



Ascension
Lutheran Church



April 28, 2024

Ascension Lutheran Church

Resurrection Reality: Your Lord Produces Your Fruits of Faith

Welcome

God's grace welcomes you, and so do we—the pastor and members of Ascension. Jesus Christ is the only Savior of all people. By his perfect life, innocent death, and triumphant resurrection Jesus won forgiveness for all. God teaches these truths in the Bible—God's complete plan for your salvation and his guidebook for your life. Ascension greets you with a warm welcome. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

For Your Convenience

Restrooms are located near the entrance of the building. If your child becomes restless, that's okay! There is a speaker equipped children's area also near the entrance.

Worship at Ascension

The order of service is printed in this worship folder. Many of the elements in this service have ancient roots in the Christian church. Ascension values your participation in the service. Congregational responses are printed in **bold** and marked with a "C:".

Explanation of Today's Theme:

Our beliefs shape our behavior. This is true of Christians' belief in the resurrection. We believe Christ's resurrection means our resurrection to a glorious eternal life. That belief shapes how we act now. However, it is more than the facts of the resurrection that shape our behavior. It is the person of the resurrection. Jesus lives! Through his Word, he empowers us to do his perfect will. Here is a resurrection reality. Jesus fills us with his Spirit, not only so that we have faith but also so that we produce the fruits of faith he seeks.

Serving in Worship

Pastor John Boeder

Pianist: Bethel Boeder

Opening Hymn

Oh, Worship the King
CW #243 (Verses 1-3, 5)



1 Oh, wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove;
2 Oh, tell of his might; oh, sing of his grace,
3 This earth, with its store of won - ders un - told,
5 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,



Oh, grate - ful - ly sing his pow'r and his love,
Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py, space.
Al - might - y, your pow'r has found - ed of old,
In you do we trust nor find you to fail.



Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
Es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
Your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,



Pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.
And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
And round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
Our Mak - er, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend!

Stand

Opening Words

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: This is the day the Lord has made.

C: We will rejoice and be glad in it.

P: I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

C: Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

Confession and Absolution

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: Alleluia.

Prayer of the Day

P: O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be seated

THE WORD

First Reading

Acts 4:32-37

In the early church, as the apostles preached the resurrection of Christ, the living Lord produced the fruits of unity and generosity.

³²All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

³⁶Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), ³⁷sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Christ, the Word of God Incarnate CWS #750 (Verses 1, 3)



1 Christ, the Word of God in - car - nate,
3 Christ, the shoot that springs tri - um - phant



Lord and Son of A - bra - ham;
From the stump of Jes - se's tree;



Christ, the ra - diance of the Fa - ther,
Christ, true vine, you nur - ture branch - es



Per - fect God, the great I Am;
To bear fruit a - bun - dant - ly.



Christ, the Light, you shine un - van - quished,
Graft us in - to you, O Sav - ior;



Light and life you bring to all;
Prune our hearts so we re - main



Light our path with your own pres - ence,
Fruit - ful branch - es in your vine - yard



Grant us grace to heed your call.
Till e - ter - nal life we gain.

Second Reading

1 John 3:18-24

St. John encourages us to demonstrate living faith in loving words and actions.

¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

¹⁹ This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰ If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴ The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

John 15:5

C: **Alleluia. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit. Alleluia.**

Gospel

John 15:1-8

Jesus is the vine who gives us, his branches, the ability to produce fruits of faith.

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing CW 21 #595



Fruit — ful trees, the Spir — it's sow — ing,
Lad — en branch — es free — ly bear — ing
Root — ed deep in Christ our Mas — ter,
Fruit — ful trees, the Spir — it's tend — ing,



may we rip — en and in — crease,
gifts the Giv — er loves to bless;
Christ our pat — tern and our goal,
may we grow till har — vests cease;

