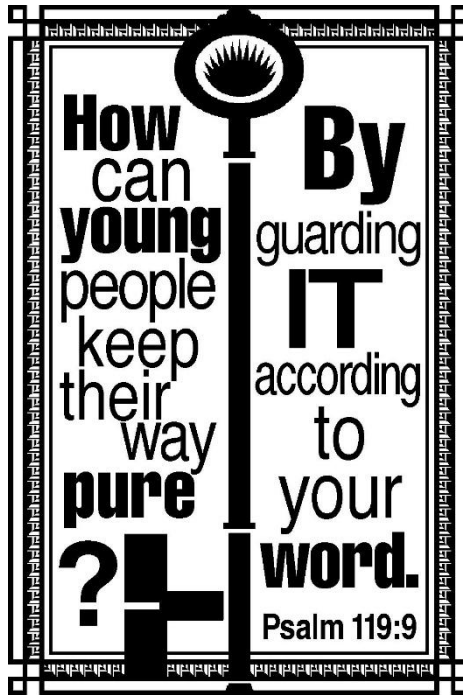


ASCENSION  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Sexagesima Sunday



**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**

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**Pre-Service Meditation:**

**Psalm 119:9** <sup>9</sup>How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

**Prayer:** O Heavenly Father, I have woefully fallen short of keeping a pure life. The sins of the world surround me and their temptations overwhelm me. Father, keep me in Your Word. Do not let me stray from it. By Your Word I am declared a sinner. But also, by Your Word, I am declared pure and holy because Jesus took all my sins away. Keep me in Your Word that I may not sin against you, that I instead, call upon You in trouble and proclaim Your great salvation. 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 16 Blessed Jesus At Thy Word**

Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

Confession and Absolution

**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.**

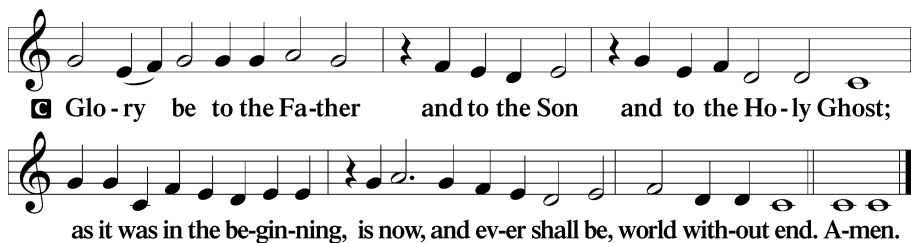
**P**: Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**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.**

**P**: Upon this your confession, I, as a called 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.

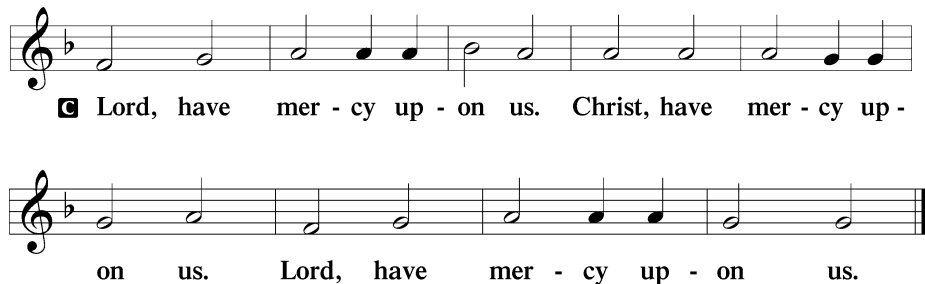
## Gloria Patri TLH pg 6



Two staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line of text. The lyrics are: "Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men."

**C** Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;  
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

## Kyrie TLH pg 7



Two staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line of text. The lyrics are: "Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us."

**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## Hymn of Response: TLH 237

All Glory be to God on high, Who hath mankind befriended!  
To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended.  
God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth  
again; Oh, thank Him for His goodness!

