

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Misericordias Domini Sunday

The Good Shepherd



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:

Ezekiel 34:11 ¹¹"For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out.

Prayer: Dear LORD God, You have not left Your people without a shepherd. When those You called failed, You Yourself sought us out. You came to us through the preaching of Your Word, the message of the Gospel, and You brought us into the safety of Your family. LORD, help us to recognize that You provide all that we need for our physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being as only You know how. Keep us in Your flock until You bring us home to You. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our LORD, who lives and reigns with the You and the Holy Spirit, One God now and forever, world without end. Amen.

Service of the Word

Opening Hymn

TLH 203 Morning Breaks Upon the Tomb

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.

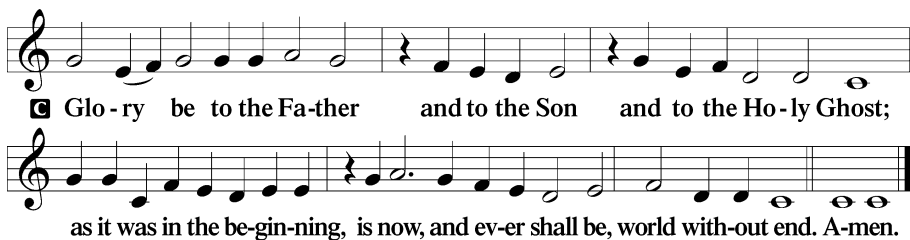
P: Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

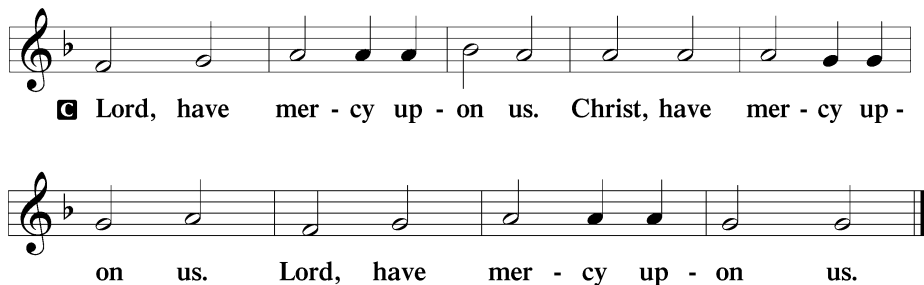
C: Amen.

Gloria Patri TLH pg 6



Two staves of music in G major. The first staff contains the lyrics: "Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;". The second staff contains the lyrics: "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 music in B-flat major. The first staff contains the lyrics: "Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -". The second staff contains the lyrics: "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

1 Peter 2:21-25

²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³

When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,

that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 23

P The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want.

C He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

P He restores my soul.

C He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

P Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil

C For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

P You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

C You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

P Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

C And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Amen.

Gospel Lesson

John 10:11-18

¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

Confession of Faith:

Apostles Creed

C 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 277 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Sermon

Ezekiel 34:11-16

¹¹"For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹² As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

Only One Shepherd Promises Restoration and Redemption

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 436 The Lord’s My Shepherd I’ll Not Want

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Prayer & Lord’s Prayer

- 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

C: Amen

Hymn LSB 686 Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Silent Prayer

Acknowledgments

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Announcements

Upcoming Events:

- **Evangelism Seminar:** The Evangelism Seminar will be held at Redemption (probably Saturday, May 23rd in the morning). It will be livestreamed on Redemption's Youtube page.

Call News:

- Pastor Wayne Eichstadt of Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Spokane Valley, WA ***is considering the call*** to Messiah Lutheran Church of Eau Claire, WI
- Pastor Frank Gantt of Zion Ev. Lutheran Church of Loganville, GA ***has returned the call*** to St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Mountain View, CA
- Pastor Aaron Ude of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Rapid City, SD, ***has received the call*** to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.

Fruits of Faith at Ascension:

DATE	NEEDED	RECEIVED
4/3&6/2025	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1405.00
4/10&13/2025	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1260.00
4/17&20/2025	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1665.00
4/27/2025	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 775.00

Upcoming Schedule:

Sunday, May 11th Ascension Communion Service at 11:30

Sunday, May 18th Ascension Sunday Service at 11:30

Sunday, May 25th Ascension Sunday Service at 11:30