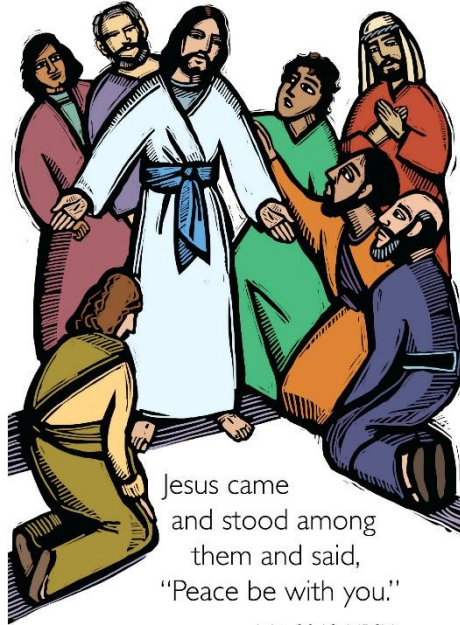


ASCENSION  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER



Jesus came  
and stood among  
them and said,  
“Peace be with you.”

John 20:19, NRSV

**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**

4501 Waller Rd E, Tacoma, WA 98443

**[Tacoma.clclutheran.org](http://Tacoma.clclutheran.org)**

**Pastor Jonah Albrecht**

(507) 329-2641

[jonaalbr@ilc.edu](mailto:jonaalbr@ilc.edu)

**President Dan Darling**

(253) 840-5605

[dan@kbeelectric.com](mailto:dan@kbeelectric.com)

**Pre-Service Meditation:**

**Psalm 95:1** <sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord. Let us give a loud shout to the Rock who saves us.

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, You are our rock and our salvation. We ask that You send Your Holy Spirit to guide us in the way we should go so that we are joyful as we proclaim Your glories to the world. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, world without end. Amen.

# Service of the Word

Opening Hymn

TLH 202 Welcome Happy Morning

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 - shiped 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** The Lord be with you too.

### 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 4:32-35**

<sup>32</sup>The full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. <sup>33</sup>And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was

sold <sup>35</sup>and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

**Epistle Reading:**

**1 John 1:1-2:2**

<sup>1</sup>That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— <sup>2</sup>the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— <sup>3</sup>that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. <sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup>But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup>He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

**Responsive Psalm:**

*Selected Verses from Psalm 148*

- P** Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights!
- C** Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!
- P** Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining  
stars!
- C** Praise him, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!

- P** Let them praise the name of the Lord! For he commanded and they were created.
- C** And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.
- P** Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.
- C** He has raised up a horn for his people; praise for all his saints; for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise the Lord!

### Gospel Reading:

**John 20:19-31**

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup>And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

<sup>26</sup>Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

## Confession of Faith:

## Apostles Creed

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 is seated at the right  
hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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.

**Hymn: TLH 196 I Am Content, My Jesus Liveth Still!**

## Sermon:

**Psalm 95:1-9 EHV**

<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord. Let us give a loud shout to the Rock who saves us. <sup>2</sup>Let us approach his presence with thanksgiving. With music we will shout to him. <sup>3</sup>For the Lord is the great God and the great King above all gods. <sup>4</sup>He holds the unexplored places of the earth in his hand, and the peaks of the mountains belong to him. <sup>5</sup>The sea belongs to him, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

<sup>6</sup>Come, let us bow down. Let us revere him. Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker, <sup>7</sup>for he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the flock in his hand. Today, if you hear his voice, <sup>8</sup>do not harden your hearts as they did at Meribah, as they did that day at Massah in the wilderness, <sup>9</sup>where your fathers challenged me and tested me though they had seen what I had done.

## The God We Worship

Guest Preacher: Pastor James Albrecht

## Offertory: WS 732 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Now all the vault of heaven resounds In praise of love that still abounds, “Christ has triumphed, He is living!” Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear, Repeat their song of glory here, “Christ has triumphed, Christ has triumphed!” Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Eternal is the gift He brings, Therefore our heart with rapture sings, “Christ has triumphed, He is living!” Now still He comes to give us life, And by His presence stills all strife. Christ has triumphed! He is living! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

## Hymn: TLH 195 Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands

### Offering of Thankful Hearts

### Prayers & Lord’s Prayer

- P** . . . in whose Name we also join to pray together:
- 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

### Benediction

## Hymn TLH 210 The Strife is O’er the Battle Done

### Silent Prayer

### Acknowledgments

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# Announcements

## Upcoming Events:

- **Service Change:** Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, Redemption will be having their voters meeting. This means Ascension's service will be at 9 am on the 21<sup>st</sup>. On the 28<sup>th</sup>, it will go back to normal at 11:30.
- **Voters Meeting:** Following the service today we will be having an emergency meeting to discuss details regarding the parsonage and the usage of it. This does not replace our Quarterly meeting; we will be scheduling that in the next few weeks.
- **Thank You:** Thank you to Pastor James Albrecht for sharing the message of the Gospel this morning. He and his wife are in town until Wednesday visiting. We wish them safe travels when it is time to return to Minnesota.

## Call News:

- Teacher Josh Ohlmann of Holy Trinity in West Columbia, SC ***has accepted the call*** to Gethsemane in Saginaw, MI
- Pastor Nathaniel Mayhew of Grace Lutheran in Sleepy Eye, MN ***has accepted the call*** to Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN.
- St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran of Iron River, MI and Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI together ***have requested a seminary graduate*** to serve both congregations (joint call). This year's seminary graduate is Paul Agenten.

## Fruits of Faith at Ascension:

DATE	NEEDED	RECEIVED
3/7&3/10/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ <b>1035.00</b>
3/14&3/17/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ <b>1000.00</b>
3/21&24/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ <b>935.00</b>
3/28&31/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ <b>1220.00</b>

## **Usher Schedule:**

**Month:**

**Name:**

**April**

**JIM HANSEN**

**May**

**Dan Darling**

## **Upcoming Schedule:**

Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup> Communion Sunday Service at 11:30

Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup> Ascension Sunday Service at 9 am

Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup> Ascension Sunday Service at 11:30