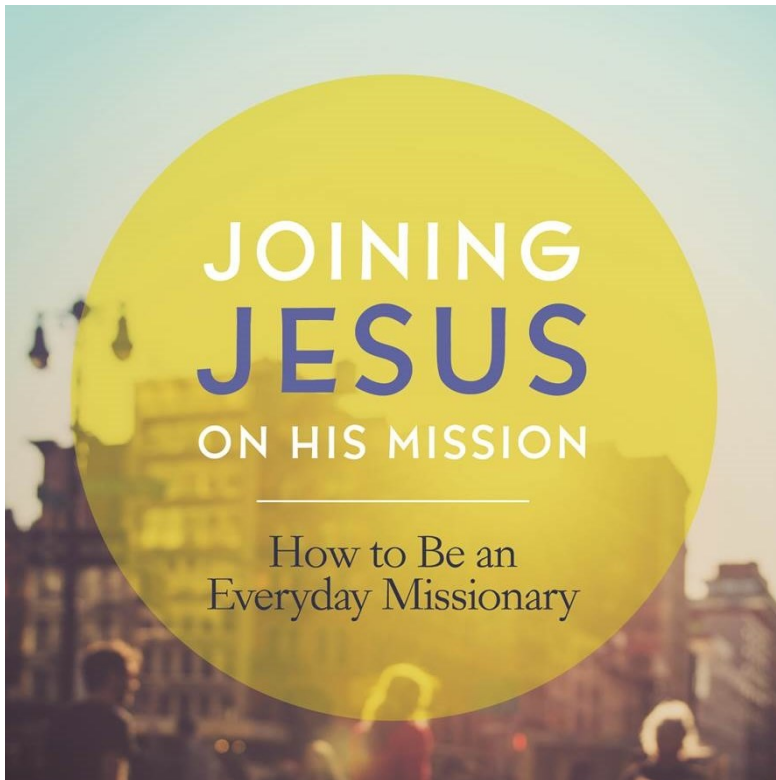




Ascension
Lutheran Church



February 4, 2024

Ascension Lutheran Church

Today's Theme: Unleash God's Powerful Word

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

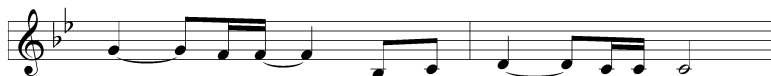
Pastor John Boeder
Pianist: Bethel Boeder
Cantor: Lori Pike

Opening Hymn

Speak, O Lord
CWS #735



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you To re-
2 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, Ho - ly
3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; Help us



ceive the food of your Ho - ly Word.
rev - er - ence, true hu - mil - i - ty.
grasp the heights of your plans for us.



Take your truth, plant it deep in us; Shape and
Test our thoughts and our at - ti - tudes In the
Truths un - changed from the dawn of time, That will



fash - ion us in your like - ness That the
ra - di - ance of your pur - i - ty. Cause our
e - cho down through e - ter - ni - ty. And by



light of Christ might be seen to - day In our acts of
faith to rise, cause our eyes to see Your ma - jes - tic
grace we'll stand on your pro - mis - es, And by faith we'll



love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can
walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, as your



fill in us All your pur - pos - es for your
nev - er fail, Let their truth pre - vail o - ver
Church is built And you fill the earth with your



glo - ry.
un - be - lief.
glo - ry.

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: Heavenly Father, keep your family continually in true faith, so that those who rely only on the hope of your heavenly grace may be protected by your mighty power; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 55:6-13

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. ⁷Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

⁸“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD.

⁹“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. ¹²You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the LORD’s renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever.”

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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.

Second Reading

Romans 10:13-15, 17

¹³ For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 40:31

C: Alleluia. Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles. Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 7:24-29

²⁴“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

Lord, Speak to Us that We May Speak
CW #561



1 Lord, speak to us that we may speak In liv - ing
2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead The wan-d'ring
3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach The pre - cious
4 Oh, fill us with your full - ness, Lord, Un - til our

