

## TODAY'S WORSHIP NOTES

What is the church season or special day?

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

**White** perfection, joy, purity

**Blue** hope

**Purple** royalty, mourning, repentance

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

**Black** absence of color; symbolic of death

**Green** life, nourishment

**Gold** royalty, riches, victory

How does the color of the day fit the theme of the day? \_\_\_\_\_

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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? \_\_\_\_\_

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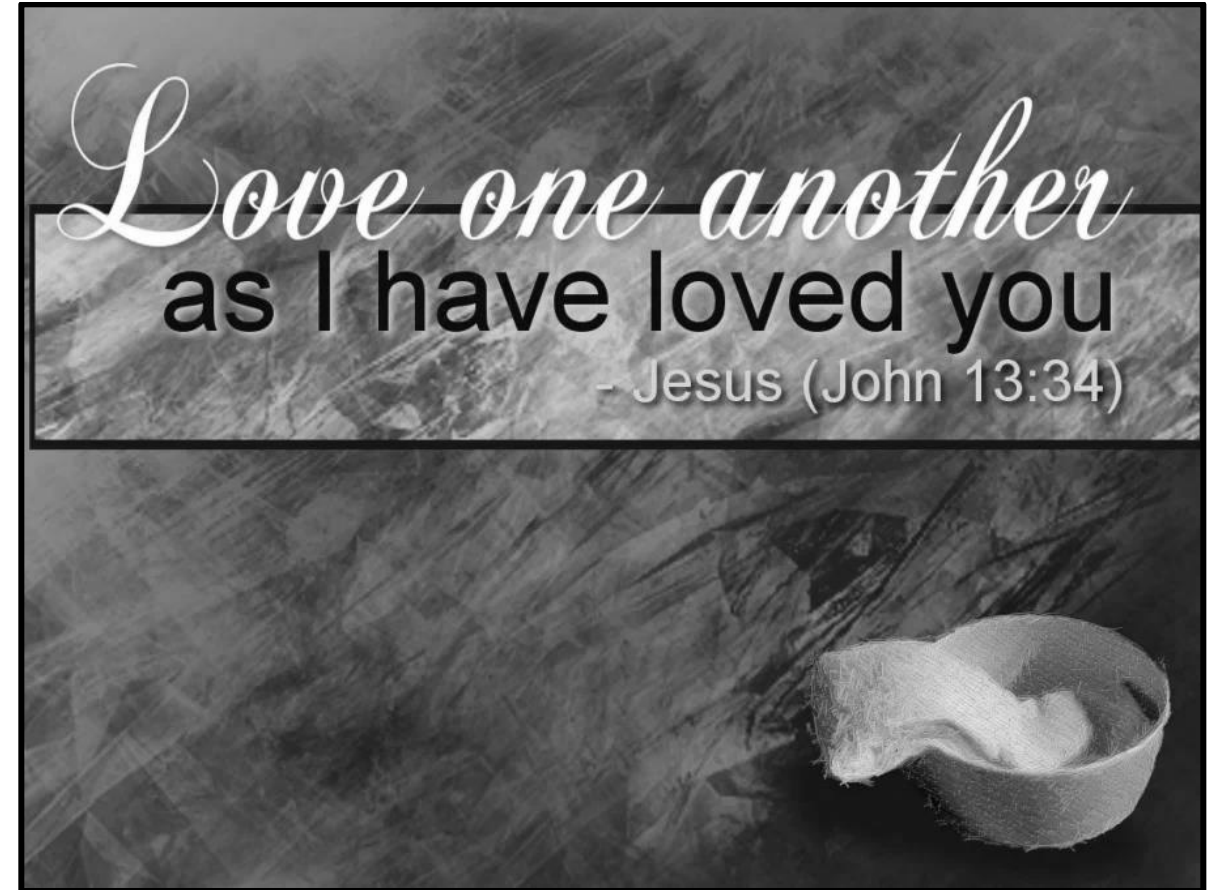
What was my favorite song today? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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Because Jesus lives, he continues to transform the lives of all who are connected to him by faith. Today we will explore the nature of this relationship more deeply. The key word is **LOVE**. Our living Lord does not shape our lives by exerting his power to force us into his mold. Though he lives in us, he is not a divine puppeteer who manipulates us like marionettes. His love initiated his relationship with us. It continues to define that relationship. His love turned us into his friends. It leads us to love one another as our Friend loves us.

## Ascension Lutheran Church

May 5, 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.*



## ORDER OF SERVICE

### 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](http://www.ascensionmacomb.com) Check us out on Facebook at [facebook.com/ALCmacomb](https://facebook.com/ALCmacomb). For more about the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod visit [www.wels.net](http://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 –Pastor Dan Simons.

