

Ascension Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod

A **Christ-centered** community where we *connect, learn, and serve.*

March 19th



Welcome To Our Guests

It is a great joy to have you here today. We pray that your time with us helps 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!

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FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

WELCOME

PRELUDE

AS WE GATHER

Some of the central people in the Gospel narratives we get to know by name; others we do not. Although the man born blind is a major person in John 9, we never learn what his name might be. We meet his parents and his neighbors and we meet the Pharisees to whom he tells the story of the miraculous restoration of his sight. Although we do not learn his name, Jesus said of the man born blind that the works of God were displayed in him. As the One brightening our lives with the light of salvation, Jesus brings a new vision to our lives—an eternal vision of life with God that never ends. God knows our names. He directs the cross currents of our daily lives. In His light we see light—and that is what matters!

Stand

INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING HYMN – We Sing The Praise Of Him Who Died

LW 118 v. 1-4

EXHORTATION

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5

- 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.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

CONFESSION OF SINS

- 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 by 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 of 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.**

ABSOLUTION

[John 20:19–23]

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my 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.**

GREETING OF PEACE

At this time, you may turn to those around you and greet each other with the peace of Christ.

INTROIT

Psalms 27:4–6; antiphon: Psalm 25:15

- P** My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.
- C** **One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to
gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.**
- P** For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me
under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.
- C** **And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.
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.**
- P** My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

Fa - ther: We wor - ship You, we give You thanks, we
 praise You for Your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
 Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You
 take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
 us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
 Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For You a - lone are the
 Ho - ly One, You a - lone are the Lord, You a -
 lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 42:14–21

¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant.

¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools.

¹⁶And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them.

I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them.

¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, “You are our gods.” ¹⁸Hear, you deaf,

and look, you blind, that you may see! ¹⁹Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD? ²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear.

²¹The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness’ sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Hebrews 12:2

P [O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 5:8–14

⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

VERSE (LENT)

Joel 2:13

C 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

John 9:1–41

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus

answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper

of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Thompson

HYMN OF THE DAY – Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)

THE APPLICATION OF GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY

Pastor Thompson

Stand

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,

being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1Timothy 2:1-4]

After each prayer, the response will be:

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

Sit

OFFERING

Meditation Song – I Hear The Voice Of Jesus Say

Praise Team

Stand

Offertory

Psalm 51:10-12



C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared

joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Lord of heaven and earth, we praise You for bringing light to a darkened world. We bless You for calling us to be people who walk as children of the light, secure in the currents of the world around us. We thank You for inviting us to Your Holy Table. Joined together in the name of our Lord and as one with the communion of saints, we pray You to pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us to sanctify and renew us in body and soul for the sake of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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 WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

AGNUS DEI

John 1:29



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of

God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is celebrated at Ascension Lutheran in the glad confidence that our Lord Jesus, as His word says, gives not only bread and wine, but also His true Body and Blood for us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of our sins (Matthew 26:26-28). Our Lord invites to His table those who, repenting of their sins, believe His word that His body and blood are really present for the forgiveness of our sins. All baptized believers who hold our confession and have examined themselves according to Scripture's guidance (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), are invited to receive His Sacrament

COMMUNION SONGS – Sent Forth By God’s Blessing Behold The Lamb

LW 274

Stand

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE – On My Heart Imprint Your Image

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- P** Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.



CLOSING SONG – By His Wounds

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace and
- C** serve the Lord!

Acknowledgments

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**LOOKING AHEAD: The assigned readings for next week are:
Exodus 16:2-5, 11-18; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4, 15-17 John 6:32-37**

SERVING TODAY

ELDER(S).....Kurt Dolph & Mike Fiffik
ALTAR GUILD.....Mary Ellen Lindsey
USHERS.....Edie Krom & Matt Gunther
ACOLYTE.....Juliette Schroeder

SERVING NEXT WEEK

ELDER(S)..... Darryl Gunther
LAY READER.....Dave Dille
USHERS.....Cristen Fiffik & Lynn Gunther
ACOLYTE.....Isaac Krieger



