

TODAY’S WORSHIP NOTES

What is the church season or special day?

What is the color of the altar cloths today? (circle one)

- White

perfection, joy, purity
- Black

absence of color; symbolic of death
- Blue

hope
- Green

life, nourishment
- Purple

royalty, mourning, repentance
- Gold

royalty, riches, victory
- Red

fire, fervor, blood, martyrdom, victory in the blood of Christ

How does the color of the day fit the theme of the day? _____

What led our singing today? ☐video ☐organ ☐piano ☐other

Did we have special music today? ☐choir ☐soloist ☐guest musicians

Did we have a sacrament today?

- Communion?

☐Yes

☐No
- Baptism?

☐Yes

☐No

The sermon text is: _____, found in ☐Old Testament ☐New Testament

What did I learn today about God, myself, or my Christian faith? _____

What was my favorite song today? _____

Did we do something special or out of the ordinary in worship today? _____

I would like to ask pastor this question (*in person, text or email!*): _____



The risen Savior gives peace. This truth is a gift for all who live in this world where peace seems to distant. He brings peace where there is fear and where there is doubt. And best of all, it is not a peace based on the world’s ability to “get along;” it is peace of mind and heart that comes from peace with God established by the finished work of Christ, crucified and risen!

Ascension Lutheran Church

April 7, 2024

Welcome to worship today at Ascension!

THE LORD’S SUPPER, OR HOLY COMMUNION, WILL BE CELEBRATED IN TODAY’S SERVICE.

The Holy Sacrament of our Savior’s body and blood is a gift which he has given to his church. Whenever we approach his altar, he wants us to contemplate the fact that this sacred meal is to nurture two kinds of fellowship:

- 1) The **vertical fellowship** between God and each of his individual Christians, and
- 2) The **horizontal fellowship** which God gives his people to enjoy with one another.

Paul, the Apostle, tells us that we are to examine ourselves before we partake of the Lord’s Supper (1 Corinthians 11:18). We are to give serious consideration to our sin and remind ourselves why we need the forgiveness of sins offered and given in this Sacrament. Hearts that are properly prepared to receive Christ’s body and blood rejoice in God’s gift of forgiveness of sins.

Paul also warns us that anyone who eats the bread and drinks the wine without recognizing that Christ’s body and blood are also given in this sacrament, “will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.” That is a very serious matter, for Paul says that such a person “eats and drinks judgment on himself” (1 Corinthians 11:27-29).

That is why we ask all people who wish to commune at our altar be properly instructed about the Lord’s Supper as well as the other basic teachings of the Christian faith, and to declare that that faith is their own. We follow this practice – as did the early Christian Church – out of love for all people and to ensure that all who commune with us:

- Are baptized in the name of the Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- Are aware that Christ’s true body and blood are actually received along with the bread and wine in the Lord’s Supper;
- Are relying on Jesus for salvation; and
- Are united in that fellowship which is based on God’s Word.

Therefore, **if you are visitor and not yet affiliated with Ascension Lutheran Church or with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, please speak to the pastor before communing with us.** We are not trying to say that we think we are better than anyone else, for our motive in our practice is love, and Christian love “does not boast; it is not proud” (1 Corinthians 13). Our love for God, respect for what he says about this Sacrament, and our love for those who wish to receive it compel us to administer this sacrament according to the guidelines he has given in his Word.

Jesus’ love and forgiveness are freely offered to you whether you commune or not. We, as sinners, all stand before God in need of forgiveness. The word of forgiveness God speaks to us today through his called servant is as valid and certain for both members and visitors as if God himself spoke it.

PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

(For personal reflection)

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.



OUR ORDER OF SERVICE IS THE SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT:

This order of service is a form of worship that focuses on the proclamation of God's Word and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Scripture readings and references are from the Evangelical Heritage Version. Liturgy and those hymns that are not in the public domain are reprinted here under OneLicense #A-713900. Children's activity pages used by permission (paid subscription).

OUR MISSION:

Ascension exists to proclaim the joy of Jesus Christ in the Macomb County area by gathering to grow in the timeless truths of the Bible and by scattering to share the hope of heaven with everyone we meet. We are a mission congregation of the Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH?

Please contact Pastor Dan Simons at revdsimons@gmail.com. Phone or text him at 586-569-9895. Visit our website at www.ascensionmacomb.com Check us out on Facebook at facebook.com/ALCmacomb. For more about the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod visit www.wels.net.

