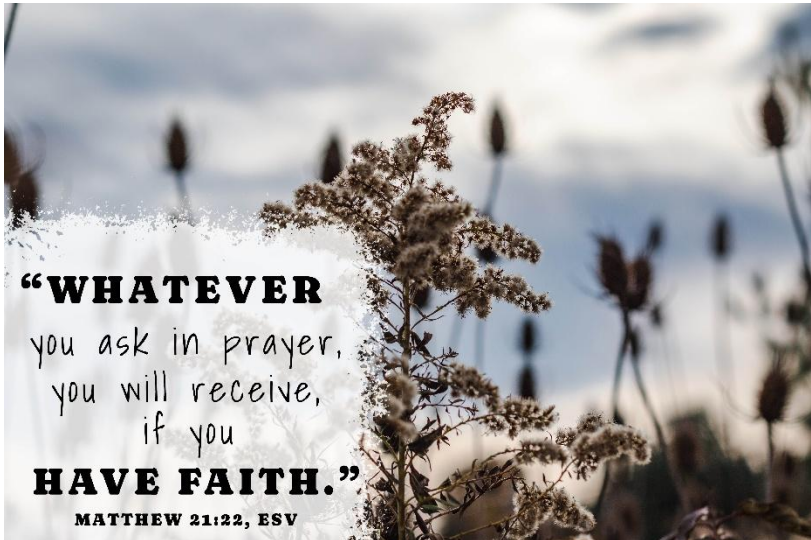


ASCENSION
LUTHERAN CHURCH
FIRST Sunday in Lent



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:

Matthew 21:21 ²¹ And Jesus answered them, "Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' it will happen.

Prayer: O most merciful God, You promised to grant us a faith that can move mountains. This faith is nothing other than a complete trust in Jesus as our Savior from sin. That is the largest mountain that we face in this life and You have taken it away from us through Your Son. Help us, O Lord, to strengthen our faith so that for every other mountain in life, we may move it by trusting You. 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 4 God Himself is Present

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

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

¹"When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there. ³ And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, 'I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.' ⁴ Then the

priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God. ⁵ "And you shall make response before the LORD your God, 'A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. ⁶ And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. ⁷ Then we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. ⁹ And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O LORD, have given me.' And you shall set it down before the LORD your God and worship before the LORD your God. ¹¹ And you shall rejoice in all the good that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 91 [Selected Verses]

- P** He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
- C** I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."
- P** Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place—
the Most High, who is my refuge—
- C** no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.
- P** For He will command His angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
- C** On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.

Epistle Lesson

Romans 10:8b-13

^{8b} But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Everyone who

believes in him will not be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

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 381 I Know My Faith is Founded

Sermon: Matthew 21:18-22

¹⁸In the morning, as he was returning to the city, he became hungry.
¹⁹ And seeing a fig tree by the wayside, he went to it and found
nothing on it but only leaves. And he said to it, "May no fruit ever
come from you again!" And the fig tree withered at once. ²⁰ When
the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree
wither at once?" ²¹ And Jesus answered them, "Truly, I say to you, if
you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been
done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken
up and thrown into the sea,' it will happen. ²² And whatever you ask
in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."

On the Road to Easter...

Jesus Teaches an Important Lesson on Faith

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 394 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

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

Communion Examination (Insert)

Distribution

Benediction:

☐: Amen

Hymn:

TLH 533 Nearer, My God, to Thee

Silent Prayer

Acknowledgments

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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. Please talk to Ann if you need to know what to bring.
- **Lent:** Our second midweek Lenten service will be held this Thursday at 6:30pm.
- **Work Day:** Our church workday will be held on this coming Saturday, March 15th at 9am.

Call News:

- Pastor Jonathan Schnose of Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church in Morris, MN ***has returned 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 |
|-----------|-------------|-------------------|
| 2/9/2024 | \$ 1,200.00 | \$ 1780.00 |
| 2/16/2024 | \$ 1,200.00 | \$ 715.00 |
| 2/23/2024 | \$ 1,200.00 | \$ 825.00 |
| 3/2/2024 | \$ 1,200.00 | \$ 970.00 |

Upcoming Schedule:

Thursday, March 13th Midweek Lenten Service at 6:30

Sunday, March 16th Ascension Sunday Service at 11:30

Thursday, March 20th Midweek Lenten Service at 6:30