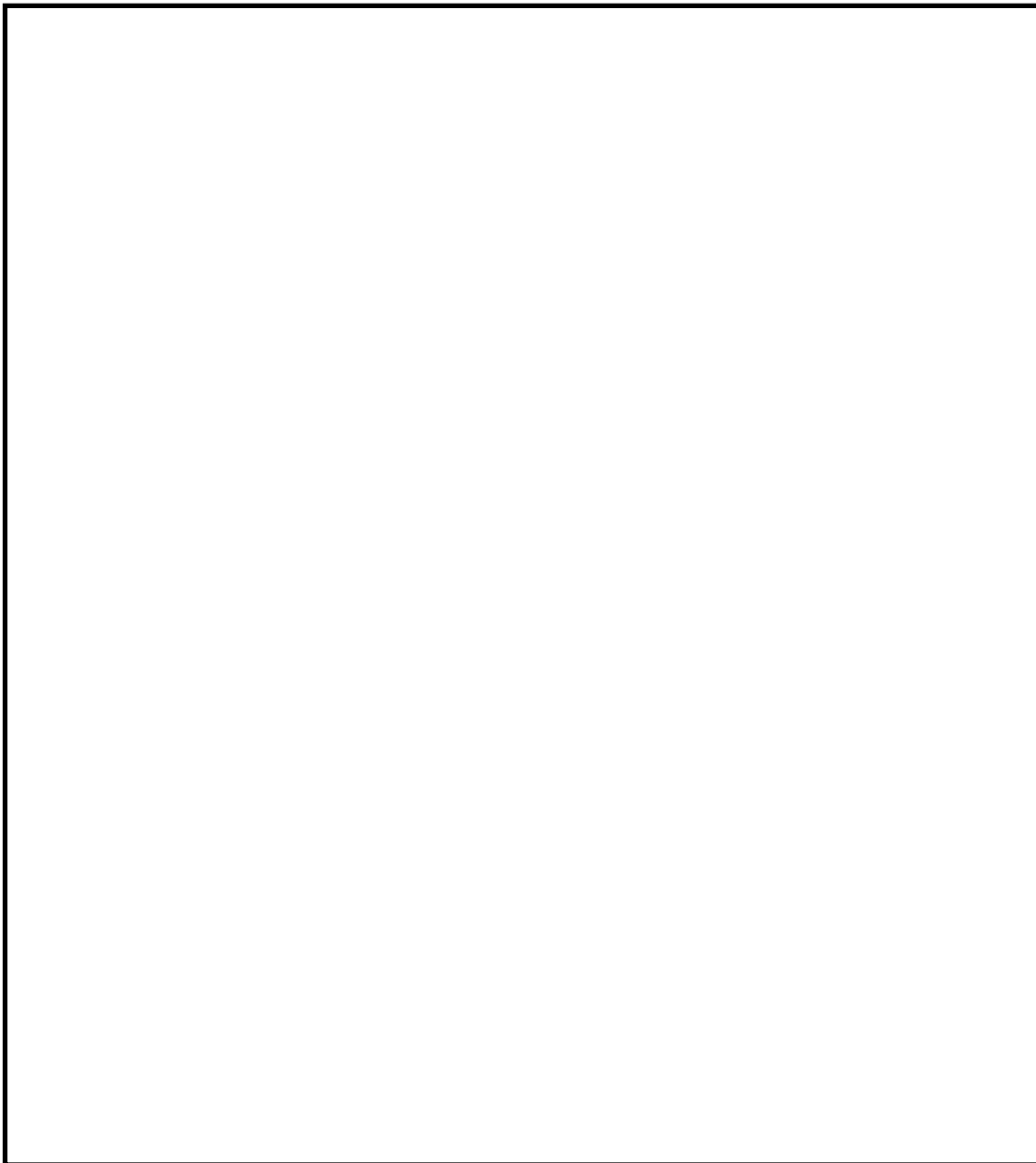


fruit to life e — ter — nal grow — ing,
here is fruit that grows by shar — ing,
teach us, as the years fly fast — er,
till we taste, in life un — end — ing,



rich in love and joy and peace.
pa — tience, kind — ness, gen — tle — ness.
good — ness, faith, and self — con — trol.
heav — en's love and joy and peace.

Stay Connected to Christ



Stand

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

C: 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.

Be seated

Offering & Connect

Guests, there is no obligation or expectation that you should give to support our ministry at Ascension. This is our members' way of expressing their thanks to God and supporting the work that we do to share the gospel.

We would really appreciate it if you let us know that you are here. Please fill out the yellow "Connect Card" you see on the back of the seat in front of you. Either put it in the offering plate or hand it to the pastor.



Stand

Prayer of the Church

P: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

P: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.

P: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.

P: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

P: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

Blessing

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia CWS #719



1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.
2 For three long days the grave did its worst
3 The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear.
4 "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave.
5 Christ has a - ris - en; he sets us free.



Re - joyce and praise him, al - le - lu - ia.
Un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.
You look for Je - sus who is not here.
He has a - ris - en this world to save.
Al - le - lu - ia, to him prais - es be.



For our Re - deem - er burst from the tomb,
He who gives life did death un - der - go.
See for your - selves the tomb is all bare.
Je - sus' re - deem - ing la - bors are done.
Je - sus is liv - ing! Let us all sing;



E - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.
And in its con - quest his might did show.
On - ly the grave cloths are ly - ing there."
E - ven the bat - tle with sin is won."
He reigns tri - um - phant, heav - en - ly King.

Refrain



Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy.



Death's fear - ful sting he has come to de - stroy.



Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!



Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

Announcements

Youth Rally Funding

Our teens attending the 2024 WELS International Youth Rally in Fort Collins, Colorado, have made great strides to funding their trip thanks to so many of you! Two of our three youth are now fully funded and our third is over 2/3 of the way funded. They are excited to attend and are looking forward to the small group sessions they were able to individually select. Be sure to ask them about which workshops they've chosen!

Meeting Minutes

The minutes from our meeting last Sunday were included in this past week's email. If you don't receive the weekly email, please speak to Michelle Greuel to get added to the distribution list.

Jesus Cares

If you know of someone in our community with special needs that could benefit from our Worship at the Cross service, please invite them to find out more on our website: myascension.org/jesus-cares. This engaging and interactive service is designed especially for those with intellectual or developmental disabilities.



1140 N. Midway Drive
Escondido, CA 92027

760-747-4276

Church email: office@myascension.org

Pastor John Boeder
Email: boederjc@mlc-wels.edu
Cell: 507-404-0624

www.myascension.org

Ascension is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.



www.wels.net



www.academiacristo.com