

ASCENSION  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Quinquagesima 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:**

**1 Corinthians 13:13** <sup>13</sup> So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

**Prayer:** Dear Savior, You are the very definition of love – since You willingly gave up Your life for my sake and took it up again for my justification. Even now, you continue to watch over me, guard me, and protect me. Let this love that You so graciously shower on me, flow through me, that I might show that love to my brothers and sisters in Christ and all people. In You is my faith; in You is my hope; in You is my love. Bring these three to completion to competition in Your name. Through Your saving name, even as You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God now and forever, world without end. Amen.

# Service of the Word

Opening Hymn

LSB 848 Lord Whose Love

Invocation

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

Confession and Absolution

- P**: God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
- C**: If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
- P**: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C**: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- P**: Let us pray.
- C**: Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.
- P**: Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence, we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

## Gloria in Excelsis



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## 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.

## Old Testament Lesson

2 Kings 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>And Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. <sup>3</sup>And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he said, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet." <sup>4</sup>Elijah said to him, "Elisha, please stay here, for the LORD

has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. <sup>5</sup> The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet." <sup>6</sup> Then Elijah said to him, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup> Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup> Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground. <sup>9</sup> When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me." <sup>10</sup> And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so." <sup>11</sup> And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup> And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. (2 Ki. 2:1 ESV)

## Psalm of the Day

## Psalm 50 [Selected Verses]

- P** The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- C** Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.
- P** Our God comes; He does not keep silence;
- C** Before Him is a devouring fire, around Him a mighty tempest.
- P** He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that He may judge His people:
- C** The heavens declare His righteousness, for God Himself is judge!

## Gospel Lesson

## Luke 18:31-43

<sup>31</sup>And taking the twelve, he said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by

the prophets will be accomplished. <sup>32</sup> For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. <sup>33</sup> And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise." <sup>34</sup> But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said. <sup>35</sup> As he drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. <sup>36</sup> And hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what this meant. <sup>37</sup> They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." <sup>38</sup> And he cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>39</sup> And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>40</sup> And Jesus stopped and commanded him to be brought to him. And when he came near, he asked him, <sup>41</sup> "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me recover my sight." <sup>42</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Recover your sight; your faith has made you well." <sup>43</sup> And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

**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 798 God We Praise You**

**Sermon:**

**1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be

burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. <sup>4</sup> Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup> Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup> but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

## The God of Love is the God Above

**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:**

**LSB 535 How Wide the Love of Christ**

**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:

**C**: Amen

**Hymn:** **WS 779 Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven**

## 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.
- **Lent:** Our first midweek Lenten service will be held this Thursday at 6:30pm.
- **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:** Our church workday will be held on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 9am.



## Call News:

- Pastor Jonathan Schnose of Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church in Morris, MN ***is considering the call*** to Faith Lutheran Church in Manchester, MO
- Pastor Caleb Schaller of Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI ***is considering the call to*** Grace Lutheran Church, Valentine, NE, Peace Lutheran, Mission, SD, and St. Paul's Lutheran, White River, SD.

## Fruits of Faith at Ascension:

DATE	NEEDED	RECEIVED
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>
2/23/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ <b>825.00</b>

## Upcoming Schedule:

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

Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> Ascension Communion Service at 11:30

Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> Midweek Lenten Service at 6:30