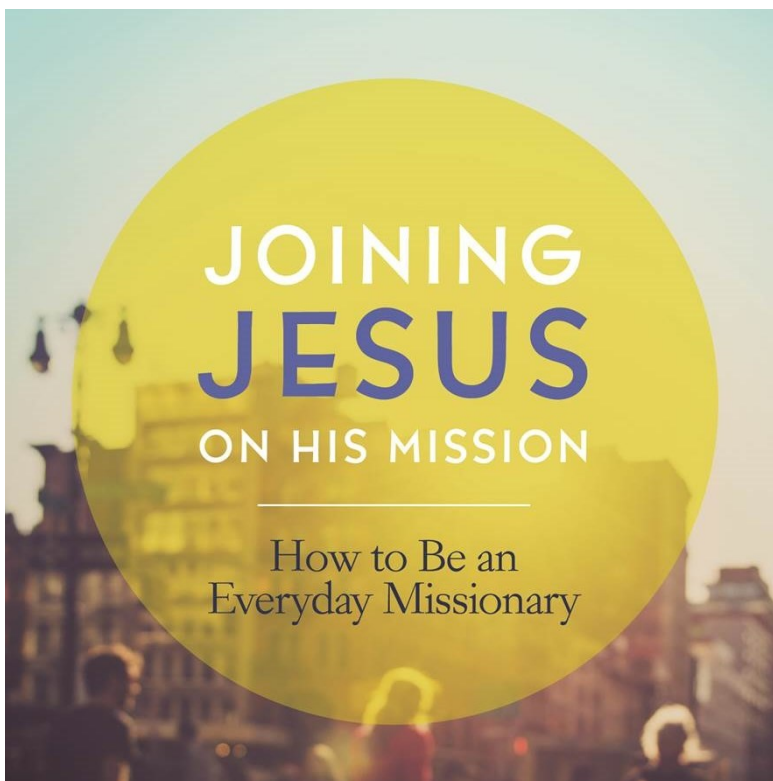




Ascension
Lutheran Church



January 14, 2024

Ascension Lutheran Church

Today's Theme: Join Jesus on His Mission to Reach All People

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:".

Prayer Before Worship:

Lord Jesus, you promised, "Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Be with us as we gather for worship. Answer our prayers. Fulfill our desires according to your perfect wisdom and love. Grant us a greater knowledge of your truth, and the peace of your forgiveness. Amen.

The Sacraments

Baptism - Christians have been baptizing infants and adults for 2000 years. We here at Ascension do as well. You do not need to be a member. If you, or a little one you know, would like to be baptized or learn more about baptism, speak with the pastor at any time. His contact info is on the back page.

Lord's Supper - Two Sundays each month we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Speak with the pastor about details or see the announcement in the back of the worship folder.

Serving in Worship

Pastor John Boeder
Pianist: Bethel Boeder
Cantor: Peggy Pekrul

Opening Hymn

O Master of the Loving Heart
CW #491



1 O Mas - ter of the lov - ing heart, The
2 Your days were full of kind - ly acts; Your
3 Your face was warm with sym - pa - thy; Your
4 Oh, grant us hearts like yours, dear Lord, So



friend of all in need, We pray that we may
speech was true and plain; Of those who ev - er
hand God's strength re - vealed; Who saw your face or
joy - ous, free, and true, That all your chil - dren,



be like you In thought and word and deed.
sought you, Lord, None came to you in vain.
felt your touch Were com - fort - ed and healed.
ev - 'ry - where, Be drawn by us to you.

Stand

Opening Words

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and 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.

Prayer of the Day

- P: Almighty God, you gave your one and only Son to be the light of the world. Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and believed to the ends of the earth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.**

Be seated

THE WORD

First Reading

1 Samuel 3:1-10

At a time in history when the word of the LORD was rare, the LORD shows kindness to the boy Samuel by calling to him.

¹ The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.

² One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. ³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the LORD called Samuel.

Samuel answered, "Here I am." ⁵ And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

⁶ Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."

⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

⁸ A third time the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 139a



Refrain

O LORD, you have searched me and you know me;*
you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down;*
you are familiar with all my ways.

Refrain

Where can I go from your Spirit?*
Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, you are there;*
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn,*
if I settle on the far side of the sea,

even there your hand will guide me,*
your right hand will hold me fast.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

God's love moves us to be flexible so that all may know Christ as Savior.

¹⁹ Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. ²¹ To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. ²³ I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

John 1:29

C: **Alleluia. John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" Alleluia.**

Gospel

John 1:43-51

Jesus proves to Nathanael that he knows absolutely everything about those he calls to follow him.

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.”

⁴⁴ Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

⁴⁶ “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.

“Come and see,” said Philip.

⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

⁴⁸ “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

⁴⁹ Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

⁵⁰ Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” ⁵¹ He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

Rise, Shine, You People
CW #556



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has
2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil
3 Come, cel - e - brate, your ban - ners high un -
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent his Son to



en - tered Our hu - man sto - ry; God in
reel - ing; He brings us free - dom, light and
furl - ing, Your songs and prayers a - gainst the
save us. Tell of the Son, who life and

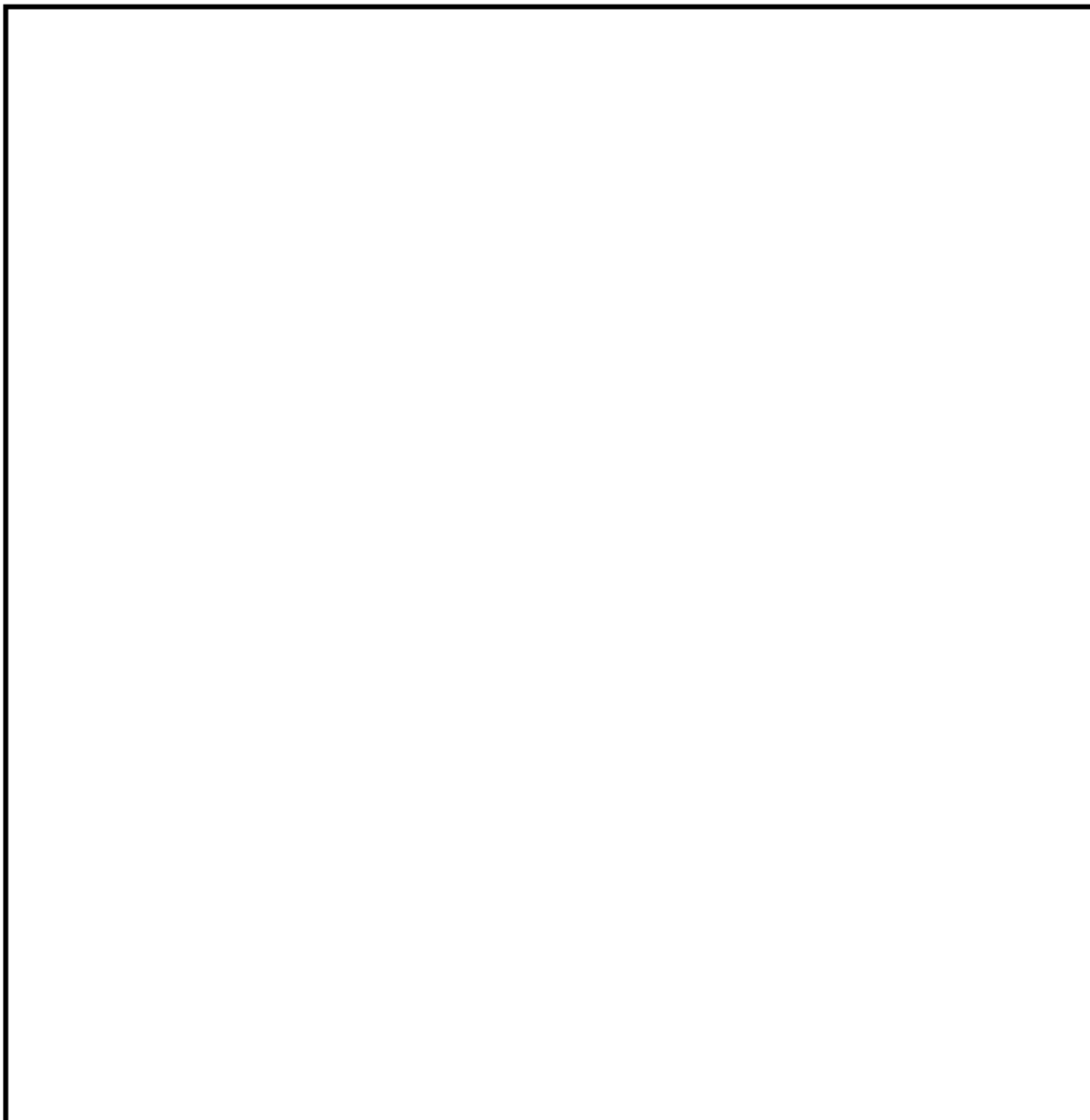


him is cen - tered. He comes to us, by death
life and heal - ing. All men and wom - en, who
dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the world go out
free - dom gave us. Tell how the Spir - it calls



and sin sur - round - ed, With grace un - bound - ed.
by guilt are driv - en, Now are for - giv - en.
and tell the sto - ry Of Je - sus' glo - ry.
from ev - 'ry na - tion His new cre - a - tion.

Joining Jesus On His Mission: Meet People Where They Are



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

Prayers

Prayer for Joining Jesus on His Mission

- P: O Almighty God, whose Son died on the cross to redeem all the people of the earth,
- C: Open our eyes to see that the harvest of souls is plentiful, but the workers are few.**
- P: Open our hearts to a sincere concern for the souls of those who will be lost without you.
