

Ascension Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod

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

Sunday, April 2nd - Palm Sunday



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!

Pastor: Rev. Adam Thompson
pastor@ascensionpgh.com

Music Director: Cathy Niebel
music@ascensionpgh.com

Secretary: Allyson Hosilyk
secretary@ascensionpgh.com

8225 Peebles Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Phone: 412-364-4463
Fax: 412-369-0599

www.ascensionpgh.com
www.facebook.com/AscensionPgh

Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday)

Welcome

Prelude

As We Gather

“Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord” (Psalm 118:19). Today’s psalm speaks of gates opening for the people of God to enter into His holy presence. These are not any old gates; these are the “gates of righteousness.” As the outstretched arms and nail-scarred hands of our Savior welcome us all to enter these gates, we walk by faith into the presence of the faithful Father who freely gives us His forgiveness. Palm Sunday is the “gate” of Holy Week. As we gather for worship, let us walk through this gate with Jesus, our King, remembering His suffering for our salvation, and receiving again the gifts of God that inspire in us our thanks and praise.

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 - All Glory Laud and Honor

LSB 442

Confession and Absolution

1 John 1:8–9

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

Confession of Sins

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us,**

renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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

Following the Absolution, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matthew 5:22–24; Ephesians 4:1–3).

Sit

Old Testament

Isaiah 50:4–9a

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word
him who is weary.
Morning by morning he awakens;
he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.
⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backward.
⁶I gave my back to those who strike,
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;
I hid not my face
from disgrace and spitting.
⁷But the Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.
⁸He who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who is my adversary?

Let him come near to me.
⁹Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

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

Epistle Reading

Philippians 2:5–11

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 27:11–66

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-seventh chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹¹Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You have said so.” ¹²But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. ¹³Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?” ¹⁴But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

¹⁵Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. ¹⁶And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. ¹⁷So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” ¹⁸For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. ¹⁹Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream.” ²⁰Now the chief priests

and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. ²¹The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” ²²Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said, “Let him be crucified!” ²³And he said, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

²⁴So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” ²⁵And all the people answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” ²⁶Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. ²⁸And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ³⁰And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

³²As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. ³⁶Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. ³⁷And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” ³⁸Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁹And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” ⁴¹So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, ⁴²“He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” ⁴⁴And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

⁴⁵Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ⁴⁷And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, “This

man is calling Elijah.”⁴⁸ And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink.⁴⁹ But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

⁵¹And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.⁵² The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised,⁵³ and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.⁵⁴ When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”

⁵⁵There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him,⁵⁶ among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

⁵⁷When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus.⁵⁸ He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him.⁵⁹ And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud⁶⁰ and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away.⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

⁶²Next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate⁶³ and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’

⁶⁴Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.”⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.”⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message

Pastor Thompson

Hymn of the Day - Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

LSB 685 v. 1-3

Sermon

Pastor Thompson

Stand

Nicene Creed

**☩ 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 ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

Offering

Meditation Song - All the Way My Savior Leads Me

Praise Team

Stand

Offertory - Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

LSB 192

Prayer of the Church

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

After each prayer, the response will be:

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

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."

Peace of the Lord

John 20:19

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

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

**Here is Bread, Here is Wine
O Lord, We Praise Thee**

LSB 617

Stand

Post-Communion Canticle - On My Heart Imprint Your Image

LSB 422

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 \dagger give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

Closing Song - O the Deep Deep Love of Jesus

Dismissal

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

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2022

**LOOKING AHEAD: The assigned readings for next week are:
Exodus 3:1-10, 1 Corinthians 15:19-28, Mark 16:1-8**

SERVING TODAY

ELDER(S).....Dave Dille & Cooper Blake
LAY READER.....Bob Booth
ALTAR GUILD.....Megan Fenstemaker
USHERS.....Ron Curcio & Ken Lindsey
ACOLYTE.....Juliette Schroeder

SERVING NEXT WEEK

ELDER(S).....Bob Booth & Darryl Gunther
LAY READER.....Trish Young
ALTAR GUILD.....Megan Fenstemaker
USHERS.....Denise Bedel & Lora Koontz
ACOLYTE.....Hanna Koontz

OFFICE CLOSED - The office will be closed on Monday April 10th in observance of Easter.

ALTAR FLOWERS – Flowers this week are giving by Janet & Bill Seitz in honor of their daughter Amy’s birthday.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

- We pray for God’s healing for Michael Hughey, husband to Nancy, who is recovering from hip surgery.
- We pray for God’s healing & recovery for Tom Saffa, husband to Cheryl, as he deals with some health issues.
- We pray for God’s healing strength for Charlotte Beiter as she’s dealing with some cardiac issues.

EASTER BRUNCH – Ascension Lutheran’s Easter brunch is back! Please join us in the Fellowship Hall next Sunday, April 9th, immediately following our Easter Sunday service.

EASTER EGG HUNT! – We will have an Easter Egg hunt next Sunday, April 9th, after our divine service.

NEW SERVICE: EASTER VIGIL - We are excited to have an Easter Vigil service this year on Holy Saturday, April 8th at 6:30 p.m.! The Easter Vigil service is the first official celebration of the Resurrection each year and is understood to be the conclusion of the Triduum, a service that begins with Maundy Thursday, continues on Good Friday, and reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil. We begin the service in darkness as we enter the church with the paschal candle leading the way and culminate in a grand celebration of the Resurrection by the conclusion of our time together. This service is a little longer than a typical service but well worth it as we conclude our celebration of the Resurrection with Holy Communion. You won't want to miss it!

PASTRIES & PLANNING - An Estate Planning Workshop with Fiffik Law Group on Tuesday, April 25th from 10-11AM. This will be held at Ascension Lutheran Church in the Fellowship Hall. **Please join Michael Fiffik, Esquire for a complimentary breakfast and estate planning educational event! Please RSVP with the Eventbrite Registration link:**
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/574704926907>

While enjoying breakfast and coffee, you will learn:

- How to organize your assets for estate planning purposes
- What happens to your assets if you die without a Will or Trust
- What are Trusts and when should you use one instead of a Will?
- The importance of powers of attorney for your finances and medical decisions
- How to protect your assets from nursing homes and other creditors
- IRA and retirement account beneficiary form boo-boos to avoid
- How to reduce death taxes and probate costs

For more information please check out the flyer hanging in the narthex!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP EVENT - Come join the men of Ascension at 11th Hour Brewing for food, drinks and fellowship! April 27th from 6:30-8:30PM First time attendees and friends are welcome!

PRAYER AND PRAISE – Please join us on Wednesdays at 10am for Prayer & Praise! We meet in the Fireside Room at church. If you cannot make it, we still offer the Zoom option (link below). If you have questions or need prayer, please contact Bob at 808-295-1835. Zoom:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99710525952?pwd=d0tyY0t1a2MzWkovY0hhYlBVUnB4Zz09>



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY – Due to the special congregational meeting on Sunday, March 26th, there will not be any Christian Education classes. Classes resume today, Sunday, April 2nd.

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 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 4/2/2023	SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	9:30 AM 11:00 AM
WEDNESDAY	PRAYER & PRAISE	10:00 AM
THURSDAY	MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE	6:30 PM
FRIDAY	GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE	6:30 PM
SATURDAY	EASTER VIGIL SERVICE	6:30 PM
SUNDAY 4/9/2023	EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE EASTER BRUNCH EASTER EGG HUNT	9:30 AM 11:00 AM 11:30AM



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