



# **ASCENSION**

Lutheran Church

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

**Palm Sunday – March 29, 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):** Kurt Dolph & Bob Booth

**LAY READER:** Darryl Gunther

**USHERS:** Matt Gunther & Jim Obringer

**ACOLYTE:** Hannah Koontz

**SERVING NEXT WEEK:**

**ELDER(S):** Bob Booth & Mike Fiffik

**LAY READER:** N/A

**USHERS:** John Russler & Cristen Fiffik

**ACOLYTE:** Dalaney Gard

# Palm Sunday

## As We Gather

Today we enter the Great and Holy Week of our faith, the very heart and center of God's greatest act since the Creation itself—the salvation of mankind by the overthrow of sin, death, and the devil, and the restoration of all creation through the power of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. As we join the crowds welcoming Jesus, the one who comes in the name of the Lord, we plan to get swept up in the drama of the story many know so well.

Peter wrote, “Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1:13). On this day “preparing [our] minds for action” makes us as contemplate and consider what was in the mind of Jesus as He entered Jerusalem to the cheers of adults and children waving palms and shouting praise. What was our Lord thinking as He gathered His disciples for the Last Supper of Passover? As He prayed in Gethsemane's garden? When He was arrested, falsely tried, beaten, abused, and sentenced to death by crucifixion? What was in the Savior's mind as He hung on that cross? For the obvious impossibility of our ability to know the depths of the God who says, “My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways” (Isaiah 55:8), there is one thing we can know for sure—He had you in mind. We know that “God so loved the world” (John 3:16).

## Pre-Service - Majesty

*Praise Team*

## Welcome

## Prelude

*Stand*

## Greeting

**P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** Amen.

**P** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

**C** Hosanna to the Son of David.

## Collect

- P** Let us pray.  
Lord God, as the people in Jerusalem gathered to welcome Your Son, our Lord, when He came into His holy city, so we sing of Your coming among us today with songs of praise. Keep us steadfast in our hope and confession of faith throughout our lives that we may meet Him with grateful hearts when He comes again in glory; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

## Processional Gospel

*Matthew 21:1–11*

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

<sup>1</sup>Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” <sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

<sup>5</sup>“Say to the daughter of Zion,  
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,  
humble, and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. <sup>7</sup>They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup>Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” <sup>10</sup>And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” <sup>11</sup>And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Processional Hymn - Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

*LSB 443*

*When all have arrived at their place, the procession concludes with:*

- P** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
- C** **Hosanna in the highest.**

### Exhortation

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

- 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 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).*

### Hymn of Praise - Here I Am to Worship

#### Verse 1

Light of the world  
 You stepped down into darkness  
 Opened my eyes let me see  
 Beauty that made

This heart adore You  
 Hope of a life spent with You

## **Chorus**

So here I am to worship  
Here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God  
And You're altogether lovely  
Altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me

## **Verse 2**

King of all days  
Oh so highly exalted  
Glorious in heaven above

*Sit*

## **Old Testament**

*Isaiah 50:4–9a*

<sup>4</sup>The 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.  
<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious;  
I turned not backward.  
<sup>6</sup>I 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.  
<sup>7</sup>But 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.  
<sup>8</sup>He 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.

Humbly You came  
To the earth You created  
All for love's sake became poor  
(Chorus)

## **Bridge**

And I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross  
And I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross  
(Repeat)  
(Chorus)

<sup>9</sup>Behold, 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*

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

## Verse

*Philippians 2:8b*

**C** **He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 27:11–66*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-seventh chapter.

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

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

<sup>15</sup>Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup>And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. <sup>17</sup>So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” <sup>18</sup>For he

knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. <sup>19</sup>Besides, 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." <sup>20</sup>Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. <sup>21</sup>The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." <sup>22</sup>Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" <sup>23</sup>And he said, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

<sup>24</sup>So 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." <sup>25</sup>And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" <sup>26</sup>Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

<sup>27</sup>Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. <sup>28</sup>And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup>and 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!" <sup>30</sup>And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup>And 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.