- C: Open our hands to support the preaching of your Word in all the earth, and hear our prayer for your help and blessing.**
- P: Look with compassion on the billions of people who are still sitting in spiritual darkness under the shadow of death – both those nearby and those far away.
- C: Wherever your consecrated workers are proclaiming your message of salvation, support them in their efforts and bless the labors of their hands.**
- P: O Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit on us so that we also might actively share your Word with others.
- C: Bless us as we join you in your mission.**
- P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions for the successful sharing of your Word.

Silent prayer

- P: These things we ask in Jesus' name, as we also pray:

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

We All Are One in Mission CW #566



1 We all are one in mis - sion; We all are one in
2 We all are called to ser - vice, To wit - ness in God's
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, And let our song be



call, Our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed By Christ, the
name. Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; Our pur - pose
heard; Now let us be a ves - sel For God's re -



Lord of all. A sin - gle great com - mis - sion
is the same: To touch the lives of oth - ers
deem - ing Word. We all are one in mis - sion;



Com - pels us from a - bove To plan and work
With God's sur - pris - ing grace, So ev - 'ry folk
We all are one in call, Our var - ied gifts



to - geth - er That all may know Christ's love.
and na - tion May feel God's warm em - brace.
u - nit - ed By Christ, the Lord of all.

Announcements

Bible 101 Class

Bible 101 is a great review for lifelong Christians and an introduction to what the Bible teaches for those interested in membership or knowing what the Bible is about. Bible 101 takes place each Wednesday in January at 7 pm in Ascension's Fellowship Hall. Invite a friend, or better yet, bring a friend with you! Talk to Pastor Boeder to get all the details.

Jesus Cares Ministry

Our first Worship at the Cross service will take place on Wednesday, January 17th, at 10am. This service is designed for the special needs community and their caregivers. If you know of someone who could benefit from this ministry, please invite them to come!

Youth Night

We are hosting the WELS SoCal Youth Night tonight from 5-10pm. All kids in 6th-12th grades are invited to a night of fun, games, worship, and food! If you did not pre-register online, you can still register at the door this evening.

Revelation Bible Study

We're starting a new Bible study this morning focusing on the book of Revelation. Join us at 10:15am as we gain insight into this comforting section of the Bible.



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Ascension is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.



www.wels.net



www.academiacristo.com