



ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

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

First Sunday In Lent – February 22, 2026



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Welcome! We're happy you're with us for worship today.

IF YOU ARE VISITING FOR THE FIRST TIME, please take a moment to sign in at the podium at either sanctuary entrance. We pray your time with us strengthens your faith in the Lord. We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS). You can find more information about our beliefs at LCMS.org/about/beliefs.

IF YOU HAVE SMALL CHILDREN, we understand that God made them wiggly and noisy at times, but we also believe they should be with us in worship. If you need a moment, we have a nursery available to you through the hallway to the right of the altar. Children's bags are also available in the Narthex for use during service.

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated at Ascension Lutheran on each Sunday. We receive this Holy Sacrament 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 truly present for the forgiveness of our sins. All baptized believers who hold our confession of faith and have examined themselves according to Scripture's guidance (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), are invited to receive His Sacrament. If you are not yet baptized or are visiting us for the first time, we invite you to come forth during communion and fold your arms over your heart for a blessing. Pastor would be happy to discuss receiving Holy Communion at Ascension with you.

AFTER EACH SERVICE from September to May, please join us for a brief time of **FELLOWSHIP** with coffee and treats downstairs in our Fellowship Hall briefly before we begin our **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** hour for those ages 2 and above.

If you have any questions, seek out Pastor, an usher, or a member with a name tag; they will be happy to help you out.

SERVING TODAY:

ELDER(S): Dave Dille & Bob Booth

LAY READER: Dave Dille

USHERS: Lora Koontz & Jim Obringer

ACOLYTE: Dalaney Gard

SERVING NEXT WEEK:

ELDER(S): Bob Booth & Mike Fiffik

LAY READER: Bob Booth

USHERS: John Russler & Lynn Gunther

ACOLYTE: Adalyn Russler

First Sunday in Lent

Pre-Service - Yet Not I, But Through Christ In Me

Welcome

Prelude

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 - O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days

LSB 418

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

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).

Hymn of Praise - Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word

LSB 655

Sit

Old Testament

Genesis 3:1–21

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?” ²And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹²The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³Then the LORD God said to

the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."

¹⁶To the woman he said,

"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you."

¹⁷And to Adam he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
'You shall not eat of it,'
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return."

²⁰The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Romans 5:12–19

¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— ¹³for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 4:1–11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴But he answered, “It is written,

“Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

“He will command his angels concerning you,’

and

“On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.”

⁷Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

“You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve.”

¹¹Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit

Children's Message

Pastor Thompson

Hymn of the Day - Jesus, Lead Thou On

LSB 718

Sermon

Pastor Thompson

Lutheran Catechesis - Holy Baptism - Third

P *How can water do such great things?*

C **Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: “He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.” (Titus 3:5–8)**

Stand

Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**

maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life  everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Offering

Meditation Song - Lord, I Need You

Praise Team

Stand

Offertory - Create In Me

LSB 192



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.

Reception of New Members – Shane, Amber, Jadon, Caleb and Noah Mitchell and Brian and Anitha Brugos

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 $\text{\textt{T}}$ 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 ^T 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

Distribution Hymns - Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

LSB 622

Take, Eat, This Is My Body

Chorus

Take eat this is My body broken for you
For I am come that you might have life
Eat of My flesh and live
Eat of My flesh and live

Verse 1

My blood was shed for many
Taking away your sin
And if I shall make you free
Then you shall be free indeed
You shall be free indeed
(Chorus)

Verse 2

Though your sins be as scarlet
They shall be white as snow
Though they be red like crimson
They shall be as wool
They shall be as wool
(Chorus)

Verse 3

For God so loved the world
He gave His only Son
That whosoever believeth on Him
Might have everlasting life
Might have everlasting life
(Chorus)

Communion Dismissal

P Now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen and preserve you, in body and soul, unto life everlasting. Depart in His peace and with joy.
C Amen.

Stand

Post-Communion Canticle - Love of God

Singing oh how great is the love of God
He paid our debt on that rugged cross
For all our days we will sing our Savior's praise
How great is the love of God

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.

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.

C Amen.

Closing Song - Yet Not I, But Through Christ In Me

Verse 1

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy my righteousness and
freedom
My steadfast love my deep and
boundless peace
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all
is mine
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 2

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour he will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing

For in my need his power is displayed
To this I hold my Shepherd will defend
me
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall
overcome
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 3

No fate I dread I know I am forgiven
The future sure the price it has been
paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my
pardon
And he was raised to overthrow the
grave
To this I hold my sin has been defeated

Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released I can sing I
am free
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 4

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me
home
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to him
When the race is complete still my lips
shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Ending

When the race is complete still my lips
shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Sit

Announcements

Memory Verse For The Week: Romans 5:15 - But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

Dismissal

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

Acknowledgments

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Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses:
Gen. 12:1-9; Psalm 121; Rom. 4:1-8,13-17; John 3:1-17

This week we pray for:

- **NEW:** Give thanks for the newest members of our Ascension congregation, Shane, Amber, Jadon, Caleb and Noah Mitchell and Shane and Anitha Brugos. We ask God to bless them as they assimilate into the congregation.

