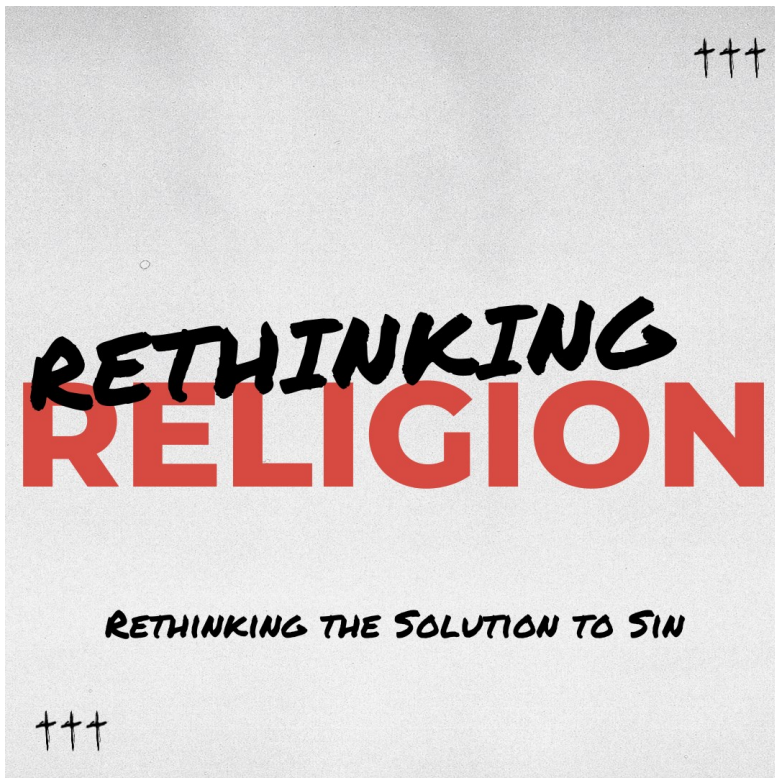




Ascension  
Lutheran Church



March 10, 2024

# Ascension Lutheran Church

## *Today's Theme: Rethinking the Solution to Sin*

### **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:**

While not every religion uses the word "sin," they all embrace the concept. Every religion acknowledges that mankind's flawed attitudes or misguided actions are a source of pain, both now and potentially in eternity. So, every religion offers a solution: a set of laws, a moral code, a path to more enlightened behavior. What do they have in common? We are to solve sin through human effort. Be better! Try harder! This is the heart of every false religion. Those who correctly understand they will never overcome their sin are crushed by guilt. Those who ludicrously believe they have defeated their sin are killed by pride.

True religion offers a better way—one that frees us from guilt and has no room for pride. Jesus teaches that the solution to our sin is not to work harder. It is to trust in the work he has done for us. Salvation comes through Spirit-wrought faith in Christ.

### **Serving in Worship**

Pastor John Boeder

Pianist: Bethel Boeder

Cantor: Rachel Smith and Gisele Wozniak

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# Opening Hymn

*Jesus, Refuge of the Weary*  
CW #108



1 Je - sus, Ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,  
2 Dare we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -  
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent



whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry,  
pent - ant vow, As we see you wound - ed, bleed - ing,  
love for you! May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing



Sav - ior from the world a - bove, Oh, how oft your  
See your thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Since your sin - less  
To be - hold your cross a - new, Till in glo - ry,



eyes, of - fend - ed, Gaze up - on a sin - ner's fall! Yet, up -  
death has brought us Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest, On - ly  
part - ed nev - er From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en



on the cross ex - tend - ed, You en - dured the pain of all.  
what your grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.  
in our hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied!

*Stand*

## Opening Words

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

P: God be merciful to us, for we have sinned.

C: **For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.**

P: Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

C: **Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.**

P: Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

C: **Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.**

P: Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

C: **Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit.**

P: When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

C: **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.**

P: Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD”— and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore, in the name and by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, 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:** Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; 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 27:1-26  
*The Visual Bible*

## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 32

*Refrain*

Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O Lord;  
re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.