### OPENING HYMN.....721 What a Friend We Have in Jesus



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?  
3 Are we weak and heav-y lad - en, cum-bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need-less pain we bear,  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?  
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!  
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819–1886, alt.  
Tune: Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918  
Text and tune: Public domain

STAND

### 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 God, you are the giver of everything good. Inspire us, your humble servants, to long for what is right and, through your gracious guidance, accomplish it to your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C:** A - men.

*BE SEATED*

**THE WORD**

**First Reading**.....**Acts 9:36-42**

*Jesus' love produces love in his friends. Consider Tabitha, also known as Dorcas. Dorcas showed her love by using her talent and skill to serve others. Her love for the Lord showed itself in her good deeds and acts of kindness for those in need. When she died, the widows gathered around Peter to show him the evidence of her love and kindness. In yet another Easter-like miracle, the Lord gave her back to the church at Joppa so that she could continue to demonstrate her love.*

In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was always doing good deeds and acts of charity.<sup>37</sup> At that time she became sick and died. After they had washed her, they laid her in an upstairs room.<sup>38</sup> Since Lydda is near Joppa, when the disciples heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, who urged him, "Come to us without delay!"

<sup>39</sup> Peter got up and went with them. When he arrived, they led him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing him the robes and clothing that Dorcas made while she was still with them.

<sup>40</sup> After Peter sent them all outside, he got down on his knees and prayed. Then he turned toward the body and said, "Tabitha, get up!" She opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. <sup>41</sup> He gave her his hand and helped her stand up. After he called the saints and the widows, he presented her to them alive.

<sup>42</sup> This became known all over Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

Psalm of the Day.....89C Love Enduring Evermore

1 Love will be our song for - ev - er, faith - ful love from  
 2 Heav'n and earth a - like af - firm it: LORD, you are mag -  
 3 Once, when Is - rael lacked a lead - er, Da - vid was the  
 4 Now, though, we have felt your an - ger; now we find dis -

a - ges past: love en - shrined with - in a prom - ise made by  
 nif - i - cent! E - vil pow'rs and hid - den forc - es you have  
 man you chose; an ex - alt - ed throne you gave him, and re -  
 as - ter near. Shame is ours in - stead of tri - umph; neigh - bors

you and sure to last; hu - man tongues and an - gel voic - es  
 ren - dered im - po - tent. At your throne of love and jus - tice  
 lief from all his foes; e - ven when your reb - el peo - ple  
 see our plight and sneer. How much long - er till you hear us?

join in rev - 'rence and de - light, prais - ing your un -  
 we ex - tol you, faith - ful King: blest are those who  
 scorned your ways and spurned your law, still your prom - ise  
 Life is short, so swift our days! Lord, re - new the

ri - valed splen - dor, lov - ing LORD, the God of might.  
 learn to trust you— they have am - ple cause to sing.  
 shaped the fu - ture: love en - dur - ing ev - er - more.  
 love you prom - ised— fill your peo - ple's hearts with praise.

Second Reading.....1 John 4:7-11, 19-21

*In his gospel, his three letters, and Revelation, John uses the word love more than anyone else in the New Testament. He valued Jesus' love for him so highly that he referred to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." John's capacity not only to write about love but to love in word and action grew directly from the love of Jesus for him and all people. Christians still love in word and action because that's how God loves us in Christ!*

Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>The one who does not love has not known God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>This is how God's love for us was revealed: God has sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we may live through him. <sup>10</sup>This is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Dear friends, if God loved us so much, we also should love one another.

<sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>If anyone says, "I love God," but hates his brother, he is a liar. For how can anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, love God, whom he has not seen? <sup>21</sup>This then is the command we have from him: The one who loves God should also love his brother.

Verse of the Day.....1 Corinthians 13:13

M: Alleluia, alleluia. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. Alleluia.

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!

Text: Martin E. Leckebusch; Tune: The Christian Lyre, 1831, ed. Joshua Leavitt; Text: © 2001 Kevin Mayhew Ltd. Used by permission: License no. 130508104  
 Tune: Public domain

STAND

**Gospel Reading.....John 15:9-17**

*How did Jesus love his disciples? He washed their feet in humble service. He carried their sins in his suffering that began already in Gethsemane later that same night. On the next day, he went to the cross to atone for all sin. Just as that loved changed our relationship with God from rebel to redeemed, so it also changes our relationship with others. Those who know the love of the Friend of Sinners as Savior know how to love others as friends.*

“As the Father has loved me, so also I have loved you. Remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you hold on to my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have held on to my Father’s commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have told you these things so that my joy would continue to be in you and that your joy would be complete.