NEED TO CONNECT TO WI-FI HERE AT CHURCH?

Our Wi-Fi name is ASCENSION Guest. Password is macombwels.

THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE US TODAY

Worship accompanist - Gloria Aita; Recording/Streaming Engineers – Sandy Borkowski, Paul Kokesh; Security – Paul Fuller; Worship Leader /Preacher – Mr. Jon Munson.

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING HYMN.....CW 438 Jesus Christ Is Ris'n Today



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text (sts. 1-3): tr. Lyra Davidica, 1708, alt.; (sts. 1-3): Latin, 14th cent.; (st. 4): Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Tune: Lyra Davidica, London, 1708
Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



C: A - men.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.



C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in



all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,



you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;



you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and



ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.
O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,
you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;
you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the
King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BE SEATED

THE WORD

First Reading.....Acts 18:1-11

The Word of God proclaims peace with God through Jesus Christ. Aquila tried to persuade people of that. Paul fearlessly preached that. Many believed through their message. Many, but not all. Some forfeited peace with God by rejecting God's Word. May God give us the courage to fearlessly and relentlessly proclaim the good news about Jesus! May we always be confident that some will come to the Savior through that message and may we remain undeterred when some reject it.

After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ² There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them. ³ Because he had the same occupation, he stayed and worked with them, for they were tentmakers by trade. ⁴ Every Sabbath he led a discussion in the synagogue, trying to persuade both Jews and Greeks.

⁵ When Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was entirely devoted to preaching the word, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. ⁶ But when they opposed Paul and slandered him, he shook out his clothes and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on, I will go to the Gentiles!"

⁷ He left that place and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshipper of God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. ⁸ Crispus, the synagogue leader, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians, when they heard, believed and were baptized.

⁹ One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid, but keep on speaking, and do not be silent. ¹⁰ For I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to harm you, because I have many people in this city." ¹¹ He stayed there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Psalm of the Day.....Psalm 16

Refrain

I will walk in the pres-ence of the Lord,
in the land of the liv - ing.

Psalm tone *

Refrain
Keep me safe, O God,*
for in you I take refuge.
I said to the LORD, “You are my Lord;*
apart from you I have no good thing.”
I have set the LORD always before me.*
Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. **Refrain**
My heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;*
my body also will rest secure,
because you will not abandon me to the grave,*
nor will you let your Holy One see decay.
You have made known to me the path of life;*
you will fill me with joy in your presence.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen. Refrain

Refrain Tune: Richard Proulx. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Second Reading.....1 John 1:1-4

At the end of our gospel reading today, John explains why he wrote what he did in his gospel. In this reading, he expands on that truth by pointing out that what he has written is not based on his imagination or on someone else’s fanciful thoughts. No, it comes from what he himself saw, heard, touched, and experienced.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have observed and our hands have touched regarding the Word of Life— ² the life appeared, and we have seen it. We testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We are proclaiming what we have seen and heard also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father and his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write these things to you so that our joy may be complete.

Verse of the Day.....John 20:29

M: Alelluia, alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that
Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

STAND

Gospel Reading.....John 20:19-31

Fear reigned in the hearts of the disciples. They whom Jesus called and commissioned to carry the gospel to the world were in hiding behind locked doors. At least one of them would express his doubts that Jesus had risen from the dead. But fear, doubt, and locked doors would prove to be no obstacles for Jesus! He appeared to them, dispelled their fears, answered the doubt, and gave them the peace of knowing the truth: He is risen! That truth would propel them out into the world to proclaim it!

On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because of their fear of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you! Just as the Father has sent me, I am also sending you.” ²² After saying this, he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ Whenever you forgive people’s sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

²⁴ But Thomas, one of the Twelve, the one called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples kept telling him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

²⁶ After eight days, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and look at my hands. Take your hand and put it into my side. Do not continue to doubt, but believe.”

²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰ Jesus, in the presence of his disciples, did many other miraculous signs that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

M: This is the gospel of our Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE SEATED

HYMN..... CW 510 In Christ Alone



1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my
2 In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of
3 There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the
4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the



light, my strength, my song; this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id
God in help - less babe; this gift of love and right - eous -
world by dark - ness slain; then burst - ing forth in glo - rious
pow'r of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fi - nal



ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.
ness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
day, up from the grave he rose a - gain!
breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny.