<sup>32</sup>As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. <sup>33</sup>And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup>they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup>And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. <sup>36</sup>Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. <sup>37</sup>And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." <sup>38</sup>Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. <sup>39</sup>And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads <sup>40</sup>and 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." <sup>41</sup>So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, <sup>42</sup>"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. <sup>43</sup>He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" <sup>44</sup>And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

<sup>45</sup>Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. <sup>46</sup>And 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?"

<sup>47</sup>And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." <sup>48</sup>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. <sup>49</sup>But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." <sup>50</sup>And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

<sup>51</sup>And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. <sup>52</sup>The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, <sup>53</sup>and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. <sup>54</sup>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!"

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

<sup>57</sup>When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. <sup>58</sup>He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. <sup>59</sup>And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud <sup>60</sup>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. <sup>61</sup>Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

<sup>62</sup>Next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate <sup>63</sup>and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' <sup>64</sup>Therefore 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." <sup>65</sup>Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." <sup>66</sup>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 - All Glory, Laud, and Honor**

*LSB 442*

## 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 - Hosanna! Ride On!

*Choir*

*Stand*

### Offertory – Majesty

Majesty worship His majesty  
Unto Jesus be all glory  
Honor and praise  
Majesty kingdom authority  
Flow from His throne  
Unto His own His anthem raise  
So exalt lift up on high  
The name of Jesus  
Magnify come glorify  
Christ Jesus the King  
Majesty worship His majesty  
Jesus who died now glorified  
King of all kings

### 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  $\text{✠}$  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 - Behold the Lamb**

**Verse 1**

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins  
away  
Slain for us and we remember  
The promise made that all who come in  
faith  
Find forgiveness at the cross  
So we share in this Bread of Life  
And we drink of His sacrifice  
As a sign of our bonds of peace  
Around the table of the King

**Verse 2**

The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ  
Torn for you eat and remember

The wounds that heal the death that  
brings us life  
Paid the price to make us one  
So we share in this Bread of Life  
And we drink of His sacrifice  
As a sign of our bonds of love  
Around the table of the King

**Verse 3**

The blood that cleanses every stain of  
sin  
Shed for you drink and remember  
He drained death's cup that all may  
enter in  
To receive the life of God

So we share in this Bread of Life  
And we drink of His sacrifice  
As a sign of our bonds of grace  
Around the table of the King

#### **Verse 4**

And so with thankfulness and faith we  
rise

To respond and to remember  
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ  
As His body here on earth  
As we share in His suffering  
We proclaim Christ will come again  
And we'll join in the feast of heaven  
Around the table of the King

### **All Praise to Him**

#### **Verse 1**

All praise to Him the God of light  
Who formed the mountains by His might  
All praise to Him Who names the stars  
That sing His fame in skies afar  
All praise to Him Who reigns in love  
Who guides the galaxies above  
Yet bends to hear our every prayer  
With sovereign pow'r and tender care

#### **Verse 2**

All praise to Him Whose love is seen  
In Christ the Son the servant King  
Who left behind His glorious throne  
To pay the ransom for His own  
All praise to Him Who humbly came  
To bear our sorrow sin and shame  
Who lived to die Who died to rise

#### **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.**

The all-sufficient sacrifice

#### **Verse 3**

All praise to Him whose pow'r imparts  
The love of God within our hearts  
The Spirit of all truth and peace  
The fount of joy and holiness  
To Father Son and Spirit now  
Our souls we lift our wills we bow  
To You the Triune God we raise  
With loving hearts our song of praise

