



**Ascension**  
Lutheran Church



**April 21, 2024**

# Ascension Lutheran Church

## *Resurrection Reality: Your Good Shepherd Knows You*

### **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:**

Scripture frequently pictures spiritual care in terms of a shepherd watching over sheep. Even folks unfamiliar with shepherding understand. For sheep to survive, they need a shepherd who not only leads them to sources of food but who also is willing to tangle with a pack of wolves. Jesus is such a shepherd. He laid down his life for his sheep. Today he also raises up pastoral shepherds who know Christ and proclaim the truth of his gospel to his sheep.

### **Serving in Worship**

Pastor John Boeder

Pianist: Bethel Boeder

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# Opening Hymn

## *Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep* CW #436



1 Je - sus, shep - herd of the sheep, Who your  
2 In your prom - ise firm we stand; None can  
3 By your blood our souls were bought; By your  
4 Fa - ther, draw us to your Son; We with  
5 We, in robes of glo - ry dressed, Join th' as -



Fa - ther's flock does keep, Safe we wake and  
take us from your hand. Speak— we hear— at  
life sal - va - tion wrought; By your light our  
joy will fol - low on Till the work of  
sem - bly of the blest, Gath - ered to e -



safe we sleep, Guard - ed still by you.  
your com - mand, We will fol - low you.  
feet are taught, Lord, to fol - low you.  
grace is done, There to live with you.  
ter - nal rest In the fold with you.

*Stand*

## Opening Words

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

**C: Amen.**

P: Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

**C: You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth!**

P: Stir up your might,

**C: and come to save us!**

P: Shepherd your people with your staff, O Lord;

**C: the flock that belongs to you.**

P: For this is what the Lord God says:

**C: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them.**

P: I will search for the lost and bring back the strays.

**C: I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak.**

P: I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them.

**C: They shall no longer fear or be dismayed.**

P: Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

**C: You who sit enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth!**

## Confession and Absolution

P: Dear friends, let us approach our God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, to forgive us.

C: **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me for Jesus' sake.**

P: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## Lord, Have Mercy

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: **Christ, have mercy.**

P: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: **Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **THE WORD**

### **First Reading**

Acts 20:28-32

*The good shepherd asks his under-shepherds to keep watch over the flock.*

<sup>28</sup>Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. <sup>29</sup>I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. <sup>30</sup>Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. <sup>31</sup>So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

<sup>32</sup>“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

P: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

# Hymn

## *I Am Jesus' Little Lamb* CW #432



1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb; Ev - er glad at heart I  
2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my staff and  
3 Who so hap - py as I am, E - ven now the shep-herd's



am, For my shep - herd gent - ly guides me, Knows my  
stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me, In - to  
lamb? And when my short life is end - ed, By his



needs and well pro - vides me, Loves me ev - 'ry  
pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; When I thirst, he  
an - gel hosts at - tend - ed, He shall fold me



day the same, E - ven calls me by my name.  
bids me go Where the qui - et wa - ters flow.  
to his breast, There with - in his arms to rest.

## Second Reading

1 John 4:1-6

*St. John encourages us to test all those who claim to have a spiritual message. Not all such individuals have been sent by God.*

<sup>1</sup> Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup> This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup> but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

<sup>4</sup> You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. <sup>5</sup> They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup> We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

John 10:14

C: **Alleluia. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. Alleluia.**



## Gospel

John 10:11-18

*Jesus explains why he is the Good Shepherd.*

<sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. <sup>13</sup>The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

<sup>14</sup>“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated*

# Hymn of the Day

## *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* CW #375



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose  
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My  
3 Con - fused and fool - ish oft I strayed, But  
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With  
5 You spread a ta - ble in my sight, A