What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are
Till on that cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of
And as he stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ev - er



stilled, when striv - ings cease! My com - fort - er, my all in
God was sat - is - fied; for ev - 'ry sin on him was
lost its grip on me; for I am his and he is
pluck me from his hand; till he re - turns or calls me



all; here in the love of Christ I stand.
laid; here in the death of Christ I live.
mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

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Sermon.....Galatians 1:1-10

Paul, an apostle—not from men, nor through a man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—² and all of the brothers who are with me,

To the churches of Galatia:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ He gave himself for our sins to rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father—⁵ to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

⁶ I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you in the grace of Christ, for a different gospel, ⁷ which is really not another gospel at all. There are, however, some who are trying to disturb you by perverting the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven would preach any gospel other than the one we preached to you—a curse on him! ⁹ As we have said before, so I now say again: If anyone preaches to you any gospel other than the one you received—a curse on him!

¹⁰ Am I now seeking the favor of people or of God? Or am I striving to please people? If I were still trying to gain the approval of people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Jesus is enough!

STAND

THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

OFFERING

We consider it our privilege to honor God with gifts that support the ministry of the Word among us and around the world. Many worshippers prefer to use offering envelopes each week. If you do not have offering envelopes and would like a set, please ask. We will be glad to provide them, whether you are member or not. A growing number of our worshippers choose to give their offerings online using our website. You can do so at www.ascensionmacomb.com. Click on the WATCH A SERVICE tile, then scroll down to the GIVE NOW button to make an offering or to set up an automatic recurring offering. Whichever way you choose to give your gift to the Lord, it is an important part of worship.

OFFERING HYMN.....CW 749:2-3 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through pow'rs your
Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom,
grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred,
rac - es joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
and to spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in
la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone; born with
shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing,
tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

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.

A Word About Holy Communion at Ascension Lutheran Church

Are you a guest or visitor with us today? We regard receiving Holy Communion as an expression of membership in our congregation or in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The Scriptures also describe this Supper as having great power that requires careful preparation and understanding. Out of Christian love for those we commune, we take the responsibility of administering this sacrament very seriously. That's why we commune at our altar those with whom we have had the opportunity to discuss what the Scriptures teach about the Lord's Supper. With that in mind, we kindly and respectfully ask that you refrain from taking Holy Communion here at Ascension until you speak with Pastor Simons. He will be happy to meet with you and explain our practice of Holy Communion. Thank you.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms and placed all things under his feet for the benefit of the Church. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.

I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -

va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

Detailed description: This is a musical score for the hymn 'HOLY, HOLY, HOLY'. It is written in C major and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score consists of six lines of music. The first line is 'C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.' The second line is 'The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.' The third line is 'You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.' The fourth line is 'I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -'. The fifth line is 'va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.' The sixth line is 'The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.' The score ends with a double bar line.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: A - men.

Detailed description: This is a musical score for the text 'The peace of the Lord be with you always.' It is written in C major and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score consists of one line of music: 'C: A - men.' The score ends with a double bar line.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; grant us your peace. A - men.

Detailed description: This is a musical score for the hymn 'O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD'. It is written in C major and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score consists of six lines of music. The first line is 'C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the'. The second line is 'world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you'. The third line is 'take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.' The fourth line is 'O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the'. The fifth line is 'world; grant us your peace. A - men.' The sixth line is 'A - men.' The score ends with a double bar line.

BE SEATED

Distribution of the Lord’s Supper

COMMUNION HYMN.....CW 660 Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face

Musical notation for the hymn "Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face". The melody is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are:

1 Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;
2 This is the hour of ban - quet and of song;
3 I have no help but yours nor do I need
4 Mine is the sin but yours the right - eous - ness;

here would I touch and han - dle things un - seen,
this is the heav'n - ly ta - ble spread a - new.
an - oth - er arm but yours to lean up - on.
mine is the guilt but yours the cleans - ing blood.

here grasp with firm - er hand e - ter - nal grace,
Here let me feast and, feast - ing, still pro - long
It is e - nough, O Lord, e - nough in - deed;
Here is my robe, my ref - uge, and my peace:

and all my wea - ri - ness up - on you lean.
the brief bright hour of fel - low - ship with you.
my strength is in your might, your might a - lone.
your blood, your right - eous - ness, O Lord, my God.

