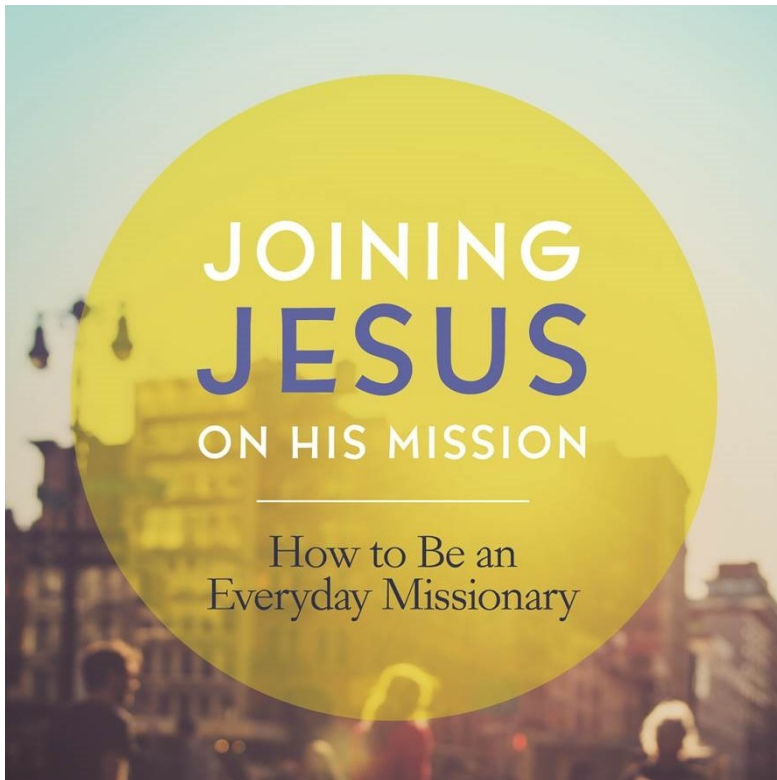




Ascension
Lutheran Church



January 7, 2024

Ascension Lutheran Church

Today's Theme: Jesus Wants You to Join Him on His Mission

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: Hans Boeder

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Opening Hymn

With the Lord Begin Your Task
CW #478



1 With the Lord be - gin your task; Je - sus will di -
2 Let each day be - gin with prayer, Praise and ad - o -
3 With your Sav - ior at your side Foes need not a -
4 If your task is thus be - gun With the Sav - ior's



rect it. For his aid and coun - sel ask; Je - sus
ra - tion. On the Lord cast ev - 'ry care; He is
larm you; In his prom - is - es con - fide And no
bless - ing, Safe - ly then your course will run, Naught your



will per - fect it. Ev - 'ry morn with Je - sus rise,
your sal - va - tion. Morn - ing, eve - ning, and at night
ill can harm you. All your trust and hope re - pose
soul dis - tress - ing. Good will fol - low ev - 'ry - where



And, when day is end - ed, In his name then
Je - sus will be near you, Save you from the
In the might - y Mas - ter, Who in wis - dom
While you here must wan - der; You at last the



close your eyes; Be to him com - mend - ed.
temp - ter's might, With his pres - ence cheer you.
tru - ly knows How to stem dis - as - ter.
joy will share In the man - sions yon - der.

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: Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children, and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; 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

Isaiah 49:1-6

Through the pen of the prophet Isaiah, the Messiah himself speaks, telling us of the work he would do when he was anointed at his baptism.

¹ Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the LORD called me; from my mother's womb he has spoken my name. ² He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver. ³ He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor." ⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all. Yet what is due me is in the LORD's hand, and my reward is with my God."

⁵ And now the LORD says— he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD and my God has been my strength— ⁶ he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 72

Refrain



Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.



Let all the peo - ple praise you.

Psalm tone



Refrain

Endow the King with your justice, O God,*
the royal Son with your righteousness.

He will defend the afflicted among the people*
and save the children of the needy.

He will endure as long as the sun,*
as long as the moon, through all generations.

He will be like rain falling on a mown field,*
like showers watering the earth.

Refrain

All kings will bow down to him,*
and all nations will serve him.

All nations will be blessed through him,*
and they will call him blessed.

Praise be to the LORD God, who alone does marvelous deeds.*
May the whole earth be filled with his glory.

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

Romans 6:1-11

St. Paul connects our baptism to Christ and discusses the results of that connection in our lives.

¹ What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ² By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—
⁷ because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

¹¹ In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 1:11

C: **Alleluia. You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased. Alleluia.**

Gospel

Mark 1:4-11

Jesus' public ministry begins with the anointing he received in his baptism.