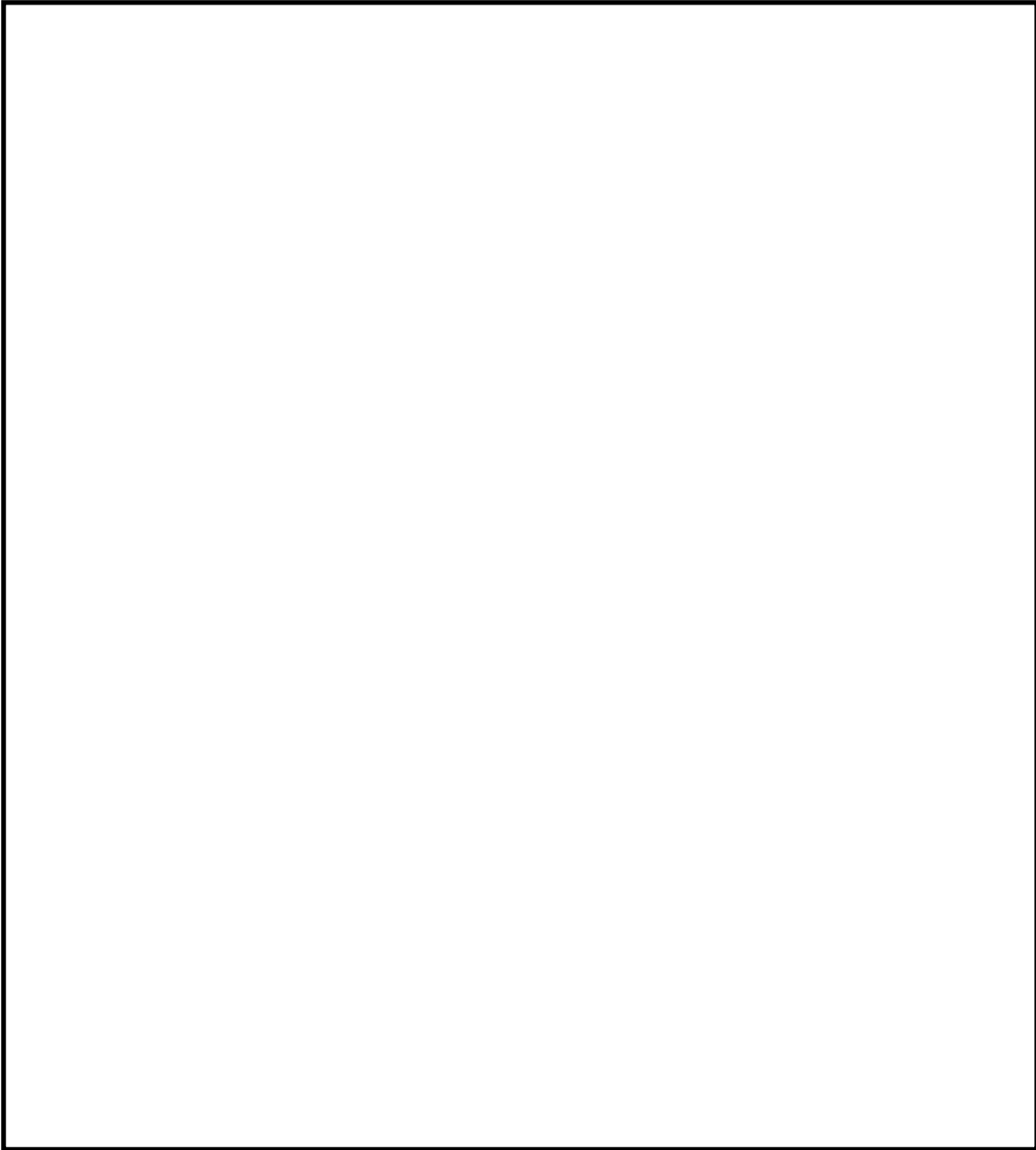
good - ness fails me nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
Sav - ior gent - ly leads me; And where the ver - dant  
yet in love he sought me And on his shoul - der  
you, dear Lord, be - side me; Your rod and staff my  
ban - quet here be - stow - ing; Your oil of wel - come,



I am his, And he is mine for - ev - er.  
pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feeds me.  
gent - ly laid And home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
com - fort still, Your cross be - fore to guide me.  
my de - light; My cup is o - ver - flow - ing!

6 And so through all the length of days  
Your goodness fails me never.  
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise  
Within your house forever!

I Know My Sheep and My Sheep Know Me



*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, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life.

### 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

*The Lord's My Shepherd; I'll Not Want*  
CW #360



1 The Lord's my shep - herd; I'll not want. He  
2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain And  
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet  
4 My ta - ble thou hast fur - nish - ed In  
5 Good - ness and mer - cy, all my life, Shall



makes me down to lie In pas - tures green; he  
me to walk doth make With - in the paths of  
will I fear no ill; For thou art with me,  
pres - ence of my foes; My head thou dost with  
sure - ly fol - low me, And in God's house for -



lead - eth me The qui - et wa - ters by.  
right - eous - ness, E'en for his own name's sake.  
and thy rod And staff me com - fort still.  
oil a - noint, And my cup o - ver - flows.  
ev - er - more My dwell - ing - place shall be.

*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.

## **Soul Sisters**

Soul Sisters will meet this Thursday, April 25th, at 7pm. Come be encouraged by God's Word and fellow sisters in Christ, even if you haven't been able to work through all the material.

## **Congregational Meeting**

We will have a congregational meeting today after worship. Please plan to stay for this important meeting as we hear ministry updates.

## **Coffee Hour**

Jess Reimnitz, from Thrivent Financial for Christians, will be hosting our coffee hour today. He will be available to answer any questions you may have about Thrivent membership or their insurance and investment services. You can reach him at [jess.reimnitz@thrivent.com](mailto:jess.reimnitz@thrivent.com) or by calling 858-345-0757.

## **LWMS Offering**

We are currently collecting an offering in the entryway to go towards the mission projects that the area LWMS ladies choose to support.

## **LWMS Spring Rally**

This Saturday, 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. Please speak to Kellie Watson today if you would like to join the carpool.

This year's guest speaker is Pastor Neil Birkholz. Pastor Birkholz is the North American Asian Ministry Coordinator under the WELS Joint Mission Council and the Diaspora Ministry Facilitator for the WELS Asia One Team under WELS World Missions. He will be speaking on bringing the Gospel to the Asian communities that have left their home countries.



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Ascension is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.



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