- 5 Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;the feast, though not the love, is past and gone.
The bread and wine remove, but you are here, nearer than ever, still my shield and sun.
- 6 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy, the Lamb’s great marriage feast of bliss and love.

THANKSGIVING.....sung after distribution of Holy Communion is completed.

Musical notation for the Thanksgiving hymn. The melody is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are:

C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-’ry-one what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud - ly bear his name.

He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYER

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Musical notation for the prayer response. The melody is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are:

C: A - men.


BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

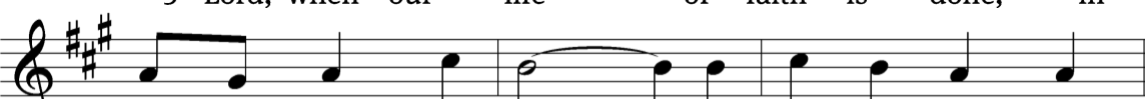


C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

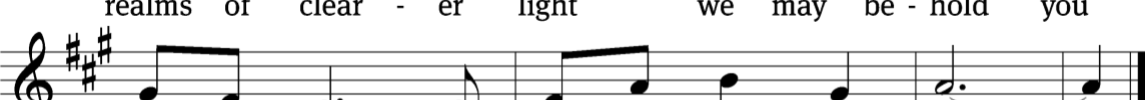
CLOSING HYMN.....830 We Walk by Faith



1 We walk by faith and not by sight, no
2 We may not touch his hands and side, nor
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
4 For you, O res - ur - rect - ed Lord, are
5 Lord, when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words we hear from him who spoke as
fol - low where he trod; but in his prom - ise
may our faith a - bound to call on you when
found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter
realms of clear - er light we may be - hold you



none e'er spoke, but we be - lieve him near.
we re - joice and cry "My Lord and God!"
you are near and seek where you are found.
and the Word, be - neath the bread and wine.
as you are with full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.
Tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Text: Public domain
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LAST WEEK AT ASCENSION:

Ascension members in God’s house for worship	73
Repeat visitors in God’s house for worship	28
First-time visitors in God’s house	10
Worshipping with us online	3
Total	114

Faith conversations and invitations to worship by Ascension people: 45
Ascension people in touch with each (planning, encouraging, etc.): 25

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Today 9:30 a.m.....	Worship with Holy Communion
10:30 a.m.....	Food, Friends, & Fellowship
10:45 a.m.....	Christlight for Kids: Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene
10:45 a.m.....	<u>Parables & Word Pictures</u> : Ransomed and Redeemed
12:00 p.m.....	No Confirmation Instruction Class today or Monday night
Monday 7:00 p.m.....	Alcoholics Anonymous-Covenant Chapter meets at Ascension
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.....	The Chosen Watch Party & Discussion, Season 1, Episode 5*
Wednesday 5:00 p.m.....	Set up for Mornings with Mommy: “Rain, Clouds, and Puddles”
Thursday & Friday 10:00 a.m.....	Mornings with Mommy: “Rains, Clouds, and Puddles”
Thursday 6:30 p.m.....	Bible Information Class
Sunday, April 14th 9:30 a.m.....	Worship w/ Children’s Message
10:30 a.m.....	Food, Friends, & Fellowship
10:45 a.m.....	Christlight for Kids: The Pharisee & the Tax Collector
10:45 a.m.....	NEW!! “Stories They Probably Didn’t Teach You in Sunday School”
12:00 p.m.....	Confirmation Instruction Class

*This event is being hosted at the home of Paul & Kay Kokesh. Please let Pastor Simons know ASAP if you plan to attend!



OUR PHOTO STUDIO will be set up in the church lobby each Sunday. Gary Aita will be on hand to take your individual or family photo. We’re putting together a digital picture directory of our congregation that will run continuously on a large monitor at church. Please take a few minutes to have your picture taken.

APRIL LUTHERAN WOMEN’S MISSIONARY SOCIETY UPDATE

Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society (LWMS) Mission Statement:

LWMS is women dedicated to serving Jesus by increasing awareness of, interest in, and support of the mission outreach of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). As WELS women, we believe that Jesus was speaking to each of us when he directed his disciples to “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” To this end we freely give of the time, talents, and treasures with which God has richly blessed us.