*Psalm tone* \*

### *Refrain*

**Remember your mercy, O Lord;  
remember your mercy and love.**

**Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,\*  
whose sins are covered.**

**When I kept silent, your hand was heavy upon me;\*  
my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.**

**Then I acknowledged my sin to you\*  
and did not cover up my iniquity.**

**I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”\*  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

### *Refrain*

**You are my hiding place;\*  
you will protect me from trouble.**

**Many are the woes of the wicked,\*  
but the LORD’S unfailing love surrounds those who trust in him.**

**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**

John 3:16

**C: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

**Gospel**

John 3:14-21

<sup>14</sup>Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

<sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup>Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. <sup>19</sup>This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated*

# Hymn of the Day

# God Loved the World So that He Gave

CW #391



1 God loved the world so that he gave His on - ly  
2 Christ is the sol - id rock of faith, Who was made  
3 God would not have the sin - ner die— His Son with  
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives the  
5 When you are sick, when death draws near, This truth your



Son the lost to save That all who would in  
flesh and suf - fered death. All who con - fide in  
sav - ing grace is nigh. His Spir - it in  
sins that you have done. You're jus - ti - fied by  
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus saves my

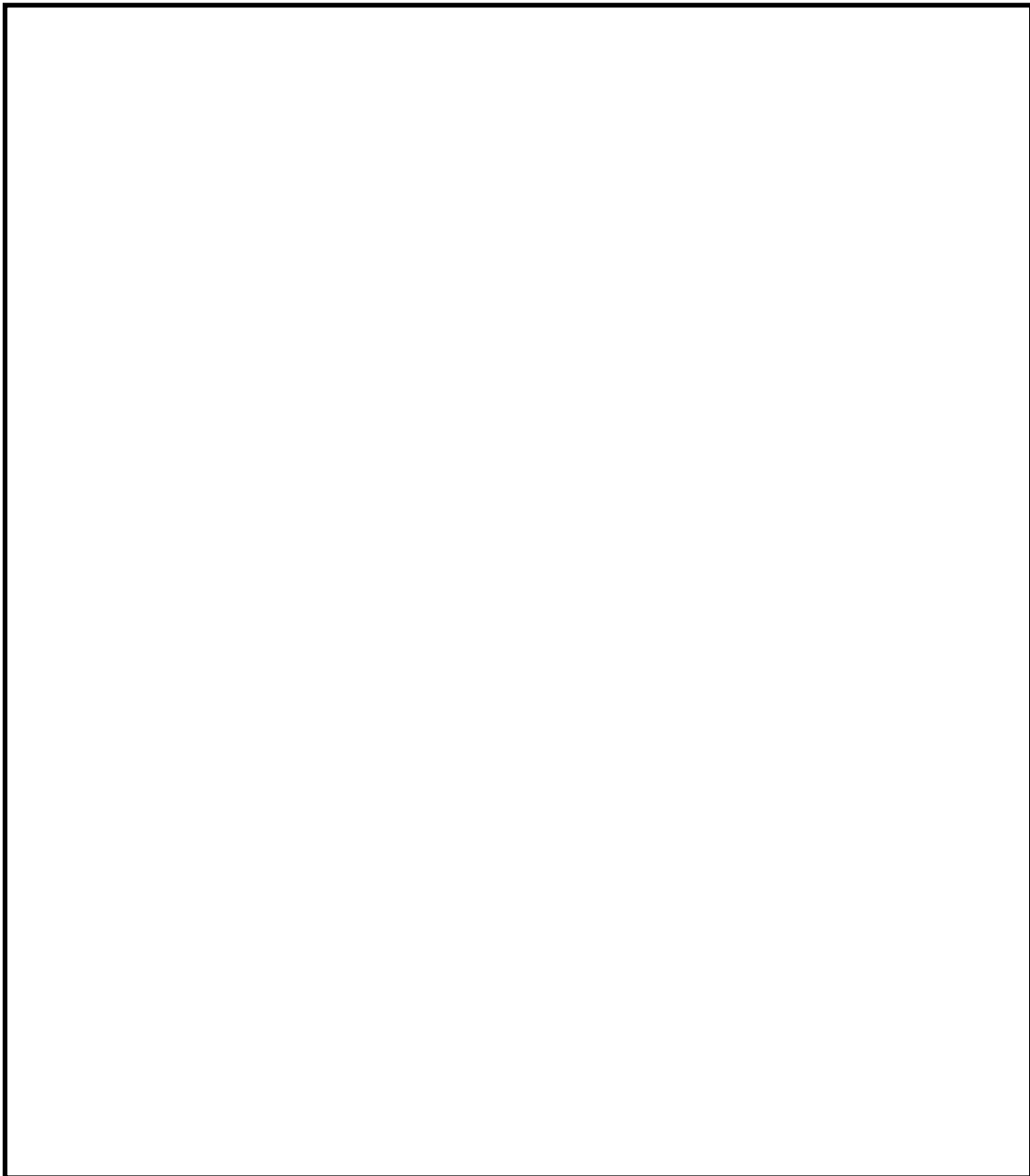


him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
Word does teach How we the bless - ed goal may reach.  
Je - sus' blood; Bap - tized, you are a child of God.  
soul from death— This is the an - chor of my faith!

