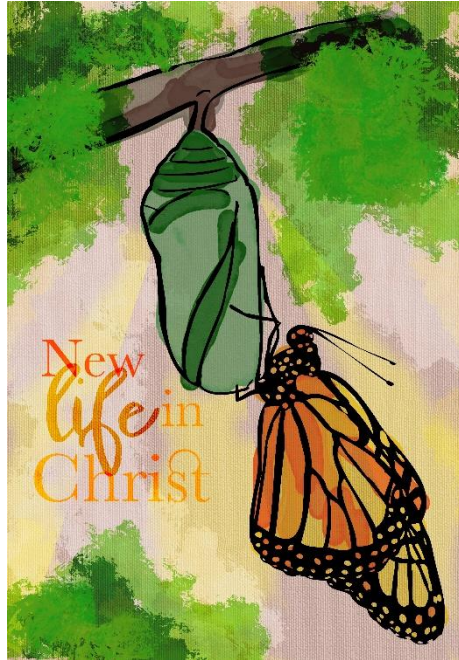


ASCENSION  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER



**WELCOME** To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world.

If you are looking for a church home or would like to know more about our beliefs and practices, please see the pastor. He will be glad to visit with you at your convenience. Be sure to join us again.



**Member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession**

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**Pre-Service Meditation:**

**Pre-Service Meditation:**

**John 15:5** <sup>51</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord Jesus, You are the source of our new life, our reputation as children of God, and the means by which we bear fruits of the Spirit. Keep us connected to You, our Vine, through the preaching of Your Word and Your everlasting grace and mercy. Through You, precious Savior, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, world without end. Amen.

# Service of the Word

Opening Hymn

TLH 245 God Loved the World vs 1-4

Invocation

- P** In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Confession and Absolution

WS pg 12

- P** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.
- C** Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.
- P** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.
- C** Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY *Kyrie*



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.



C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;  
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,  
 3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.  
 You bore for us the load of this world's sin.  
 At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:



We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,  
 O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,  
 Who, with the Spir - it wor - shipped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King,  
 Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.  
 With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** Let us pray. . .

. . . through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with  
 You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**First Reading:**

**Acts 8:26-40**

<sup>16</sup>By <sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. <sup>27</sup>And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran to

him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

<sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: *“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”*

<sup>34</sup>And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup>And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**Responsive Psalm:**

*Selected Verses from Psalm 150*

- P** Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary;  
praise him in his mighty heavens!
- C** Praise him for his mighty deeds;  
praise him according to his excellent greatness!
- P** Praise him with trumpet sound;  
praise him with lute and harp!
- C** Praise him with tambourine and dance;  
praise him with strings and pipe!
- P** Praise him with sounding cymbals;  
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

**C** Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord!

**Second Reading:**

**1 John 4:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. <sup>4</sup>Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. <sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**Gospel Reading:**

**John 15:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”



## Offertory:

Create in Me 🎵🎵

Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen

Hymn: WS 742 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

## Offering of Thankful Hearts

### Prayer & Lord's Prayer

- ☞ 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

### Benediction

- ☞ Amen.

### Hymn

TLH 53 Abide O Dearest Jesus vs 1-4,6

### Silent Prayer

### Acknowledgments

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## Announcements

### Upcoming Events:

- **Voters Meeting:** Ascension's quarterly Voters meeting will be held Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> following the service.



## ‘Call News:

- Pastor David Ude of Living Hope, Appleton, WI **has received the call** to Grace Lutheran, Sleepy Eye, MN
- Teacher Matthew Kranz of Immanuel, Mankato, MN **has received the call** to Berea Lutheran, Inver Grove Heights, MN
- Teacher Neil Bernthal, Immanuel Lutheran, Winter Haven, FL **has received the call** to Messiah Lutheran, Eau Claire, WI

## Fruits of Faith at Ascension:

DATE	NEEDED	RECEIVED
3/28&31/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ <b>1220.00</b>
4/7/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ <b>1025.00</b>
4/14/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ <b>620.00</b>
4/21/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ <b>765.00</b>

## Usher Schedule:

Month:

Name:

May

Dan Darling

June

Scott Radcliffe

## Upcoming Schedule:

Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> Ascension Sunday Service at 11:30

Sunday May 12<sup>th</sup> Ascension Communion Service at 11:30

Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup> Ascension Sunday Service at 11:30