

2nd Sunday in Lent
March 5, 2023



Welcome to *ASCENSION!*

We are delighted to have you with us today. That we may know you better, please sign the Guest Registry in the Narthex and introduce yourself to the Pastor after the service. May God bless you with the assurance of His forgiveness, life, and salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you, and ... **Peace be with you!**



Rev. James D. Gier, Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Gary Zieroth, Associate Pastor
Rev. Dr. John Stube, Pastor Emeritus
Mrs. Laurie Behnfeldt, Principal

ASCENSION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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✠ HOLY COMMUNION ✠

Holy Communion is administered to **COMMUNICANT MEMBERS** of Ascension, of other Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) congregations, and of Lutheran Church bodies in declared fellowship with the LCMS, who have been instructed, examined, and *confirmed* in the Christian faith as taught by the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and so publicly declared their unity of faith in all doctrines of Holy Scripture in fellowship with LCMS.

All **COMMUNICANT MEMBERS** desiring to commune today are to fill out a *Member Communion Card* or *Guest Communion Card* and hand it to the Ushers when coming forward to commune.

All others we kindly and respectfully request to abstain from communing until such public declaration is made in keeping with Christ's institution.

If you would like to know more about receiving Holy Communion at Ascension, please speak to the Pastors after the service and they will be glad to instruct you to that end. *Thank you!*

Preaching Pastor ✠ Rev. James Gier

Assisting Pastor ✠ Rev. Gary Zieroth

Fieldworkers ✠ David Clark and Zachary Benkert

Organist ✠ Josh Walworth

Prelude ~ "Prelude in G Minor" – Bach

"Sinfornia" - Purchell

Voluntary ~ "Ayre" - Handel

Communion ~ "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted" – Gr. 5-8 Choir

Postlude ~ "Gavotte" - Handel

Special Music ~ 10:45 ~ Gr. 5-8 Choir, Jeff Neuman, director

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(Series A)

DIVINE SERVICE 4

✠ ✠ ✠

Opening Hymn #722

Confession & Absolution p. 203

The Eighth Commandment

SERVICE OF THE WORD

The Introit *bulletin*

The Kyrie p. 204

Gloria in Excelsis **omitted**

The Salutation p. 205

The Collect of the Day *bulletin*

Scripture Readings *bulletin*

Genesis 12:1-9

Gradual

Romans 4:1-8, 13-17

Lenten Verse **#420** vs. 2

John 3:1-17

The Nicene Creed p. 206

Hymn of the Day #708

The SERMON

Prayer of the Church

P: Lord in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Offering

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

The Preface and Sanctus p. 208

Prayer of Thanksgiving p. 209

The Lord's Prayer p. 209

The Words of Our Lord p. 209

The Pax Domini p. 209

The Agnus Dei p. 210

The Distribution **#936#555#718**

The Nunc Dimittis p. 211

Post-Communion Collect p. 212

Benedicamus p. 212

Benediction p. 212

Closing Hymn #603

Introit (*Psalm 105:4-7; antiphon: Psalm 105:8*)



He remembers his covenant for- | ever,*
The word that he commanded, for a thousand gener- | ations.

Seek the LORD | and his strength;*

seek his presence con- | tinually!

Remember the wondrous works that | he has done,*
his miracles, and the judgments he | uttered,

O offspring of Abraham, his | servant,*

Children of Jacob, his | chosen ones!

He is the | LORD our God;*

His judgments are in | all the earth.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

He remembers his covenant for- | ever,*
the word that he commanded, for a thousand gener- | ations.

Collect of the Day

P. O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (L24)

C. Amen.

Gradual (*Hebrews 12:2*)

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] | Jesus,*

the founder and perfecter | of our faith,

who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despis- | ing the shame,*

and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

The Introit, Collect, and Gradual are from the *Lutheran Service Book: Altar Book*, copyright © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. License #11636.

Old Testament Reading – Genesis 12:1-9 (ESV) Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go out from your country, your relatives, and your father’s household to the land that I will show you. ² Then I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you, and I will make your name great, so that you will exemplify divine blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, but the one who treats you lightly I must curse, so that all the families of the earth may receive blessing through you.” ⁴ So Abram left, just as the LORD had told him to do, and Lot went with him. (Now Abram was 75 years old when he departed from Haran.) ⁵ And Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they left for the land of Canaan. They entered the land of Canaan. ⁶ Abram traveled through the land as far as the oak tree of Moreh at Shechem. (At that time the Canaanites were in the land.) ⁷ The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” So Abram built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸ Then he moved from there to the hill country east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and worshiped the LORD. ⁹ Abram continually journeyed by stages down to the Negev.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading – Romans 4:1-8, 13-17 (ESV) What then shall we say that Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh, has discovered regarding this matter? ² For if Abraham was declared righteous by works, he has something to boast about—but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? “***Abraham believed God, and it was credited^[d] to him as righteousness.***” ⁴ Now to the one who works, his pay is not credited due to grace but due to obligation. ⁵ But to the one who does not work, but believes in the one who declares the ungodly righteous, his faith is credited as righteousness. ⁶ So even David himself speaks regarding the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: ⁷ “***Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered;*** ⁸ ***blessed is the one against whom the Lord will never count sin.***”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

People: Glory be to You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel – John 3:1-17 (ESV) Now a certain man, a Pharisee named Nicodemus, who was a member of the Jewish ruling council, ²came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs that you do unless God is with him.” ³Jesus replied, “I tell you the solemn truth, unless a person is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter his mother’s womb and be born a second time, can he?” ⁵Jesus answered, “I tell you the solemn truth, unless a person is born of water and spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must all be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows wherever it will, and you hear the sound it makes, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus replied, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you don’t understand these things? ¹¹I tell you the solemn truth, we speak about what we know and testify about what we have seen, but you people do not accept our testimony. ¹²If I have told you people about earthly things and you don’t believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴Just as Moses *lifted up the serpent in the wilderness*, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.” ¹⁶For this is the way God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world should be saved through him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to You, O Christ.

MY SERMON NOTES

“Faith comes from hearing and hearing through the Word of Christ.” ~ Rm 10:17