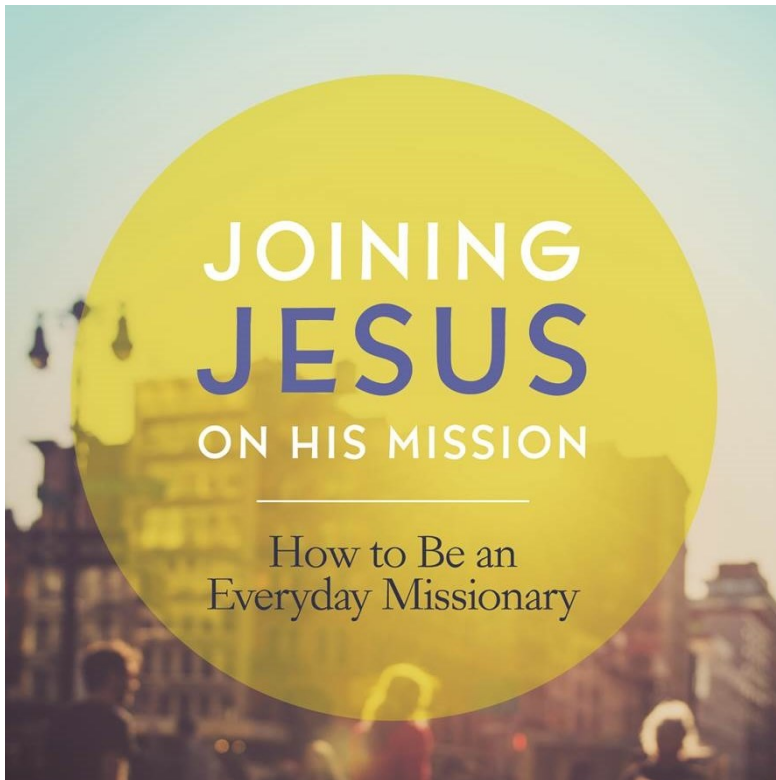




Ascension
Lutheran Church



January 21, 2024

Ascension Lutheran Church

Today's Theme: Watch for What God is Doing

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

Opening Hymn

Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways
CW #462



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your Word, And
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands— 'Tis



keep his stat - utes still! Oh, that my God would
make my heart sin - cere; Let sin have no do -
strict - er watch to keep; And should I e'er for -
a de - light - ful road— Nor let my head or



grant me grace To know and do his will!
min - ion, Lord, But keep my con - science clear.
get your way, Re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

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: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.
- C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**
- P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

- P: Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we too may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; 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 17:16-34

Paul's message at the Areopagus in Athens

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there.

¹⁸ A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, “What is this babbler trying to say?” Others remarked, “He seems to be advocating foreign gods.” They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰ You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.” ²¹ (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

²² Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁴ “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’

²⁹ “Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. ³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

³² When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.” ³³ At that, Paul left the Council. ³⁴ Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 62

Refrain



The might-y Lord is with us; the God of Ja-cob is our for-tress.

Psalm tone



Refrain

My soul finds rest in God alone;*
my salvation comes from him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation;*
he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

Find rest, O my soul, in God alone;*
my hope comes from him.

Refrain

Though your riches increase,*
do not set your heart on them.

My salvation and my honor depend on God;*
he is my mighty rock, my refuge.

Trust in him at all times, O people;*
pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

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

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 22:22

C: Alleluia. I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you. Alleluia.

Gospel

Mark 1:14-20

Jesus makes his followers fishers of people.

¹⁴After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

¹⁶As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” ¹⁸At once they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

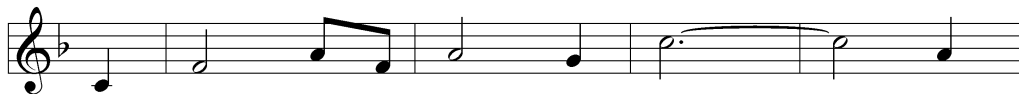
Be seated

Hymn of the Day

Amazing Grace—How Sweet the Sound CW #379



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound—
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me;
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares
4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years,



That saved a wretch like me! I
His Word my hope se - cures. He
I have al - read - y come; 'Tis
Bright shin - ing as the sun, We've



once was lost but now am found,
will my shield and por - tion be
grace has brought me safe - thus far,
no less days to sing God's praise



Was blind but now I see.
As long as life en - dures.
And grace will lead me home.
Than when we'd first be - gun.

Sermon

Acts 17:24-28

Join Jesus on His Mission: Your God Is Big Enough!

Stand

Confession of Faith

The Nicene Creed

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. 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: Help us see the opportunities you want us to see and step forward in faith and love.

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.

THE SACRAMENT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth.

C: **Amen.**

Words of Institution

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated

Distribution of Lord's Supper

Communion Hymn

Soul Adorn Yourself with Gladness
CW #311 (Verses 1-3)



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness; Leave be - hind all
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, And with lov - ing
3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther cost nor



gloom and sad - ness. Come in - to the day - light's splen - dor;
rev - 'rence greet him, For with words of life im - mor - tal
pain will mea - sure, But the price - less gifts of heav - en



There with joy your prais - es ren - der Un - to
He is knock - ing at your por - tal. O - pen
God to us has free - ly giv - en. Though the



him whose grace un - bound - ed Has this won - drous
wide the gates be - fore him, Say - ing, as you
wealth of earth were prof - fered, Naught would buy the



sup - per found - ed. Though he reigns a - bove most
there a - dore him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -
gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you



ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
ceive you, That I nev - er - more will leave you.
riv - en, And his blood, for you once giv - en.

Stand

Song of Simeon



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

P: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

C: **his mercy endures forever.**

P Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

P: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Blessing

P: 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

Lord's Supper

Dear guests, at Ascension we practice "close communion." That is, we invite only those who are in fellowship with us as members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (or of a synod that is in fellowship with us) to commune with us. We are in no way judging your personal faith. We believe that in the Lord's Supper we enjoy not only a close communion with God, but we also enjoy a close communion with one another as we publicly express our agreement in every teaching of God's Word. We wouldn't want to ask you to publicly confess your agreement with all that we teach and believe without first being instructed in what it is that we teach and believe. If you do desire to commune with us, please speak to the pastor after the service. Gluten-free bread is available by request.

Guest Preacher

Next Sunday, we have the privilege of welcoming our national WELS Military Chaplain, Pastor Paul Horn, as our guest preacher. He will lead us in worship and share updates during our Bible Hour on what his vital ministry is doing for our military.

Weekly Email

We recently revamped our weekly email and the process by which it is sent out. If you were previously receiving this email but have not received it in the past three weeks, please speak to Michelle Greuel to be added to the distribution list.



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Ascension is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.



www.wels.net



www.academiacristo.com