- Thanksgiving for healthy and safe deliveries and the gift of new life for Nelle Powers and Marissa Thompson.
- John Fagen, for strength and faith as he battles cancer.
- Thanksgiving for successful surgery for Kurt Dolph and continued treatment.
- Thanksgiving for successful surgery for Larry Sauer and a blessed and swift recovery.
- Greg Horne, husband of Rosalie Horne, as he deals with physical and mental distresses. Grant him relief and healing from his afflictions.
- Darryl Gunther for healing for his eyes.
- Barb, Jackie Dolph's sister, as she undergoes treatment for cancer, that the treatments are effective.
- We give thanks for the progress Jim Obringer Sr. has made recovering from his stroke. We pray you continue to grant him a return to even more mobility.
- Shirley Waselko, who has started another round of chemo treatments every six weeks. Prayers that she continues tolerate the treatments and that they continue to work.

Church News & Announcements:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Happy Birthday to:</u> | Isaac Krieger | February 22 nd |
| | Lucas Mayes | February 24 th |
| | Steve Diak | February 25 th |
| | Elijah Blake | February 26 th |
| | Zac Schroeder | February 28 th |
| | Marissa Thompson | February 28 th |

Christian Education Hour - There is no Sunday School or Adult Bible Study due to the congregational meeting today.

Prayer and Praise: We are meeting this Wednesday at 10am for Prayer & Praise! We meet in the Fireside Room at church or we have an online option via Zoom. The link is sent in the Weekly Reminder email. If you have questions or need prayer, please contact Bob Booth at 808-295-1835.

A/V Booth Helpers Needed: We are looking for volunteers to help in the A/V Booth. If interested, please reach out to me at pastor@ascensionpgh.com.

New Members needed for Praise Team – With the departure of some of our long-time Praise Team members we need some new people to help serve the worship of the congregation on Sundays. Please prayfully consider joining our Praise Team! If you have any questions, please contact Lisa or Emily Marcellus.

Altar Guild Help: Looking for a way to serve? How about joining the Altar Guild? Only one month a year to set up the altar and a year's worth of good feelings from your service! Contact Nancy Hughey at 412-780-5641 to find out how you can help. Thank you.

Congregational Meeting: There is a congregational meeting **today**, February 22, 2026 following the Divine Service.

Lenten Dinners – Lent has begun and so do our Lenten dinners. We will be serving before Wednesday services from 4:30 to 5:45 pm (to allow time for clean up) in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors. Encourage them to stay for the service. We need help with contributions of soup and desserts. You can find a sign-up sheet under the Serve Board in the Narthex. If you're able to help clean up, please put a check mark in that column too. Any questions, please contact Vicki Wiegand at 724-816-0413 or vickig@zoominternet.net. Thank you for your help.

Men's Bible Study: Men of Ascension, come join us for some fellowship, conversation and study of the faith **this Saturday**, February 28th at 8:30 am.

Pie Day Bingo Fellowship Night: We're thrilled to invite you to Bingo Night, featuring a Pie Day Meal! Join us on Sat, March 14th from 5-7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you plan to attend, please sign up in the Narthex. Please sign up to either bring a dessert pie OR plan to bring a pizza donation of \$5 per person or \$10 per family. Lastly, don't forget to bring 1-2 prizes per person for the bingo winnings table! Think of something fun you'd love to win (examples include candy, small toys, candles, card games, small gift cards, regifts etc.). The kids are welcome to take turns volunteering to spin the wheel. Winners might

even get the chance to PIE Pastor! See you there! Questions to Lora Koontz & Elizabeth Russler.

Choir Rehearsal: Choir rehearsal will begin **this Wednesday**, February 25th after the Mid-Week Lenten Service. Singers are welcome to join even if you didn't fill out the music survey!

Ascension's Men's Social Group is gathering again!- Whether you're a regular member or you've been "encouraged" by your spouse to get out of the house more in 2026 because she needs her "space", you are welcome here. We promise a night of: **Zero Liturgical Responsibilities:** You don't have to sing, stand, or sit in a specific order; **Substantial Sustenance:** We prioritize calories over kale and **Expert Advice:** Mostly unsolicited, ranging from lawn care tips to how to fix things we probably should have called a professional for. **The Details:** **When:** Thursday, February 26th @ 6:30 PM **Where:** [Grist House Brewery](#) 10 E Sherman St, Pittsburgh, PA 15209 **The Goal:** To eat well and remember each other's names by the time the check comes.

Easter Flowers- It's that time of year again! We are offering for sale Tulips, Hyacinths and Easter Lilies. Tulips and Hyacinths are \$10.00 each and Easter Lilies are \$12.00 each. All orders are due by **March 12th**. Checks should be made payable to Ascension Lutheran Church. Please give order forms to Alicia by leaving them on her desk or placing them in the secretary mailbox in the narthex. Flowers are being provided by West View Floral. Order forms are available on the table by the bulletin board in the narthex.

| <h2 style="text-align: center;">This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:</h2> | | |
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| Sunday 02/22 | Elder's Breakfast Divine Service Congregational Meeting | 8:00 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM |
| Wednesday | Prayer & Praise Lenten Dinners Mid-Week Lenten Service Choir Rehearsal | 10:00 AM 4:30-5:45 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM |
| Thursday | Men's Social Group Event-Grist Brewery | 6:30 PM |
| Saturday | Men's Bible Study | 8:30 AM |
| Sunday 03/01 | Divine Service Christian Education Hour | 9:30 AM 11:00 AM |