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

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;



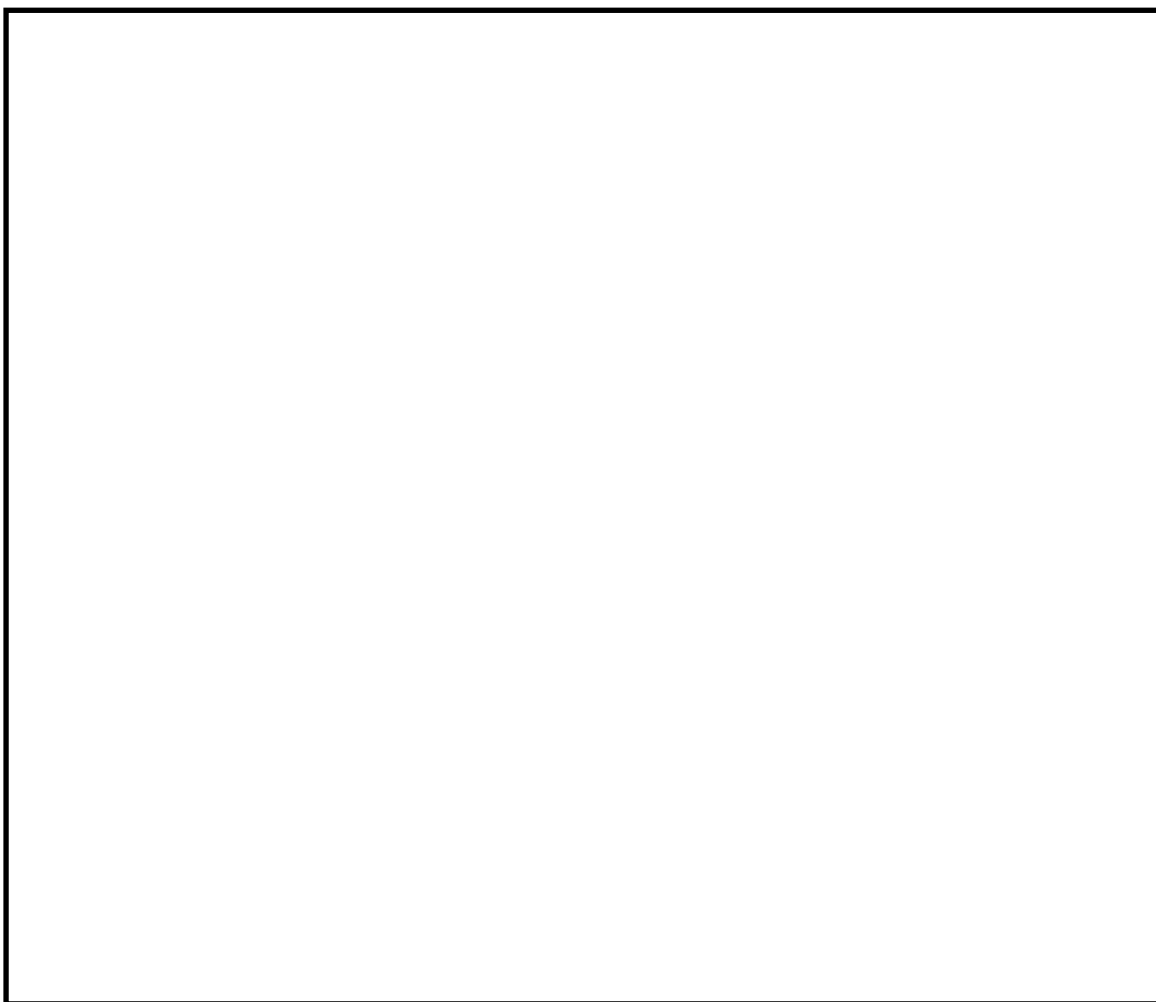
Com - pels us from a - bove To plan and work
With God's sur - pris - ing grace, So ev - 'ry folk
We all are one in call, Our var - ied gifts



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.

Join Jesus on His Mission

¹⁶Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”



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

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 millions 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 personally to speak your message of salvation, trusting that you are with us.

P: Bless us as we join you in your mission.

C: Let your family of believers grow and expand in this community and around the world.

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 in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. 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

O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee
CW #316

1 O Je - sus, bless - ed Lord, to thee My heart - felt
2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is
thanks for - ev - er be, Who hast so lov - ing - ly
come to me this day! My Sav - ior dwells with - in
be - stowed On me thy bod - y and thy blood.
my heart— How blest am I! How good thou art!

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 - tles 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

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun
CW #84 (Verses 1-4)



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made And end - less
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue Praise his great
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: The pris - 'ner



ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom stretch from
prais - es crown his head; His name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song, And in - fant voic - es
leaps, un - loosed his chains, The wea - ry find e -



shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise With ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
ter - nal rest, And all who suf - fer want are blest.

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.

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 18th, at 10am. This service is designed for the special needs community and their caregivers. If you would like to help with this service, please speak to Pastor Boeder.

Christmas Undecorating

We will be undecorating from Christmas today after worship. If you would be willing to stick around to help, it would be greatly appreciated!

Revelation Bible Study

Confused by the many interpretations of Revelation? In January and February, our Sunday morning Bible study will gain insight into the meaning of this comforting book. As this is often a misunderstood section of the Bible, invite a friend to join you in learning more.



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Ascension is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.



www.wels.net



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