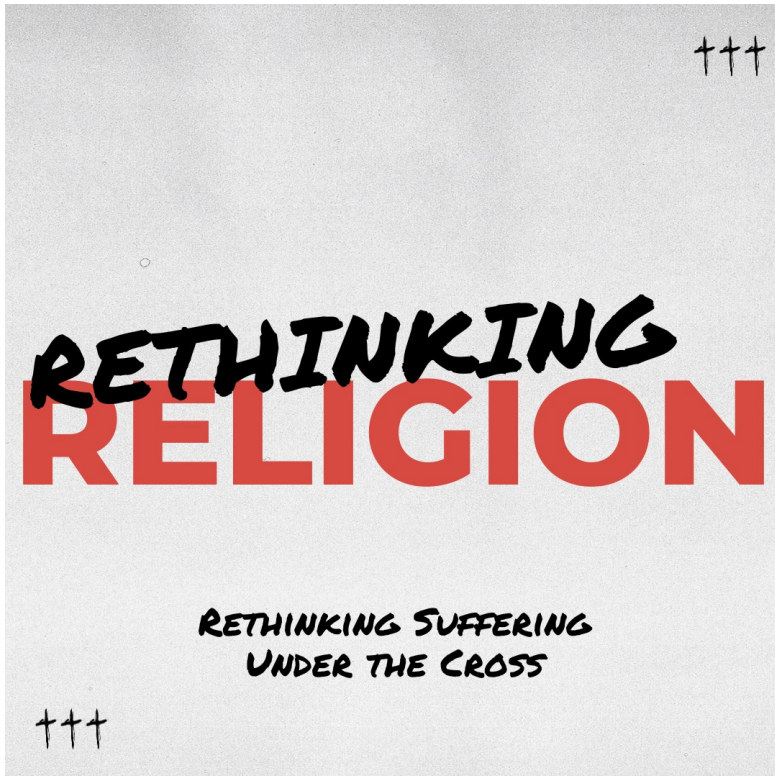




Ascension  
Lutheran Church



February 25, 2024

# Ascension Lutheran Church

## *Today's Theme: Rethinking Suffering Under the Cross*

### **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:**

We know that the cross was an instrument of torture and execution. However, Scripture also uses the term "cross" to refer to any suffering that one endures because he is believer: the painful denial of the desires of the flesh; ridicule and persecution from unbelievers; etc. This is one reason people reject religion. They see Christians struggling in life with these crosses, while non-Christians often seem perfectly happy. Even the prophet Jeremiah asked, "Why do all the faithless live at ease?" (*Jeremiah 12:1*).

Today, Jesus asks us to rethink suffering under the cross. It is not pointless pain. Our crosses are not how we pay for sin. Jesus already did that on his cross. Our crosses are not redemptive, but they are constructive. Any suffering unbelievers face is only bad, a foretaste of worse to come. But the suffering believers face under the cross is only good, a way Christ connects us tightly to himself with fire-tested faith.

### **Serving in Worship**

Pastor John Boeder

Pianist: Bethel Boeder

Cantor: Lori Pike

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# Opening Hymn

# Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken CW #465



1 Je - sus, I my cross have tak - en,  
 2 Let the world de - spise and leave me;  
 3 Go, then, earth - ly fame and trea - sure!  
 4 Haste, my soul, from grace to glo - ry,



All to leave and fol - low you. Des - ti -  
 They have left my Sav - ior, too. Hu - man  
 Come, dis - as - ter, scorn, and pain! In your  
 Armed by faith and winged by prayer. All but



tute, de - spised, for - sak - en, You on  
 hearts and looks de - ceive me; You are  
 ser - vice pain is plea - sure; With your  
 heav'n is tran - si - to - ry; God's own



earth once suf - fered, too. Per - ish ev - 'ry  
 not, like them, un - true. And since you have  
 fa - vor loss is gain. I have called you this  
 hand shall guide you there. Soon shall end this



fond am - bi - tion, All I've ev - er  
 smiled up - on me, God of wis - dom,  
 Ab - ba, Fa - ther! You my all in  
 earth - ly sto - ry; Swift shall pass the



hoped or known; Yet how rich is my con -  
 love, and might, Foes may hate and friends may  
 all shall be. Storms may howl, and clouds may  
 pil - grim days, Hope soon change to heav'n - ly



di - tion! God and heav'n are still my own.  
 shun me— Show your face, and all is bright.  
 gath - er; All must work for good to me.  
 glo - ry, Faith to sight and prayer to praise.

*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: Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.
- C: **Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.**

**I am truly sorry for my sins.  
I repent of them.  
I beg for your mercy, O Lord.**

*Silence for meditation*

P: Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

**C: Cleanse me from my sins.**

**Release me from my guilt.**

**Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.**

P: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. 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 see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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**

**The Passion History**

Matthew 26:36-56  
*The Visual Bible*

## Psalm of the Day

## Psalm 22

*Refrain*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

*Psalm tone*

\*

### *Refrain*

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?\*

Why are you so far from saving me?