6 Glory to God the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To you, O blessed Trinity,  
Be praise now and eternally!



Trust God's Solution for Sin



*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

*There Is a Redeemer*  
CWS #747



1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own  
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, Name a - bove all  
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his



Son,  
names,  
face;  
Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah,  
Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah,  
There I'll serve my King for - ev - er



*Refrain*  
Ho - - ly One.  
Hope for sin - ners slain. Thank you, O my  
In that ho - ly place.



Fa - ther, for giv - ing us your Son and



leav - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

# Announcements

## **Easter Memory Garden**

We'll once again have a memory garden for Easter Sunday. Bring a plant or flower in memory of a loved one, and it will be used to decorate the altar area on Easter. After Easter, it is yours to do with as you wish. You can also donate funds to purchase an Easter lily to decorate for Easter. There will be a sign up sheet for you to indicate in whose honor your plant was given. Gifts for lilies can go to Glenda Lichtenwald.

## **Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Chorus**

The Seminary Chorus will be performing at Reformation Lutheran Church in San Diego on Monday, March 25th, at 7pm. Additionally, they will be singing at California Lutheran High School on Tuesday, March 26th, at 10:15am. They will be honored if you come to hear them sing and thrilled if you sing with them.

## **Bible Study on Anxiety**

A WELS member, William Woodington, has written a book on the topic of anxiety (*Whatever Is True: A Christian View of Anxiety*). He will be presenting the main themes of that book in our Sunday morning Bible study on Sunday, March 24th.

## **Revelation Bible Study**

Our Sunday morning Bible study on Revelation will wrap up next Sunday. Join us over the next two weeks as we see glimpses of eternal glory in the last couple chapters of this book.

## **Soul Sisters**

Soul Sisters will meet this Thursday, March 14th, at 7pm, in the Mural Room. Even if you haven't had time to work through all the material, you're highly encouraged to still come!

## **Sacred Spring Concert**

Everyone is invited to attend California Lutheran High School's Sacred Spring Concert: *Who Is This King?* on Sunday, March 24th, at 4pm. Follow our Savior's path to the cross and rejoice in his resurrection.

## **LWMS Spring Rally**

On Saturday, April 27th, a group from Ascension will carpool to Living Word in Mission Viejo for the LWMS (Lutheran Women's Missionary Society) Pacific Southwest Circuit's Spring Rally. The rally will begin at 9am. It will include a continental breakfast, devotion, guest speaker, a business meeting with election and installation of new officers, and will conclude with lunch.

## **Joining Jesus on His Mission**

Let's invite our friends, relatives, neighbors, and associates to celebrate Easter at Ascension. Special invitations are being printed and will be available next Sunday for you to use. For now, here are the details:

Good Friday Tenebrae Service (with special music)—Friday, March 29th @ 7pm

Easter Egg Hunt—Saturday, March 30th @ 10am

Easter Sunday Service (with special music)—Sunday, March 31st @ 9am

Easter Sunday Brunch (free)—Sunday, March 31st @ 10:30am

## **Easter Egg Hunt**

Join us for a morning of free family fun as we host a community Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 30th, at 10am. This event is open to all kids, ages 2-12, and their parents. We'll have the Easter story, a high school choir singing, sidewalk chalk, and plenty of treats inside the eggs. You can register in advance ([myascension.org/easter](http://myascension.org/easter)) or at the event.

## **Help at the Egg Hunt**

We are blessed to have a group of 25 high school students and chaperones from Wisconsin coming to help with our egg hunt. We have a group of young people in our own congregation who are eager to serve. Plus, we have a group of seasoned veterans who have successfully accomplished egg hunts at Ascension for years. This is great, because we're going to need all the help we can get! Look for details on how you can help in the most recent Weekly Update email.

## **Easter Brunch**

There is a sign-up sheet in the entryway if you are willing and able to bring food to share for our Easter brunch.

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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Produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc., Englewood, Colorado



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