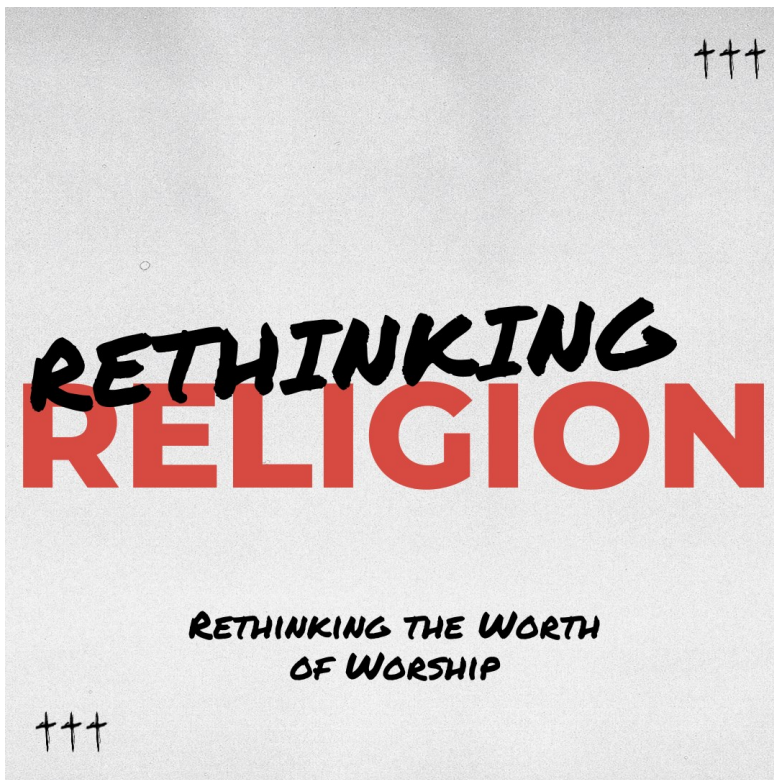




Ascension
Lutheran Church



March 3, 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:".

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.

Explanation of Today's Theme:

Many think worship is about what we do for God. It is the other way around. As we gather around Word and sacrament, the Spirit moves us to love and trust in God above all things. Moved by the cross of Christ, we bow down before our God. We commune with him. And that's exactly what God wants.

Serving in Worship

Pastor John Boeder

Pianist: Christina Schroeder

Cantor: Hans & Bethel Boeder

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Opening Hymn

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word
CW #221



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at your Word We are gath - ered
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est
3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light from Light, from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, Praise to you and



all to hear you. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed Till your Spir - it breaks our night
God pro - ceed - ing, O - pen now our heart and mind;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we your Word may trust,



Now to seek and love and fear you, By your teach - ings,
With the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to
Help us by your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry your
Con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, While we here be -



sweet and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love you sole - ly.
God can win us; You must work all good with - in us.
peo - ple rais - es; Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.
low must wan - der, Till we sing your prais - es 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: 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: Grant us, Lord, the spirit to think and do what is right that we, who cannot do anything that is good without you, may by your help be enabled to live according to your will; 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 26:57-75
The Visual Bible

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 19

P: The heavens declare the glory of God;

C: the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

P: Day after day they pour forth speech;

C: night after night they reveal knowledge.

P: The law of the Lord is perfect,

C: refreshing the soul.

P: The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,

C: making wise the simple.

P: The precepts of the Lord are right,

C: giving joy to the heart.

P: The commands of the Lord are radiant,

C: giving light to the eyes.

P: They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;

C: they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.

P: By them your servant is warned;

C: in keeping them there is great reward.

P: Keep your servant also from willful sins;

C: may they not rule over me.

P: May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart

C: be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

John 2:17

C: His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

Gospel

John 2:13-22

¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”

²⁰ They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

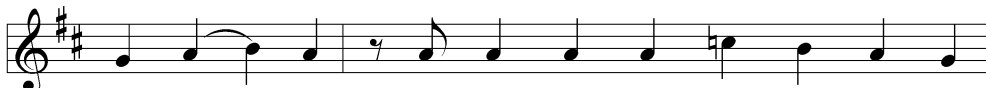
Be seated

Hymn of the Day

Salvation unto Us Has Come CW #390 (Verses 1-3, 5)



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace
2 What God does in his law de - mand And none to him
3 It is a false, mis - lead - ing dream That God his law
5 Since Christ has full a - tone - ment made And brought to us



and fa - vor. Good works can - not a - vert our doom;
can ren - der Brings wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand
has giv - en That sin - ners can them - selves re - deem
sal - va - tion, Each Chris - tian there - fore may be glad



They help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to
For man, the vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has
And by their works gain heav - en. The law is
And build on this foun - da - tion. Your grace a -