<sup>12</sup>“This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this: that someone lays down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you continue to do the things I instruct you. <sup>15</sup>I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because everything that I heard from my Father, I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will endure, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. <sup>17</sup>These things I am instructing you, so that you love one another.

M: This is the gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE SEATED

**HYMN.....364 Love Has Come**

1 Love has come, a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
2 Love is born! Come share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -

Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.

hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the

you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high!  
name she whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950  
Tune: F. Seguin, Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale, 1856  
Text: © 1996 LNW Hymns, admin. Music Services, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. A-713900  
Tune: Public domain

**Sermon.....1 John 4:7-11**

Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>The one who does not love has not known God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>This is how God's love for us was revealed: God has sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we may live through him. <sup>10</sup>This is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Dear friends, if God loved us so much, we also should love one another.

**Love: The Evidence that We Are God's People!**

**We are to love because it's what we were born (again) of God to do.**

“Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>The one who does not love has not known God, because God is love.”

**We are drawn to love by God's love for us in Christ.**

<sup>9</sup>This is how God's love for us was revealed: God has sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we may live through him. ... <sup>11</sup>Dear friends, if God loved us so much, we also should love one another.”

**We love with the kind of love God himself defines for us.**

<sup>10</sup>This is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

ἔρως = physical love, sexual desire                      φιλία = affectionate love, friendship

στοργή = familial love    μανία = obsessive love

πράγμα = practical love ( arranged or political marriages)

φιλαυτία = love for one's own self and mind

ἀγάπη = used 13 times in the 5 verses of our text!

*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](http://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.....17:1, 4 What Is the World to Me



1 What is the world to me with all its vaunt-ed plea - sure  
 4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,  
 when you and you a - lone, Lord Je - sus, are my trea - sure!  
 my life, my health, my wealth, my friend, my love, my plea - sure,  
 You on - ly, dear - est Lord, my soul's de - light shall be;  
 my joy, my crown, my all, my bliss e - ter - nal - ly.  
 you are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!  
 Once more then I de - clare: What is the world to me!

Text: tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.; Georg M. Pfefferkorn, 1645-1732, abr.  
 Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629-1701  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## 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.

**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.

**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.

**BE SEATED**

**Distribution of the Lord's Supper**

**COMMUNION HYMN..... 557:1-5 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice**



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re - joice, with ex - ul - ta - tion  
2 Fast bound in Sa - tan's chains I lay; death brood-ed dark - ly  
3 My own good works a - vailed me naught, no mer - it they at -  
4 But God be - held my wretch-ed state be - fore the world's foun -  
5 He spoke to his be - lov - ed Son: "It's time to have com -



spring - ing, and, with u - nit - ed heart and voice and ho - ly  
o'er me. Sin was my tor - ment night and day; in sin my  
tain - ing; my will a - gainst God's judg - ment fought, no hope for  
da - tion, and, mind - ful of his mer - cies great, he planned for  
pas - sion. Then go, bright jew - el of my crown, and bring to



rap - ture sing - ing, pro - claim the won - ders God has done, how  
moth - er bore me. Yet deep and deep - er still I fell; life  
me re - main - ing. My fears in - creased till sheer de - spair left  
my sal - va - tion. A fa - ther's heart he turned to me, sought  
all sal - va - tion. From sin and sor - row set them free; slay



his right arm the vic - t'ry won. How dear - ly it has cost him!  
had be - come a liv - ing hell, so firm - ly sin pos - sessed me.  
on - ly death to be my share and hell to be my sen - tence.  
my re - demp - tion fer - vent - ly; he gave his dear - est trea - sure.  
bit - ter death for them that they may live with you for - ev - er."

Text: tr. Richard Massie, 1800-1887, alt.; Martin Luther, 1483-1546  
Tune: Etlich Cristlich liden, Wittenberg, 1524  
Text and tune: Public domain

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



**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.



**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.



## CLOSING HYMN.....726 Love in Christ Is Strong and Living



1 Love in Christ is strong and liv - ing, bind - ing faith - ful  
2 Love is pa - tient and for - bear - ing, clothed in Christ's hu -  
3 Love in Christ a - bides for - ev - er, faint - ing not when



hearts in one; love in Christ is true and giv - ing,  
mil - i - ty, gen - tle, self - less, kind, and car - ing,  
ills at - tend; love, for - giv - ing and for - giv - en,



may his will in us be done.  
reach - ing out in char - i - ty.  
shall en - dure un - til life's end.