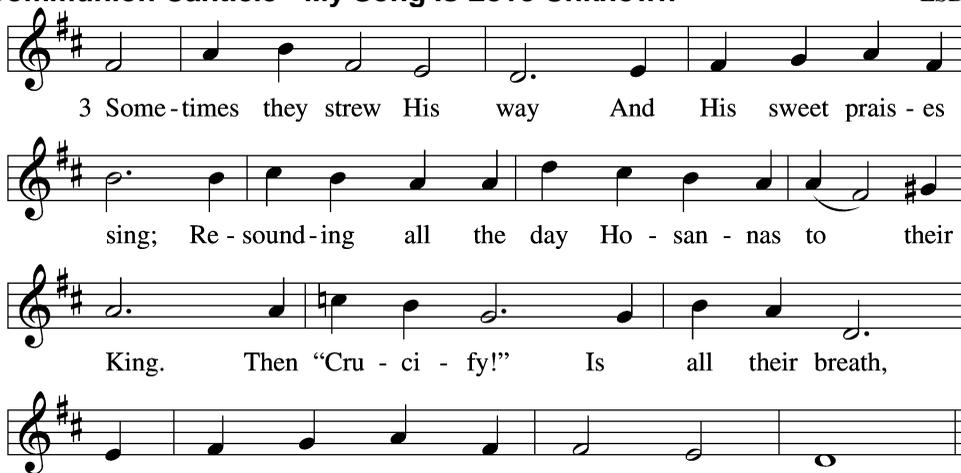
#### **Tag**

To Father Son and Spirit now  
Our souls we lift our wills we bow  
To You the Triune God we raise  
With loving hearts our song of praise  
With loving hearts our song of praise

*Stand*

## Post-Communion Canticle - My Song Is Love Unknown

LSB 430 st. 3



3 Some-times they strew His way And His sweet prais - es  
sing; Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas to their  
King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their breath,  
And for His death They thirst and cry.

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683

Tune: John N. Ireland, 1879–1962

Text: Public domain

Tune: © John Ireland Trust. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004761

## Post-Communion Thanksgiving

**P** Let us pray.

All praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, our King divine, for Your great deliverance of all by the sacrifice of Your own life on the cross, bringing the forgiveness of our sins to us now in Your precious body and blood. As You humbled Yourself, becoming obedient to the point of death, grant that we have the same mind, that we hold fast to the Word of life and serve You with thanksgiving and praise; for You live and reign with the Father 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 - Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

LSB 441

*Sit*

## Announcements

**Memory Verse For The Week:** Matthew 27:51 - And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.

## Dismissal

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

## Acknowledgments

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**Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses:**  
**Jer. 31:1-6; Psalm 16; Col. 3:1-4; Matt. 28:1-10**

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## This week we pray for:

- **NEW:** For the family and friends of Ray, Alan Gard's father, who died in the faith. Comfort them, in the midst of their mourning, with the hope and promise of the resurrection in Jesus.
- 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.
- 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:** Patti & Greg Lopresto      March 29<sup>th</sup>

**Happy Birthday to:**

Rachel Dille	March 29 <sup>th</sup>
Eileen Vogel	March 29 <sup>th</sup>
Amber Mitchell	April 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Linda Sweeney	April 4 <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.

**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](https://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 **this Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**.

**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)

**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 03/29</b>	<b>Divine Service Christian Education Hour</b>	<b>9:30 AM 11:00 AM</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Prayer &amp; Praise</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday Service Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>6:30 PM 7:30 PM</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Good Friday Service Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>6:30 PM 7:30 PM</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Easter Vigil Service</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
<b>Sunday 04/05</b>	<b>Easter Sunday Service Easter Brunch</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**

### **Maundy Thursday**

The term Maundy in Maundy Thursday comes from the Latin, *mandatum*, meaning “commandment.” This refers to the new commandment Jesus gave his disciples on the first Holy Thursday after washing their feet. (John 13:1-12; 13:31-35). This same night, Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper. We partake of the Lord’s Supper on Maundy Thursday to celebrate the institution of this gift from God. At the end of the service tonight the altar will be stripped, the crucifixes and crosses are removed or veiled, and the altar is left bare to prepare for the solemnity of the Good Friday service

### **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.

### **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.