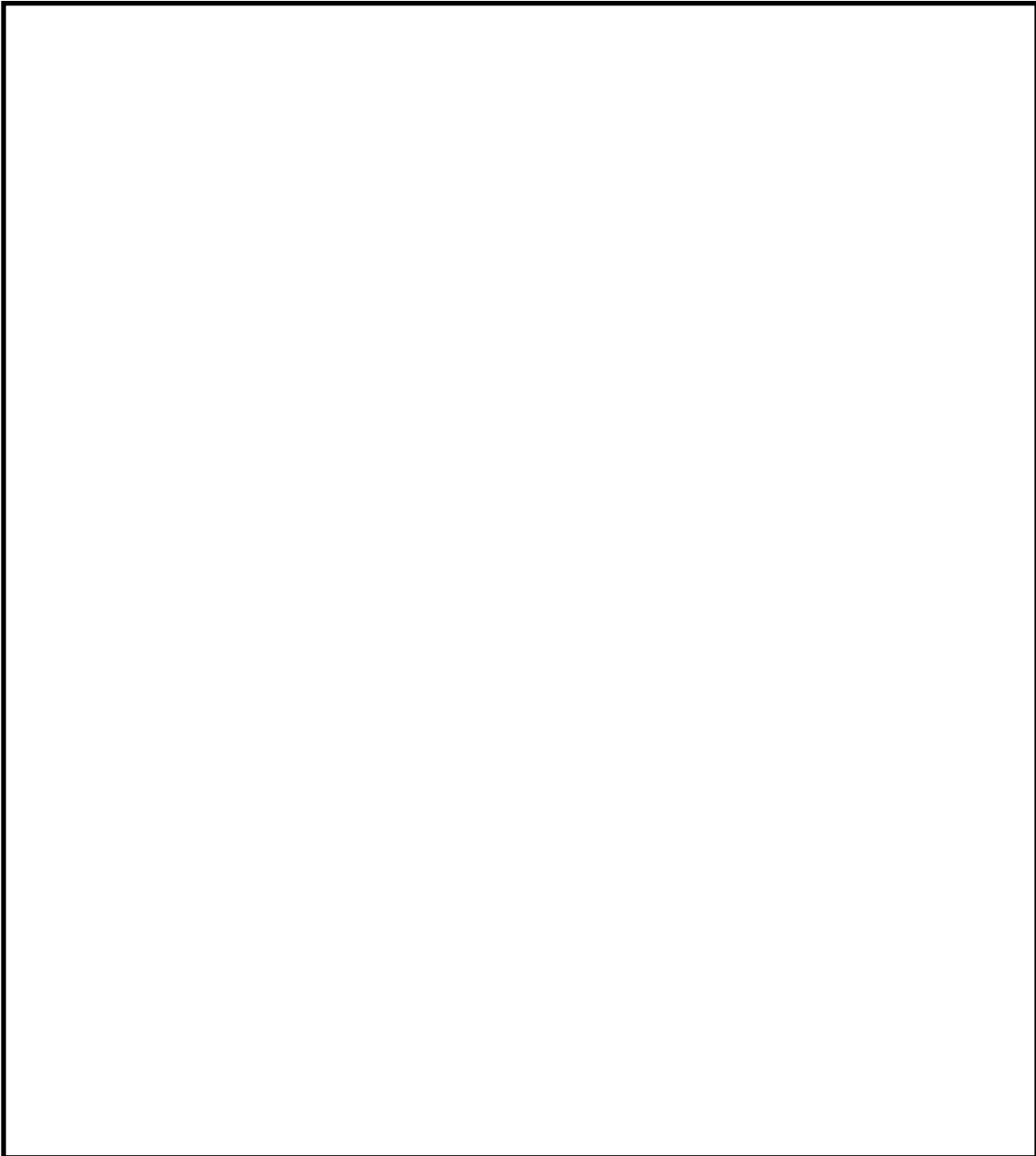


Je - sus Christ a - lone, Who did for all the
not those pure de - sires The spir - it of the
but a mir - ror bright To bring the in - bred
lone, dear Lord, I plead; Your death is now my



world a - tone; He is the one Re - deem - er.
law re - quires, And lost is our con - di - tion.
sin - to light That lurks with - in our na - ture.
life in - deed, For you have paid my ran - som.

Rethinking the Worth of Worship



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

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 brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome.

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

I Come, O Savior, to Your Table
CW #310 (Verses 11-13)

Your body, giv'n for me, O Savior, Your blood, which you for me have shed—
These are my life and strength forever; By them my hungry soul is fed.
Lord, may your body and your blood Be for my soul the highest good!

With you, Lord, I am now united; I live in you and you in me.
No sorrow fills my soul; delighted, It finds its peace on Calvary.
Lord, may your body and your blood Be for my soul the highest good!

Who can condemn me now? For surely The Lord is near, who justifies.
No hell I fear, and thus securely With Jesus I to heaven rise.
Lord, may your body and your blood Be for my soul the highest good!

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. If you do desire to commune with us, please speak to the pastor after the service. Gluten-free bread is available by request.

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.

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.

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 with brunch at 10:30am

Spring Drama Performance

The CLHS Drama Department is hard at work on this spring's production of *Beauty and the Beast Bed & Breakfast*. Make plans to support these students by attending a performance!

- March 16 @ 6pm
- March 17 @ 3pm

Tickets will be available at the door only (no pre-purchase).

- Adults - \$5
- Students - \$3
- Under 5 - Free

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. There will be a food competition—each congregation is asked to bring one submission for the best bar cookie. We will also be collecting donations in advance, starting in April, to go toward our circuit's designated Home and World Missions.

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.

Our guest speaker will be Pastor Neil Birkholz. He will be speaking on bringing the Gospel to the Asian communities that have left their home countries.

Revelation Bible Study

Our Sunday morning Bible study on Revelation will wrap up on March 17th.

Bilingual Pastor Update

Our plans to call a bilingual pastor to Ascension are proceeding. We should know in April if our request for funds to call a pastor for three years has been approved.



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Ascension is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.



www.wels.net



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