God’s church isn’t a building. It’s God’s redeemed people built and bound together by the blood of Christ. This year’s **LWMS prayer calendar** highlights and celebrates the variety and uniqueness of the spaces where our synod’s home and world missions worship. Please continue to pray for our missions and missionaries as they work hard to keep **Building the House of God**. *“You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house.” 1 Peter 2:5*

Pastor Nathan Loersch, who shepherds Illumine Church in Rock Hill, South Carolina, shares his experiences as a home missionary in our **April**, 2024, prayer calendar:

“We had rented a building for seven years, and we were finally ready to purchase it, renovate it, and make it even better than it already was. We had been under contract for six (yes, SIX) months and were now ready to close, when the email came out of the blue, during Holy Week, of all times: ‘We don’t want to sell the building anymore.’

We tried our best to work things out, but two weeks after Easter, we announced to the congregation that we wouldn’t be able to purchase the space we had so long dreamed about making our own. We said, “Keep your eye out for any other options - for rent, for purchase, any sort of building...who knows, things might work out!” Right after worship that very day, a member named Chad said, ‘You know, I think I saw a For Sale sign at the church across the street from our subdivision this morning.’

It turns out that Chad had indeed seen a sign, and just over a month later, our offer on that property was accepted (over at least two other offers)! Now after more than a year in the building, we simply marvel with thankfulness at God’s providential blessing. He always knows what’s best - and in our case, it’s obvious to see how he worked things out. We’re incredibly thankful for the beautiful building and property God has blessed us with to use as we seek to build his kingdom in Rock Hill!”

The prayer request of this mission is...

...for God to continue to bless our gospel outreach efforts in Rock Hill.

Finally, the Bible verse upon which we meditate this month is Isaiah 30, verse 21:

“Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying, ‘This is the way; walk in it.’”



Parables & Word Pictures: Ransomed and Redeemed

Introduction

We’ve looked at word pictures such as *death* and *birth*, the *bread of life*, and *sonship*. What truth is present in every one of those word pictures?

Studying God’s Word

The word pictures that we will look at last in this lesson are some of the oldest in Scripture. God used the history of his people to establish and illustrate the salvation of all mankind.

The roots of redemption

There are few concepts that were as firmly embedded in the social consciousness of the Israelites as that of *redemption*—and rightly so.

Read Exodus 6:6 and 13:11-16.

Exodus 6:6 “Therefore, tell the Israelites, ‘I am the Lord. I will bring you out from under the forced labor of the Egyptians. I will deliver you from being their slaves. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment.’”

Exodus 13:11-16 “When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites—just as he swore to you and to your fathers—and gives it to you, ¹² then you must dedicate the firstborn of every mother to the Lord. Every firstborn of your livestock, the ones that are males, will belong to the Lord. ¹³ Every firstborn donkey you are to redeem with a lamb. But if you do not want to redeem it, then you are to break its neck. However, you must redeem all the firstborn among your sons.

¹⁴ In the future, when your son asks you, ‘What is this about?’ you will say to him, ‘By the strength of his hand the Lord brought us out from Egypt, where we were slaves. ¹⁵ When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, the firstborn of people and animals. That is why I sacrifice to the Lord the firstborn of every mother, the males, but I redeem every firstborn of my sons.’ ¹⁶ It will serve as a sign

on your wrist and a symbol on your forehead. For by the strength of his hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt.”

1. From what did God redeem the Israelites?
2. Recall the events of the Passover. What did the Lord use to redeem the Israelites from slavery and death?
3. Why did the Lord tell the Israelites to redeem their firstborn?

Read Ruth 4:9,10,13,14.

Ruth 4:9 Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, “You are witnesses today that I have acquired from the hand of Naomi everything that belonged to Elimelek and everything that belonged to Kilion and Mahlon. ... ¹⁰ Furthermore, Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahlon, I have acquired for myself as a wife, in order to perpetuate the name of the deceased on his inheritance, so that the name of the deceased shall not be cut off from his brothers and from the city gate of his place. You are witnesses today.” ... ¹³ Then Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife, and he went to her. The Lord enabled her to conceive, and she bore a son. ... ¹⁴ Then the women said to Naomi: Blessed is the Lord, who has not left you without a redeemer today. May his name be proclaimed in Israel!

Another development in Israel’s national history further explained and expanded the idea of redemption.

4. What was the role of a “kinsman-redeemer”?
5. How is this a picture of Christ’s act of redemption?
6. In ransoms and redemptions (two closely related concepts), a price is always paid. The Israelites saw this time and again throughout their history. Read Ephesians 1:7,8 and 1 Peter 1:18,19. What price did it take to redeem the souls of all people?