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** 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.

**C** Amen.

## Epistle Lesson

## 2 Corinthians 11:19-12:9

<sup>19</sup>For you gladly bear with fools, being wise yourselves! <sup>20</sup>For you bear it if someone makes slaves of you, or devours you, or takes advantage of you, or puts on airs, or strikes you in the face. <sup>21</sup>To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that! But whatever anyone else dares to boast of-- I am speaking as a fool-- I also dare

to boast of that. <sup>22</sup> Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they offspring of Abraham? So am I. <sup>23</sup> Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one-- I am talking like a madman-- with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. <sup>24</sup> Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; <sup>26</sup> on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; <sup>27</sup> in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. <sup>28</sup> And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. <sup>29</sup> Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant? <sup>30</sup> If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. <sup>31</sup> The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. <sup>32</sup> At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me, <sup>33</sup> but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands.

**12:1** I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. <sup>2</sup> I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven-- whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. <sup>3</sup> And I know that this man was caught up into paradise-- whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows-- <sup>4</sup> and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. <sup>5</sup> On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses-- <sup>6</sup> though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. <sup>7</sup> So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. <sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. <sup>9</sup> But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

## Psalm of the Day

## Psalm 103 [Selected Verses]

- P** Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
**C** and all that is within me, bless His holy name!
- P** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits,  
**C** Who forgives all your iniquity, Who heals all your diseases,
- P** The Lord works righteousness  
and justice for all who are oppressed.
- C** The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- P** For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
**C** so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;

## Gospel Lesson

## Luke 8:4-15

<sup>4</sup> And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, <sup>5</sup> "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. <sup>6</sup> And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. <sup>7</sup> And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. <sup>8</sup> And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold." As he said these things, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." <sup>9</sup> And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, <sup>10</sup> he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.'" <sup>11</sup> Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. <sup>12</sup> The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. <sup>13</sup> And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. <sup>14</sup> And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. <sup>15</sup> As for that in the good soil, they are those who,

hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

**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:**

**WS 775 Thy Strong Word vs 1-4,6**

**Sermon:**

**Psalm 119:9-16**

<sup>9</sup>How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. <sup>10</sup> With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! <sup>11</sup> I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. <sup>12</sup> Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes! <sup>13</sup> With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. <sup>14</sup> In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. <sup>15</sup> I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. <sup>16</sup> I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

## The Word of God Purifies Your Heart

**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 427 How Firm A Foundation vs 1-4,7**

**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 46 On What Has Now Been Sown**

## Silent Prayer

### Acknowledgments

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# Announcements

## Upcoming Events:

- **ILC Tour Choir:** On March 20<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup>. Ascension will be having its first Midweek Lenten Service on March 6<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup>. The voters have decided to do this on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9am.

### **'Call News:**

- Pastor Cory Drehle of Berea Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD ***has returned the call*** to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO. Faith Lutheran ***has since called*** Pastor Jonathan Schnose of Bethel Lutheran in Morris, MN
- Pastor George Dummann of Salem Lutheran Church in Eagle Lake, MN ***has accepted the call*** to serve as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in New Ulm, MN in addition to his current call.
- Pastor Caleb Schaller of Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI ***has received the call to*** Grace Lutheran Church, Valentine, NE, Peace Lutheran Church, Mission, SD, and St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, White River, SD.
- Pastor Sam Naumann ***has accepted the call*** to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Loveland, CO
- Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity in Columbia, SC ***has returned the call*** to St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Mountain View, CA.

## Fruits of Faith at Ascension:

DATE	NEEDED	RECEIVED
1/26/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ <b>625.00</b>
2/2/2024	NO CHURCH	
2/9/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ <b>1780.00</b>
2/16/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ <b>715.00</b>

## Upcoming Schedule:

Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> Ascension Sunday Service at 11:30

Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> Ascension Sunday Service at 11:30

Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> Midweek Lenten Service at 6:30