I am a worm and not a man,\*

scorned by men and despised by the people.

All who see me mock me;\*

they hurl insults, shaking their heads:

“He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him.\*

Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.”

### *Refrain*

My strength is dried up, and my tongue sticks  
to the roof of my mouth;\*

you lay me in the dust of death.

A band of evil men has encircled me,\*

they have pierced my hands and my feet.

They divide my garments among them\*  
and cast lots for my clothing.

But you, O LORD, be not far off;\*

O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

**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**

Mark 8:34

**C: Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.**

**Gospel**

Mark 8:31-38

<sup>31</sup> He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

<sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

<sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>38</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated*

# Hymn of the Day

## Lord, You I Love with All My Heart CW #434



1 Lord, you I love with all my heart; I pray you ne'er from  
2 Lord God, 'twas your rich boun-ty gave My bod-y, soul, and  
3 Lord, let at last your an-gels come; To A-bram's bos-om



me de-part; With ten-der mer-cies cheer me. Earth has no  
all I have In this poor life of la-bor. Lord, grant that  
bear me home That I may die un-fear-ing. And in its



plea-sure I would share; Heav-en it-self were void and bare  
I in ev-'ry place May glo-ri-fy your lav-ish grace  
nar-row cham-ber keep My bod-y safe in peace-ful sleep



If you, Lord, were not near me. And should my heart for  
And serve and help my neigh-bor. Let no false doc-trine  
Un-til your re-ap-pear-ing. And then from death a-



sor-row break, My trust in you no one could shake.  
me be-guile; Let Sa-tan not my soul de-file.  
wak-en me That my own eyes with joy may see,



You are the trea-sure I have sought; Your pre-cious blood my  
Give strength and pa-tience un-to me To bear my cross-es  
O Son of God, your glo-rious face, My Sav-ior and my



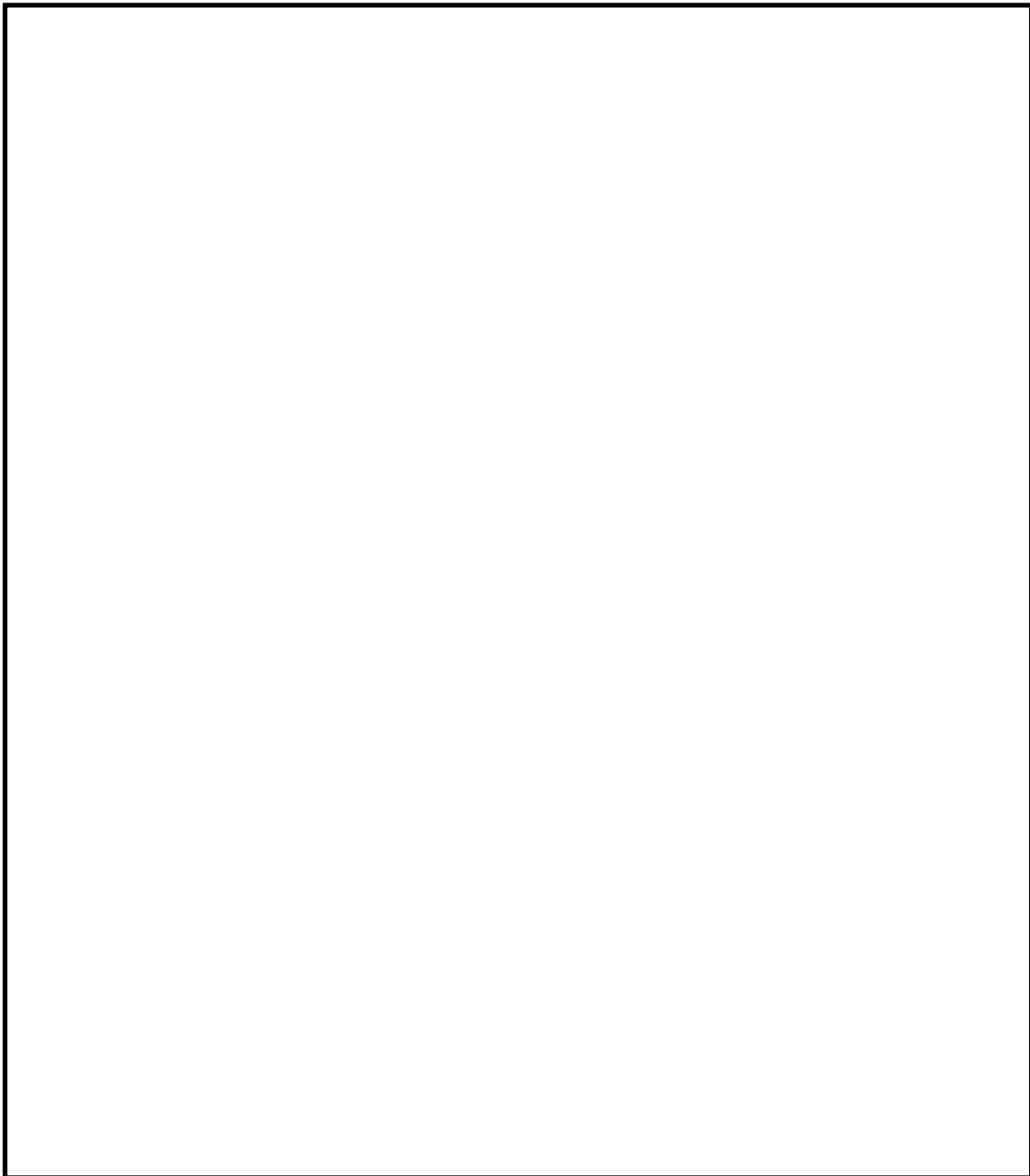
soul has bought. Lord Je-sus Christ, My God and Lord,  
will-ing-ly. Lord Je-sus Christ, My God and Lord,  
Fount of grace. Lord Je-sus Christ, My prayer at-tend,