Ephesians 1:7-8 “In him we also have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in keeping with the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished on us in all wisdom and insight.”

1 Peter 1:18-19 “...because you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, not with things that pass away, such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like a lamb without blemish or spot.”

Redeemed *from* and *for*

Reread 1 Peter 1:18,19 and read Galatians 3:13,14.

1 Peter 1:18 “because you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, not with things that pass away, such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like a lamb without blemish or spot.”

Galatians 3:13 “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. As it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.’ ¹⁴ He redeemed us in order that the blessing of Abraham would come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that we would receive the promised Spirit through faith.”

7. In these passages, *from* what two things does God say we have been redeemed?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19,20; Titus 2:11-14; and Romans 8:23.

1 Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God with your body.

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people. ¹² It trains us to reject ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope, that is, the glorious appearance of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He gave himself for us, to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people who are his own chosen people, eager to do good works.

Romans 8:23 And not only creation, but also we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we eagerly await our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

8. Jesus’ sacrifice set us free *from* sin and death at the price of his own blood. *For* what has God saved us?

9. Read Titus 2:11-14. What are some concrete ways we can honor the Lord who has redeemed us?

10. According to the passage from Romans chapter 8, what ultimate goal did God have in mind in our redemption?

Summary

Key Points:

- God used the history of the Israelites to establish and illustrate the truths of redemption.
- Jesus shed his holy blood to redeem us from sin and death.
- Jesus redeemed us so that we can live as his holy people here on earth.
- Jesus redeemed us so that we can live as his holy people forever in heaven.

May our hearts yearn within us as we look forward to that day!

During the Week

1. Read through the Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed. Think about why these truths are grouped together: the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
2. Read and think through some of the “End Time” hymns in *Christian Worship* (hymns 206-220). Pick out hymns that connect Jesus’ redemption both to our lives in heaven and to our conduct here on earth.

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." John 20:25

Based on John 20:19-31 (NIV)



Y J M N P S M B J D J Y D J S
C X I T A T F M L H O Y W A X
W X R K N Y G X P O F O M E D
X M A D V Y G E A X C O R E H
R X C C J V D R L X H K V S A
T L L U V E D A E T N E E D M
T K E S H E H I R C I N S D S
O X S C W B A S S L O C Y N T
G R U O L K N Z E C L R G D N
E O H D Q Z D B H J I I D E P
T S I U J J S A S R S P F E Z
H N T F E K D P I A M I L B D
E T W U S N K D D U L G E E E
R S R N U K P S E S L V H N S
R P T V S V D O U B T I N G B

JESUS	TOGETHER	DOUBTING	RECORDED
MIRACLES	SIGNS	SHOWED	BELIEVED
DOORS	LIFE	HANDS	DISCIPLES
TOUCHED	THOMAS	SIDE	LOCKED

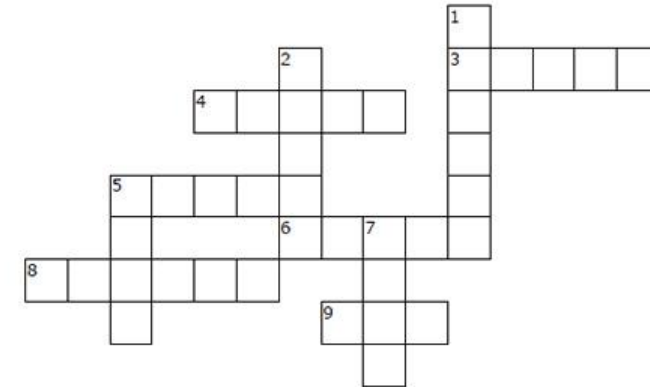


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Jesus Appears to His Disciples

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Based on John 20:19-31 (NIV)



ACROSS

3. To be in a state of pleasure, satisfaction, joy or delight
4. Free from conflict; getting along with others; opposite of war
5. To be undecided or unbelieving that something is true
6. The body parts at the end of the arms
8. Not open
9. To break God's law

DOWN

1. The disciple who would not believe without seeing
2. To believe in something for which there is no proof
5. An entrance into a building or room
7. A thin piece of metal with one pointed end and one flat end which you hit with a hammer

PEACE	DOOR	HANDS	FAITH	HAPPY
NAIL	THOMAS	CLOSED	SIN	DOUBT

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