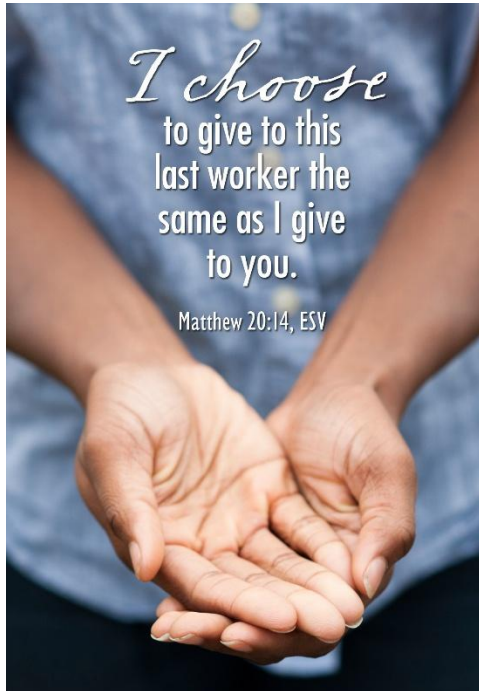


ASCENSION
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Septuagesima Sunday



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

Pastor Jonah Albrecht

(507) 329-2641

jonaalbr@ilc.edu

President Scott Radcliffe

(425) 478-7018

scottrrad@yahoo.com

Pre-Service Meditation:

Matthew 20:14-15 ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?!

Prayer: Dear Father, You have shown mercy and grace to countless sinners who have not deserved it. So also am I a sinner who has been covered by Your forgiveness. Let not Your grace depart from me, but rather let me be a worker in Your field that others may receive from Your hand the grace of forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God now and forever, world without end. Amen.

Service of the Word

Opening Hymn

TLH 344 Come Let Us Join

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.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

P Let us pray. . .

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

G Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Daniel 5:17-30

¹⁷ Then Daniel answered and said before the king, "Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another. Nevertheless, I will read the writing to the king and make known to him the interpretation. ¹⁸ O king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father kingship and greatness and glory and majesty. ¹⁹ And because of the greatness that he gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. Whom he would, he killed, and whom he would, he kept alive; whom he would, he raised up, and whom he would, he humbled. ²⁰ But when his heart

was lifted up and his spirit was hardened so that he dealt proudly, he was brought down from his kingly throne, and his glory was taken from him. ²¹ He was driven from among the children of mankind, and his mind was made like that of a beast, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. He was fed grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, until he knew that the Most High God rules the kingdom of mankind and sets over it whom he will. ²² And you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, ²³ but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven. And the vessels of his house have been brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored. ²⁴ "Then from his presence the hand was sent, and this writing was inscribed. ²⁵ And this is the writing that was inscribed: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, and PARSIN. ²⁶ This is the interpretation of the matter: MENE, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; ²⁷ TEKEL, you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; ²⁸ PERES, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians." ²⁹ Then Belshazzar gave the command, and Daniel was clothed with purple, a chain of gold was put around his neck, and a proclamation was made about him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. ³⁰ That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 98 [Selected Verses]

- P** Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
- C** Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- P** Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;
- C** Let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!
- P** For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.
- C** Oh come, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
- P** For He is our God
- C** And we are the people of His pasture, the sheep of His hand.

Epistle Lesson

Romans 5:1-5

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through 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. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and 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.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 19:16-30

¹⁶ And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" ¹⁷ And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." ¹⁸ He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, ¹⁹ Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ²⁰ The young man said to him, "All these I have kept. What do I still lack?" ²¹ Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." ²² When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. ²³ And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁵ When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" ²⁶ But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." ²⁷ Then Peter said in reply, "See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" ²⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

Installation of Church Officers

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:

LSB 763 When Peace, Like a River

Sermon:

Matthew 20:1-16

¹"For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴

Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last."

By the Grace of God Go I...

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:

TLH 373 By Grace I'm Saved vs 1-5

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 376 Rock of Ages Cleft For Me

Silent Prayer

Acknowledgments

Service text and music reprinted and used by permission under One License #A-728019 and Concordia Publishing House, license # 201008341. Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The ESV® Bible copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. All rights Reserved.

Announcements

Upcoming Events:

- **ILC Tour Choir:** On March 20th we will be hosting the ILC Tour Choir for a concert here at church at 6:30. There are fliers in the back you can take to advertise in public spaces. Be sure to invite friends and family!
- **Lent:** Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent on March 5th. Ascension will be having its first Midweek Lenten Service on March 6th at 6:30 pm.
- **Note from the Church Council:** The following was present at Ascension's Voter's Meeting last weekend and was asked to be presented to the congregation regarding our financial situation:
 - Our shortfall is roughly \$1000 a month; that is **\$250 per week**. The mortgage will be paid off by November, 2031. We have this beautiful church building; we have the blessing of God's word brought to us each week by a faithful pastor; we have fellowship with each other. This is not even counting all the blessings we receive from God in our daily life, our families, our salaries, our homes, everything else! We have so much! **Once our church is gone, it's gone.** Can we as members somehow reflect our thankfulness for these blessings by making up that difference of \$250 a week/\$1000 a month?
- **Work Day:** The plan is to have a work day before the Tour Choir concert on March 20th. The voters have decided to do this on Saturday, March 15th.

‘Call News:

- Pastor Cory Drehle of Berea Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD **is considering the call** to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.
- Pastor George Dummann of Salem Lutheran Church in Eagle Lake, MN **is considering the call** to serve as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in New Ulm, MN in addition to his current call.
- Pastor Paul Nolting of Grace Lutheran Church, Valentine, NE, Peace Lutheran Church, Mission, SD, and St. Paul’s Ev. Lutheran Church, White River, SD **has announced his retirement** effective Summer of 2025.

Fruits of Faith at Ascension:

DATE	NEEDED	RECEIVED
1/19/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 805.00
1/26/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 625.00
2/2/2024	NO CHURCH	
2/9/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1780.00

Upcoming Schedule:

Sunday, February 23rd Ascension Sunday Service at 11:30

Sunday, March 2nd Ascension Sunday Service at 11:30

Thursday, March 6th Midweek Lenten Service at 6:30