

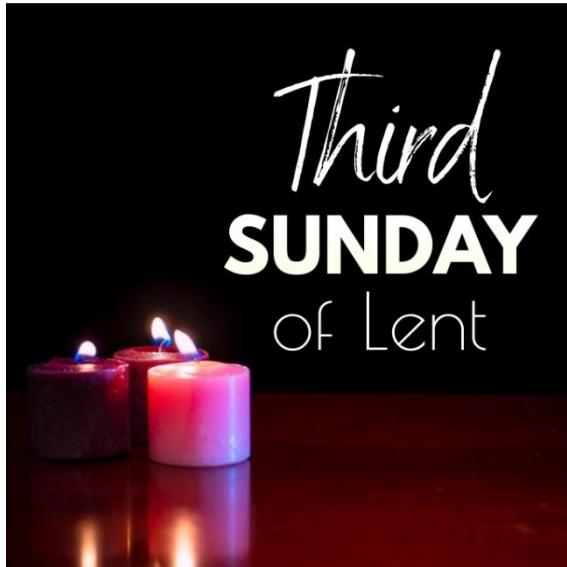


ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

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

Third Sunday In Lent – March 8, 2026



Rev. Adam Thompson, Pastor, pastor@ascensionpgh.com
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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 & Cooper Blake

LAY READER: Dave Dille

USHERS: Matt Gunther & Ken Lindsey

ACOLYTE: Craig Fleishauer

SERVING NEXT WEEK:

ELDER(S): Bob Booth & Mike Fiffik

LAY READER: N/A

USHERS: Ron Curcio & Cristen Fiffik

ACOLYTE: Gabriel Blake

Third Sunday in Lent

Preservice - Living Waters

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 - Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

LSB 609 sts. 1–2, 4–6

Exhortation

Psalm 124:8; Psalm 130:3–4; Luke 18:13

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

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

Confession of Sins

- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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).

Hymn of Praise - I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Verse 1

I heard the voice of Jesus say
Come unto Me and rest
Lay down thou weary one
Lay down thy head upon My chest
I came to Jesus as I was
Weary and worn and sad
I found in Him a resting place
And He has made me glad

I came to Jesus and I drank
Of that life giving stream
My thirst was quenched my soul revived
And now I live in Him

Verse 3

I heard the voice of Jesus say
I am this dark world's light
Look unto Me thy morn shall rise
And all thy day be bright
I looked to Jesus and I found
In Him my Star my Sun
And in that light of life I'll walk
Till travelling days are done

Verse 2

I heard the voice of Jesus say
Behold I freely give
The living water thirsty one
Stoop down and drink and live

Sit

Old Testament

Exodus 17:1–7

¹All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are

almost ready to stone me.”⁵And the LORD said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Romans 5:1–8

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Holy Gospel

John 4:5–26

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

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

⁵[Jesus] came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob’s well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” ⁸(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus

answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” ¹¹The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” ¹³Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” ¹⁵The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” ¹⁷The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.” ¹⁹The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” ²¹Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” ²⁶Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message

Pastor Thompson

Hymn of the Day - Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

LSB 849

Sermon

Pastor Thompson

Lutheran Catechesis - Holy Baptism - Fourth

P *What does such baptizing with water indicate?*

C **It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that**

a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

P *Where is this written?*

C St. Paul writes in Romans, chapter six: “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Romans 6:4)

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 - The Goodness of Jesus

Praise Team

Stand

Offertory - Create In Me

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.

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

Distribution Hymns - Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

LSB 637

Living Waters

Verse 1

Are you thirsty
Are you empty
Come and drink these living waters
Tired and broken
Peace unspoken
Rest beside these living waters

Verse 2

Christ is calling
Find refreshing
At the cross of living waters
Lay your life down
All the old gone

Rise up in these living waters

Chorus

There's a river that flows
With mercy and love
Bringing joy to the city of our God
There our hope is secure
Do not fear anymore
Praise the Lord of living waters

Verse 3

Spirit moving
Mercy washing
Healing in these living waters

Lead your children
To the shoreline
Life is in these living waters
(Chorus)

Chorus

There's a river that flows
With mercy and love
Bringing joy to the city of our God
There our hope is secure
Do not fear anymore
Praise the Lord of living waters

Verse 4

Are you thirsty
Are you empty
Come and drink these living waters
Love forgiveness
Vast and boundless
Christ He is our living waters
(Chorus)

Ending

There our hope is secure
Do not fear anymore
Praise the Lord of living waters

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 - Jesus Paid It All

Verse 1

And I hear the Savior say
Thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness watch and pray
Find in Me thine all in all

Chorus 1

'Cause Jesus paid it all
All to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow

Verse 2

Lord now indeed I find
Thy pow'r and Thine alone

Sit

Announcements

Memory Verse Of The Week: Exodus 17:3 - But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"

Dismissal

P Go in peace and
C serve the Lord!

