "For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

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 779 (WS) *"Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven"*

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 391 (TLH) “*Blessed Are The Sons Of God*”

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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.

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

NEXT SUNDAY our USHER is Tyler Louderman.

ASCENSION FRUITS OF FAITH: Last Sunday’s offering was \$916.00, and our attendance was 18.

CLC NEWS: Pastor Edward Starkey of Resurrection Lutheran Church, Corpus Christi, TX, has returned the call to St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Lemmon, SD. Ernest Bernet has resigned from the public ministry of the CLC and from membership in the church body.