



# **ASCENSION**

Lutheran Church

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

**Fifth Sunday In Lent – March 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](http://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.**

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**SERVING TODAY:**

**ELDER(S):** Cooper Blake & Dave Dille  
**LAY READER:** Trish Young  
**USHERS:** Ron Curcio & Edie Krom  
**ACOLYTE:** Juliette Schroeder

**SERVING NEXT WEEK:**

**ELDER(S):** Kurt Dolph & Bob Booth  
**LAY READER:** Darryl Gunther  
**USHERS:** Matt Gunther & Jim Obringer  
**ACOLYTE:** Hannah Koontz

# Fifth Sunday in Lent

## Preservice - As Long As You Are Glorified

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 Christ, My Sure Defense

*LSB 741 sts. 1, 3-4, 8*

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 - Christ, the Life of All the Living

LSB 420 sts. 1–2, 7

*Sit*

## Old Testament

Ezekiel 37:1–14

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” <sup>10</sup>So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.’ <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will

bring you into the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle Reading

*Romans 8:1–11*

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Holy Gospel

*John 11:1–45*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent to him,

saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup>But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

<sup>5</sup>Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup>So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. <sup>7</sup>Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup>The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup>Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. <sup>10</sup>But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." <sup>11</sup>After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." <sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." <sup>13</sup>Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, <sup>15</sup>and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup>So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

<sup>17</sup>Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. <sup>20</sup>So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup>She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

<sup>28</sup>When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." <sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup>Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. <sup>34</sup>And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup>Jesus wept. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said,

“See how he loved him!”<sup>37</sup> But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?”

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.” <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.” <sup>43</sup>When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” <sup>44</sup>The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

<sup>45</sup>Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in 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 - O Christ, Who Shared Our Mortal Life**

*LSB 552 sts. 1, 9–10, 4*

**Sermon**

*Pastor Thompson*

**Lutheran Catechesis - Confession Part 1**

**P** *What is Confession?*

**C** Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

**P** *What sins should we confess?*

**C** Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

*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  $\dagger$  everlasting. Amen.

*Sit*

## Offering

### Meditation Song - As Long As You Are Glorified

*Praise Team*

*Stand*

## Offertory - Create In Me



**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  $\text{✠}$  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 - 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

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 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 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)

#### Verse 2

### Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

#### Verse 1

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see

And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

#### Verse 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear

#### Chorus

My chains are gone I've been set free  
My God my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains

Unending love amazing grace

### Verse 3

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures  
(Chorus)

### Verse 4

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God who called me here below  
Will be forever mine  
Will be forever mine  
You are forever mine

### 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 - Raised to Life

### Verse 1

Precious compassion that pours  
From the wounds that have won our  
salvation  
Sin was strong but the Savior is stronger  
Come let us worship Him

### Verse 2

Great was the debt that we owed  
And how high was the price of our  
healing  
Paid in full by the One who is worthy  
Come let us worship Him

### Chorus

Raised to life with Christ the Savior  
In His name a new creation

*Sit*

## Announcements

**Memory Verse Of The Week:** Ezekiel 37:3 - And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."

## Dismissal

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

## Acknowledgments

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**Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses:**  
**Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:19-29; Phil. 2:5-11; Matthew 27:11-66**

### **This week we pray for:**

- **NEW:** For the family and friends of Darlene Harris, former member of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, who died in the faith. Comfort them with the hope and peace that comes from the promise of the resurrection victory in Jesus.
- Arlene Rusnica, who sustained a broken arm in a fall, that she recovers quickly and is relieved from pain.
- 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.

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### **Church News & Announcements:**

#### **Happy Birthday to:**

Mike Kaczmarek	March 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Daisy Lucas	March 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Noah Mitchell	March 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Chris Schroeder	March 25 <sup>th</sup>
Chery Sedar	March 27 <sup>th</sup>

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the education room and is divided into three classes: PreK taught by Mrs. Fleishauer; K-2<sup>nd</sup> taught by Mrs. Lopresto and 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> taught by Mrs. Koontz. There are signs located outside of each classroom.

**Youth Group (7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>)**- 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](mailto: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** – Come join us for dinner and fellowship on Wednesday in Lent. 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](mailto:vickig@zoominternet.net). Thank you for your help.

**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](http://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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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](mailto:pastor@ascensionpgh.com) or Beth Gard, [president@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:president@ascensionpgh.com)

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

**Pop-Up Pleasant Valley Volunteer Opportunities** - Please see the flyer on the Serve Bulletin Board if you are interested in helping with some cleaning and organizing at the Pleasant Valley Emergency Shelter on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> from 6pm to 7:30pm. We have been partnering with this shelter by taking meals down for the clients and thought it would be nice to show support in this way too if you're able! Email Lisa with any questions ([LMarcellus@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:LMarcellus@ascensionpgh.com)).

**Special Congregational Meeting Parking Lot** – We plan to hold a special meeting for voting on the parking lot project on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Ladies' Bible Study-** Ladies of Ascension, come join us for some fellowship, conversation and study of the faith this Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 am in the Fireside Room.

**Pleasant Valley Shelter Meal-** We are now looking for volunteers for our next Pleasant Valley Shelter meal on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested,

please email Lisa or sign-up on this [Google Spreadsheet](#) (\*open on a computer or the Google Docs app\*).

**Upcoming Spring Newsletter Deadline:** Please submit your updates & photos for the newsletter to Marissa Thompson at [mthompson@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:mthompson@ascensionpgh.com) by Wednesday, April 15. It will go out by early May.

<b>This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:</b>		
<b>Sunday 03/22</b>	<b>Divine Service Christian Education Hour</b>	<b>9:30 AM 11:00 AM</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Prayer &amp; Praise Lenten Dinners Mid-Week Lenten Service Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>10:00 AM 4:30-5:45 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Men's Bible Study</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>
<b>Sunday 03/29</b>	<b>Divine Service Christian Education Hour</b>	<b>9:30 AM 11:00 AM</b>



**Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6:30pm**  
**Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6:30pm**  
**Easter Vigil, April 4<sup>th</sup> - 8:00pm**  
**Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> - 9:30am**

### **Good Friday**

On Good Friday, we celebrate the day that Jesus died. This is a death He died willingly. As we remember His suffering and death, we know that is not the end of the story. And because of Jesus' death and resurrection, it also isn't the end of the story for those who die in the Christian faith.

Come to Calvary's holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall;  
Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for me, for all,  
In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died. (*LSB 435:1*)

### **Easter Vigil**

A "vigil" is a time of patient but eager watchfulness, prayer, and a recounting of the story of our salvation. So during the Easter Vigil, we will reread sections of the Holy Scriptures that tell of the salvation story of Jesus from creation to crucifixion/resurrection. This will be a service focused on how the story of the salvation in Jesus is *our* story. It is a service that highlights the darkness of death being defeated by the resurrection of the Light of the World. May the light of the world heighten your anticipation of tomorrow's Easter celebration as the darkness is defeated and the light reigns.