

# Ascension Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod



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February 24, 2021

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## Welcome To Our Guest

It is a great joy to have you here tonight. We pray that your time with us has helped to deepen your faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ. If we can be of service to you or your family, we invite you to talk to us at your convenience. You will always be welcome here. Please do us the honor of signing the guest sheet at the podium at the front of the church or at the entrance from the Education Wing.  
Thank you for coming!

February 24, 2021

**WELCOME****PRELUDE****RETURN TO PRAYER**

The season of Lent is a time for self-examination and repentance, and it is a time for prayer. "Prayer is the soul's sincere desire . . . the Christian's vital breath," penned hymnwriter James Montgomery (*TLH* 454:1, 5). But sometimes that holy conversation is interrupted or sidelined from a place of priority in our lives. Even our Lord's closest disciples did not serve Him faithfully as watchers and prayers with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. In this holy season, we return to prayer, treasuring the opportunity to pray without ceasing and leading prayerful lives that reflect the mercy of our heavenly Father, who hears our supplications and responds to them in love.

**+ PREPARATION +***(stand)***HYMN:****"Go To Dark Gethsemane"**

LW 110, vs. 1 &amp; 2

**Go to dark Gethsemane,  
All who feel the Tempter's pow'r;  
Your Redeemer's conflict see.  
Watch with Him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from His griefs away;  
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

**Follow to the judgment hall,  
View the Lord of life arraigned;  
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!  
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!  
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;  
Learn from Him to bear the cross.**

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**INVOCATION**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Joel 2:13; Colossians 4:2; Philipians 4:5–6*

P Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

C **slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.**

P Continue steadfastly in prayer,

C **being watchful in it with thanksgiving.**

P The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything,

C **but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C **Amen.**

## SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God our Father, who in mercy hears all who call on You, graciously open Your ears to our petitions, and lead us by Your Spirit, that without doubting we may persevere in prayer and believingly await Your promised aid; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

*(sit)*

**+ WORD +**

## PSALM

*Psalm 121*

P I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

C **My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

P He will not let your foot be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.

C **Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

P The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

C **The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

P The LORD will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.

C **The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.**

**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.**

## READING

*Romans 8:22–28*

P A reading from Romans, the eighth chapter.

<sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And He who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

<sup>28</sup> We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(stand)

## VERSE FOR LENT

Re - turn to the Lord your God. Re - turn to the Lord your God.

For He is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in

stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 26:36–46*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

A Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to His disciples,

P “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.”

A And taking with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, He began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then He said to them,

P “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with Me.”

A And going a little farther He fell on His face and prayed, saying,

P “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”

A And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And He said to Peter,

P “So, could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

A Again, for the second time, He went away and prayed,

P “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, Your will be done.”

A And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, He went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. Then He came to the disciples and said to them,

P "Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, My betrayer is at hand."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **SERMON HYMN: "Jesus Paid It All"**

*(sit)*

## **SERMON**

*(stand)*

## **OFFERTORY** *(Sing)*

C **What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?**

**I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

## **THE LITANY**

P O Lord,

C **have mercy.**

P O Christ,

C **have mercy.**

P O Lord,

C **have mercy.**

P O Christ,

C **hear us.**

P God the Father in heaven,

C **have mercy.**

P God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

C **have mercy.**

P God the Holy Spirit,

C **have mercy.**

P Be gracious to us.

C **Spare us, good Lord.**

P Be gracious to us.

C **Help us, good Lord.**

P From all sin, from all error, from all evil;

From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;

From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion;

From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:

**C Good Lord, deliver us.**

**P** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;  
By Your Baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial;  
By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

**C Help us, good Lord.**

**P** In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the Day of Judgment:

**C Help us, good Lord.**

**P** We poor sinners implore You

**C to hear us, O Lord.**

**P** To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living;  
To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived;  
To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need;  
To direct and defend our president and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people;  
To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel;  
To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;  
To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
C **we implore You to hear us.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,  
C **have mercy.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,  
C **have mercy.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,  
C **grant us Your peace.**

P O Christ,  
C **hear us.**

P O Lord,  
C **have mercy.**

P O Christ,  
C **have mercy.**

P O Lord,  
C **have mercy. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

### SERIES HYMN: "Break Your Hearts"

## Break Your Hearts

TRUE REPENTANCE  
Jonathan Kohrs

Lisa M. Clark

1 Break your hearts with mourn-ing And your pride in two,  
2 See your Sav-ior dy-ing, Hung up-on the tree.  
3 Gath-er all in num-ber From both far and near;

Ash and grief a-dorn-ing Your re-pen-tance true.  
It is vain de-ny-ing What is plain to see:  
E-ven those in slum-ber Wait for trum-pets clear.

With your tears and fast-ing, From your God dis-cern  
While His heart is break-ing, Still your God will earn  
When the Lord grants bless-ing, Bro-ken hearts will learn

His ways ev-er-last-ing: To your Lord re-turn.  
Free-dom in the mak-ing. To your Lord re-turn.  
Joy be-vond ex-press-ing: To your Lord re-turn.

## **CLOSING COLLECT**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## **BLESSING**

**P** The blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit be and remain with you always.

**C** Amen.

## **CLOSING HYMN: "Lord of All Hopefulness"**

LSB 738

**Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares can destroy:  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.**

**Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:  
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.**

**Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace:  
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.**

**Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:  
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.**

**Pastor:** Go in peace and

**People:** serve the Lord.

## **Acknowledgments**

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## **UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES**

***MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES WILL BE HELD WEDNESDAYS  
AT 7:00 PM DURING LENT (March 3, 10, 17, and 24).***

### **OUR MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT**

Acknowledging the great gift of God the Father in sending His Son, Jesus Christ, as our Savior, we the people of Ascension Lutheran Church, as guided by the Holy Spirit, are committed to the furtherance of God's Kingdom. We will share and live the Gospel in our homes, our church, our community, and the world. Motivated by Christ's love for us, we are dedicated to spiritual growth and unity, worship and fellowship, and compassionate service. We recognize this as our common purpose and pray that God will enable us by His strength and wisdom to seek His will.



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