Text: Dorothy R. Schultz, b. 1934

Tune: Ralph C. Schultz, b. 1932

Text and tune: © 1979 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. A-713900

## COMING UP AT ASCENSION:

**SUNDAY 5/5** - Jesus made us his friends and now we love each other like our Friend loves us.

9:30 a.m. - Worship with Holy Communion

10:45 a.m. - Christlight for Kids: Zacchaeus: Out of a tree and into the kingdom!

10:45 a.m. - Special congregational meeting concerning proposed budget and parking lot project. Because of the size and cost of this project, the benefit of the collective wisdom, prayers, and thoughts of our church family are desired. A lunch of sloppy joe's, chips, and fresh veggies will be served. We would welcome any desserts if someone would like to bring something. We WON'T be having our regular after-service food, so that we don't spoil our appetites before lunch.

12:00 p.m. - Our 2024 Confirmands will meet with Pastor Simons to begin preparing for the Rite of Confirmation on Sunday, May 19th.

**WEDNESDAY 5/8 5:00 p.m.** - Set up for Mornings with Mommy

**THURSDAY/FRIDAY 5/9 & 10 10:00 a.m.** - Mornings with Mommy: "Flowers, Birds, and Mother's Day!"

**SUNDAY 5/12** - Mother's Day

**TUESDAY 5/14 7:00 p.m.** - The Chosen Watch Party & Discussion, S1, Ep. 7

**SUNDAY 5/19** - Confirmation Sunday at Ascension: Charlotte Ciaramitaro and Nathan Fortuna will be confirmed in the faith.

**SUNDAY 5/26** - Pastor Simons and family will be out of town attending the high school graduation of grandson, Lucas Steinbrenner.

**MONDAY 5/27** - Memorial Day: Remember those in the armed services of those who gave the last full measure of devotion in defense of our nation.

**TUESDAY 5/28 7:00 p.m.** - The Chosen Watch Party & Discussion, S1 Ep.8

**WEDNESDAY 5/29 5:00 p.m.** - Set up for Mornings with Mommy

**THURSDAY/FRIDAY 5/30 & 31 10:00 a.m.** - Last Mornings with Mommy sessions of the season: "Monkeys, Zebras, and the Zoo!"

# Love One another

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. John 15:12 (NIV)

Based on John 15:9-17 (NIV)



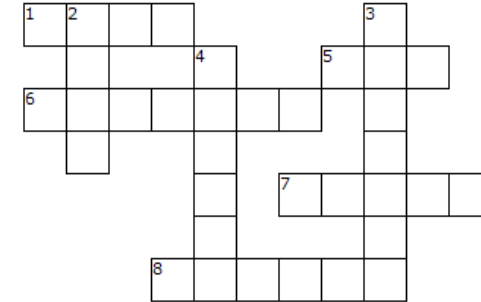
G Q R J N I L D R Z G F U R G  
 C O M M A N D D I M Y T E Z I  
 G F S Y J F W J O K H N Y O J  
 Q W F L F R U I T W S C P M I  
 C H M E R B W Q J F N R U P O  
 T L D R I K O B U S I N E S S  
 Q X S X E J U O E R N L A Y R  
 O A P R N E N B A I F L I S R  
 M J L B D I O E D K R V T E T  
 L A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

FRIENDS	OBEY	LOVE	FRUIT
DOWN	BUSINESS	BEAR	MASTER
LAY	FATHER	LIFE	REMAIN
SERVANTS	GREATER	COMMAND	CHOSE

# Love One Another

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. John 15:12 (NIV)

Based on John 15:9-17 (NIV)



## ACROSS

- To hold dear, to like or desire greatly
- A state of happiness or delight
- Someone that performs duties for a master
- To gain knowledge, skill, or understanding
- A person that you like very much

## DOWN

- To do what you are told; follow the rules
- An order which a person is expected to obey
- One who has authority over another person

SERVANT	OBEY	LEARN	COMMAND
FRIEND	LOVE	MASTER	JOY



# Love One Another

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.  
John 15:12 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



X	J	R	Y	D	G	O	V	T	F	E	N	H	Q	W	C	L	B	U	A	S	M	K	P	Z	I
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 17-7-8-11 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3-11-22-20-26-12 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2-7-4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 10-3-26-11-12-5-21 \_\_\_\_\_
- 21-11-3-8-20-12-9 \_\_\_\_\_
- 22-20-21-9-11-3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 10-20-9-13-11-3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 16-7-22-22-20-12-5 \_\_\_\_\_

MASTER	FRIENDS	COMMAND	LOVE
SERVANT	FATHER	REMAIN	JOY