Acknowledgments

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Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses:

This week we pray for:

- Clayton Mees as he recovers from hip surgery.
 - Give thanks for the newest members of our Ascension congregation, Shane, Amber, Jadon, Caleb and Noah Mitchell and Brian 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.
 - 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.
 - 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:

Happy Anniversary to: Pete & Diane DePasquale March 12th

Happy Birthday to:

Megan Fenstemaker	March 8 th
Clayton Mees	March 8 th
Dave Dille	March 9 th
Hannah Koontz	March 13 th
Caleb Mitchell	March 14 th

Christian Education Hour - Join us at 11am (after some tasty treats in the Fellowship Hall) for one of our Bible Classes and Sunday School! Options are

available for those aged 2 and above. See the Learn bulletin board in the Narthex for more info and about future classes and offerings.

Sunday School- Sunday school meets on the 2nd floor in the education room and is divided into three classes: PreK taught by Mrs. Fleishauer; K-2nd taught by Mrs. Lopresto and 3rd-6th taught by Mrs. Koontz. There are signs located outside of each classroom.

Youth Group (7th – 12th)- Join Janine Nicolette in the Youth Room as she will present Children & Teen Study.

Adult Bible Class-

- **Adult Book of the Bible Study-** Join Cooper Blake for an adult book bible study on Proverbs.
- **Adult Topical Study:** Join Mike Fiffik in Fellowship Hall for Junk Drawer Jesus study. Each of us is the owner of a seemingly random collection of theologies, doctrines, and superstitions—a junk drawer of religious ideas and influences.
 - It's the witticisms your grandmother tossed around with ease that sounded like they came from a religious text
 - It's the mental screenshot of a meme shared on social media.
 - It's the empowering idea you underlined in a book and wrote on a Post-it Note now forever affixed to your laptop.

These are the things stuffed in our spiritual junk drawers because something in us says, “This might be useful.” And so we hold on. But should we? In *Junk Drawer Jesus*, the spiritually exhausted are invited to examine our religious clutter and compare it to the person and the promises of Jesus Christ. We'll discover what—if anything—of our spiritual collection should be kept.

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 prayerfully 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! We specifically need help to cover the month of July. Contact Nancy Hughey at 412-780-5641 to find out how you can help. Thank you.

Lenten Dinners – Lent has begun and so have 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.

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.

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 **this Thursday, 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. Please do not put the order forms in the offering plate. Flowers are being provided by West View Floral. Order forms are available on the table by the bulletin board in the narthex.

Ladies' Bible Study- Ladies of Ascension, come join us for some fellowship, conversation and study of the faith on Saturday, March 14th at 10 am in the Fireside Room.

PALM Young Adult/Young Family Study- PALM's is hosting a regional young adult bible study for our LCMS churches once a month. This month we will be hosting it at our church here at Ascension. The study is from 7-8:30 this Friday, March 13th. I will be leading the next few sessions and we will be Christian Living in the Modern World: A Christian Approach to Modern Issues.

Set Apart to Serve Survey - Where do we get pastors who preach and care for us with God's Word? Where do we get teachers who teach our children about Jesus in our Lutheran schools? Where do we get our directors of Christian education, deaconesses and directors of parish music? *Set Apart to Serve (SAS)* is partnering with our seminaries, Concordia universities, districts, congregations and many others to build a Synodwide culture of church work formation and recruitment. You can contribute toward this effort by taking this brief online survey at lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve-survey. Please let us know how all of us can make SAS more beneficial to your congregation. It is important we hear what you have to say. Responses are due by the end of March.

Annual Easter Brunch - Please join us for fellowship and a delicious meal following the Divine Service on Easter Sunday. There is a sign-up sheet on the table under the CONNECT bulletin board to indicate what type of dish you will bring and the number of adults and children in your group.

Free Drive-Through Spaghetti Dinner- This event will occur on Wednesday, April 15th from 4 to 7 pm and is open to the public. This is our second effort at this type of outreach. We especially need helpers to greet cars, deliver meals, help with traffic control, make cookies, and offer a prayer if wanted. And of course, helping to prepare meals on the day of the event. If you can volunteer for even an hour or two, that would be so appreciated. Please help us make this project as successful as the first when we served 300 dinners. A sign-up sheet is

available on the table under the SERVE bulletin board. Any questions please contact Trish at 412-538-8339.

Attention 7th-12 grade youth, families and interested volunteers! Please join us in the fellowship hall following Bible Study on Sunday March 15th for an informational meeting and **BAKED POTATO BAR!** We will be planning out the next 6 months of youth activities and getting to know each other a little bit. Please email Chris Schroeder at youth@ascensionpgh.com if you have questions. Hope to see you there!

Board of Stewardship- We are currently looking for someone to fill the Head of the Board of Stewardship. The Board of Stewardship's main objective is to initiate programs of good stewardship attitudes amongst the Congregation members regarding their time, talents, and treasures. This can include, but not limited to recognizing members for their stewardship, annual pledges, training opportunities, and assistance with finding ministry opportunities. If you feel called to serve in this role, please contact Pastor Thompson, pastor@ascensionpgh.com or Beth Gard, president@ascensionpgh.com

This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:

Sunday 03/08	Divine Service Christian Education Hour Pizza Party & Easter Egg Stuffing	9:30 AM 11:00 AM Noon
Tuesday	Church Council Meeting	6:30 PM
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
Saturday	Ladies Bible Study Bingo Night & Pie Day	10:00 AM 5:00 PM
Sunday 03/15	Divine Service Christian Education Hour Youth Group Orientation	9:30 AM 11:00 AM 12-1:30 PM