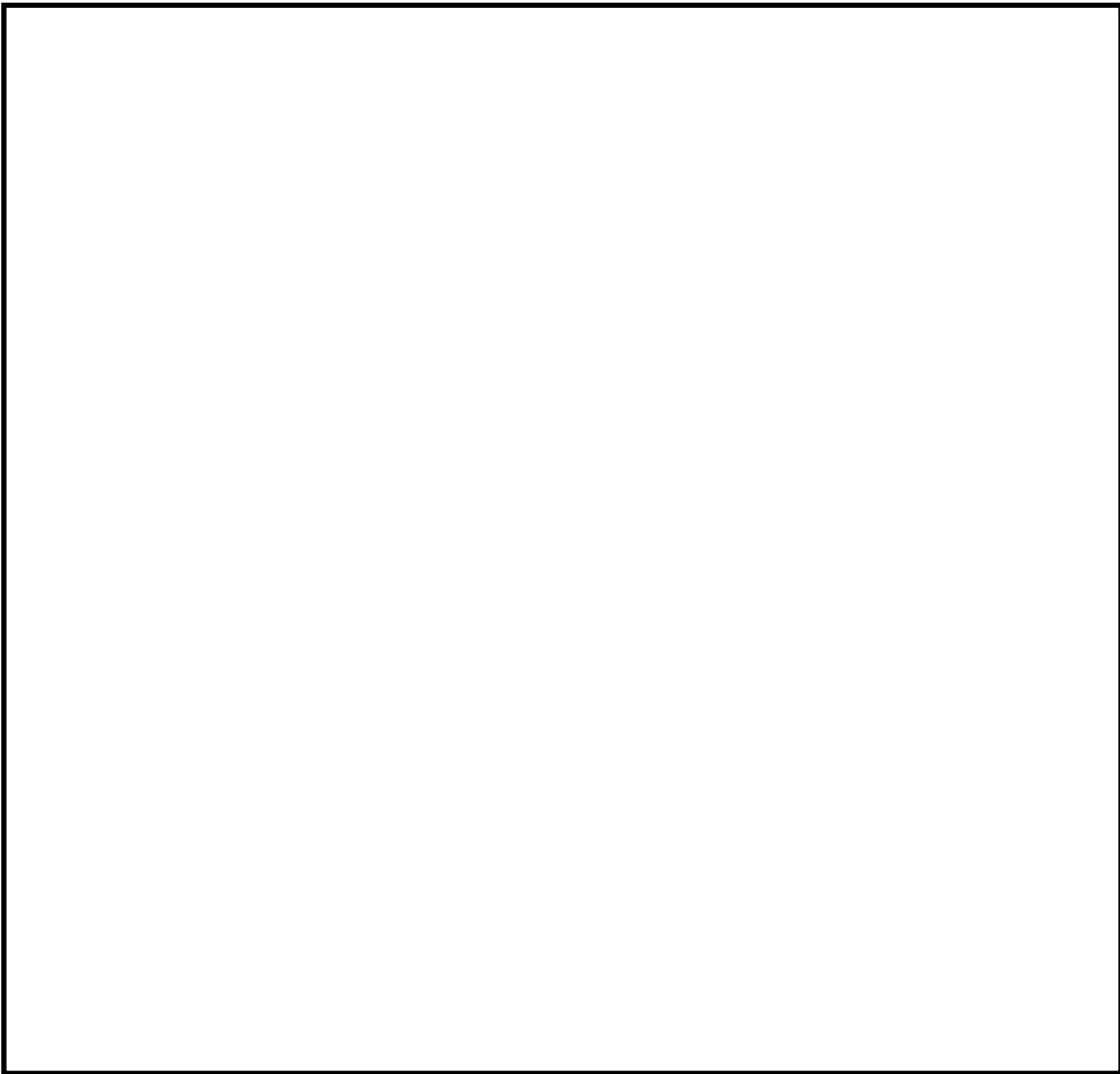


ech - oes of your tone. As you have sought, so
and the wa - v'ring feet. Oh, feed us, Lord, that
truths which you im - part, And wing our words that
ver - y hearts o'er - flow In kin - dling thought and



let us seek Your stray - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
we may feed Your hun-g'ring ones with man - na sweet.
they may reach The hid - den depths of man - y a heart.
glow - ing word Your love to tell, your praise to show.

Join Jesus on His Mission: Unleash God’s Powerful Word



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.

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 trust your Word's power 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.

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

Sent Forth by God's Blessings
CW #318



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, Our true faith con -
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing, To God ev - er -



fess - ing, The peo - ple of God from his dwell - ing take
liv - ing, The tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will



leave. The sup - per is end - ed; Oh, be now ex -
face. Our faith ev - er shar - ing, In love ev - er



tend - ed The fruits of this ser - vice in all who be -
car - ing, Em - brac - ing his chil - dren of each tribe and



lieve. The seed of his teach - ing, Re - cep -
race. With your feast you feed us; With your



tive souls reach - ing, Shall blos - som in ac - tion for
light now lead us; U - nite us as one in this



God and for all. His grace did in - vite us; His
life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing With



love shall u - nite us To work for God's
praise and thanks - giv - ing Give hon - or to



king - dom and an - swer his call.
Christ and his name that we bear.

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

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.

Revelation Bible Study

We'll resume our Bible study on Revelation this morning at 10:15am. You're invited to join in!

5 Practices for Joining Jesus on His Mission

- 1) Seek His Kingdom—open your eyes to what Jesus is doing in your life and the lives of others
- 2) Hear from Jesus—listen to Jesus' words in the Gospels
- 3) Talk with People—make connections and spread God's powerful Word
- 4) Do Good—as you go through life, help as you are able
- 5) Minister through Prayer—pray for and with the people in your life

Ash Wednesday

You're invited to begin the season of Lent with us on February 14th. We'll have worship at 7pm. We will be offering the imposition of ashes during the service for anyone who would like to participate in this symbolic expression of repentance and faith.



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Ascension is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.



www.wels.net



www.academiacristo.com