ASCENSION PRAYERS

- ✦ We pray for the comfort & hope of the resurrection in Jesus for Brittney Forbis' family at the passing of her Uncle.
- ✦ We pray for God's healing & recovery for Tom Saffa, husband of Cheryl Saffa, as he deals with some health issues.
- ✦ We pray for God's grace, comfort and the hope of the resurrection in Jesus for the family of Joseph Palma, one of our new members, at the passing of his father.
- ✦ We pray for God's comfort and the hope of the resurrection for the family of Derrick Hofmann, the son of Edie Krom's niece Denise Hofmann, who was tragically killed in a car accident. We also pray for healing for the others involved in the car accident.
- ✦ We pray for blessings over Roni Millie, friend of Allyson Hosilyk, on receiving a new kidney in February. Lord please restore her with the gift of health, that she may continue to serve you with hope and thanksgiving. We pray, also, for the donor and family whose courage and compassion has enabled the possibility of this transplant.
- ✦ We pray for God's healing strength for Charlotte Beiter who is in the hospital with some cardiac issues.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASSISTANCE WITH HYMNAL TRANSITION - Worship Committee is looking for helpers to prepare for the arrival of our new hymnals at the end of the month. If you are interested in helping sort and move our current hymnals we need the assistance. Please email Pastor Thompson at pastor@acensionpgh.com. He will get back to you with more details.

THOMPSON BABY SHOWER – Ladies of Ascension, please join us to help prepare the Thompson Family for the arrival of their first child, Henry Walter Thompson! The Hospitality Committee is planning a baby shower/luncheon for: Saturday, March 25, 2023 from 12 to 3 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP by March 22nd, to Trish by text or email. 412-538-8339 pyoung1234@comcast.net. They are registered under Marissa and Adam Thompson: target.com/gift-registry OR Amazon: amazon.com/baby-reg/

CHRISTIAN ED CORNER - We have the following staffing needs:

1. ***Immediately***: A team member for monthly meetings, first Tuesday of each month. Please come help us plan our Christian Ed year! Soft sell: come—no strings attached—to check out our team at 7 pm on March 7th in Fireside room.
2. ***September 2023***: A teacher for toddler Sunday School classroom. Usually a very small class. Set curriculum provided. Share your love of Jesus with these young Christians, as they form the habit of Sunday school.
3. ***January 2024***: A team leader. Prerequisites: ability to email, plan a brief agenda, take notes, and give quarterly oral reports at congregational meetings.

Thank you for considering! Please contact Janine Nicolette at 412-965-0428 to volunteer of if you have any questions. janine.wordsmith@gmail.com.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Our Sunday School classes meet on the second floor of our Education Wing following our Divine Service. Toddlers: with Emily Marcellus (Parents may stay in the classroom if you wish.); K-2: with Patti Lopresto; 3rd - 6th Grade: Lora Koontz.

YOUTH GROUP – Our 7th - 12th grade youth group is attending the adult class listed below.

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN WORSHIP - Come join our bible study taught by Pastor Thompson starting on following the conclusion of Divine Service. Have you ever wondered why we say the things we do in worship or why the service is set up in the order it is? Perhaps you noticed an object in the sanctuary and you weren't sure why it was there. If so, you aren't alone. We are the beneficiaries of a rich tradition of worship that stretches back thousands of years and has been given to us by God himself! Come join our class on Christian worship and learn why we do the things we do, say the things we say, and where each part of the service comes from.

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

SUNDAY 03/19/2023	WORSHIP SERVICE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	9:30 AM 11:00 AM
WEDNESDAY	PRAYER & PRAISE CONFIRMATION CLASS	10:00 AM 7:00 PM
SATURDAY	MEN'S BIBLE STUDY THOMPSON BABY SHOWER	8:30 AM 12:00 PM
SUNDAY 03/26/2023	WORSHIP SERVICE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEN'S FELLOWSHIP EVENT	9:30 AM 11:00 AM 12:30 PM



Lenten Dinners – Wednesdays 5pm
(March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th)

Lenten Midweek Services - 6:30pm
(March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th)



HOLY WEEK:

Maundy Thursday, April 6th - 6:30pm

Good Friday, April 7th - 6:30pm

Easter Vigil, April 8th - 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday, April 9th - 9:30am