my God and Lord, For-sake me not! I trust your Word.  
my God and Lord, For-sake me not! I trust your Word.  
my prayer at-tend, And I will praise you with-out end.



Rethinking Suffering Under the Cross



*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

### 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

## *What God Ordains Is Always Good* CW #429



1 What God or - dains is al - ways good; His  
 2 What God or - dains is al - ways good; He  
 3 What God or - dains is al - ways good; He  
 4 What God or - dains is al - ways good. Though  
 5 What God or - dains is al - ways good; This



will is just and ho - ly. As he di - rects my  
 nev - er will de - ceive me. He leads me in his  
 is my friend and Fa - ther. He will not let me  
 I the cup am drink - ing Which sa - vors now of  
 truth re - mains un - shak - en. Though sor - row, need, or



life for me, I fol - low meek and low - ly. My  
 right - eous way And nev - er will he leave me. I  
 suf - fer harm Though man - y storms may gath - er. Now  
 bit - ter - ness, I take it with - out shrink - ing. For  
 death be mine, I shall not be for - sak - en. I



God in - deed In ev - 'ry need Knows well how he  
 take con - tent What he has sent; His hand that sends  
 I may know Both joy and woe; Some day I shall  
 af - ter grief God grants re - lief, My heart with com -  
 fear no harm, For with his arm He will em - brace



will shield me; To him, then, I will yield me.  
 me sad - ness Will turn my tears to glad - ness.  
 see clear - ly That he has loved me dear - ly.  
 fort fill - ing And all my sor - row still - ing.  
 and shield me; So to my God I yield me.

# Announcements

## **Easter Candy Donations**

Our Easter egg hunt is back this year on March 30th! We would like to fill the eggs with little candies. If you are able to donate candy or funds to go toward the purchase of candy, please speak to Bethel Boeder or Kellie Watson.

## **High School Choir**

We're excited to be hosting a group of choir students from Luther High School in Onalaska, Wisconsin, during Holy Week in March. They will be singing during our Good Friday and Easter services. They will also be helping us with our egg hunt during that time.

## **Holy Week Schedule**

Palm Sunday (March 24th) - 9am

Maundy Thursday (March 28th) - To Be Determined\*

Good Friday (March 29th) - 7pm

Easter Sunday (March 31st) - 9am

*\*The time of this service will be determined based on when the students from Luther High School will arrive. They will be flying in that evening, and we would like for them to be able to join us for worship and Communion. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility.*

## **Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Chorus**

The Seminary Chorus will be singing at California Lutheran High School on Tuesday, March 26th, at 9:36am, for the high school's morning chapel. You are invited to attend!

For 91 years the Seminary Chorus has represented Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in congregations and schools throughout the country. Accompanied by a variety of instruments, the 51-voice choir sings classics from the past as well as new music from today. Best of all, their songs proclaim the grace of God who sent his Son Jesus to save us all.

Wherever they travel, these young men are eager to talk about the work they do to prepare to serve as pastors. They're thankful for the school they attend and the training and experience it gives them. They also appreciate the people who support them with gifts and prayers. They will be honored if you come to hear them sing and thrilled if you sing with them.

California Lutheran High School Presents...

# Beauty and the Beast

# BED & BREAKFAST

BY PAUL MELOON

Friday, Mar. 15

10:30 am LES Performance

Saturday, Mar. 16

6:00 pm

Sunday, Mar. 17

3:00 pm

Adults \$5 Students \$3 under age 5 free  
Tickets sold at the door.

[www.clhsonline.net](http://www.clhsonline.net)

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1140 N. Midway Drive  
Escondido, CA 92027

760-747-4276

Church email: [office@myascension.org](mailto:office@myascension.org)

Pastor John Boeder  
Email: [boederjc@mlc-wels.edu](mailto:boederjc@mlc-wels.edu)  
Cell: 507-404-0624

[www.myascension.org](http://www.myascension.org)

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