

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!*): _____



In the magnificent dome of the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore in Florence, Giorgio Vasari's fresco of the last judgment has, for centuries, impressed upon worshippers and tourists alike the terrors of Christ's return to judge. Like countless other medieval paintings, images of Satan's activity and the demons' work of dragging souls to hell leave lasting impressions on the viewer. Yes, there are fearful things discussed in the Scriptures concerning Christ's return. But for followers of Christ, his return is nothing but good news, inspiring joy instead of terror. Yes, hard times may come in this life, but God promises us angelic protection. God's Word reminds us that the One returning as judge is the very one who sacrificed himself to take away our sins. Jesus promises us life, not death.

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

(A mission of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

November 17, 2024

Welcome to worship today at Ascension!

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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND PERMISSION TO PRINT

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MORE INFORMATION 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 or check us out on Facebook at facebook.com/ALCmacomb.

May this worship service be a blessing to you today!

ORDER OF SERVICE

Opening Hymn.....318 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
2 See, the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, comes with
3 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the
4 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion to the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, he will shield us
Fa - ther and the Son with the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, all you chil - dren of the day."
tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
last - ing Spir - it while e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878, alt.; Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.
Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–1889
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

M: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession

M: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: **If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: **Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

(Silence for meditation and reflection.)

M: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.**

Lord, Have Mercy

M: In peace let us pray to the Lord.



M: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



M: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



M: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



M: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord



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Glory to God in the Highest





heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

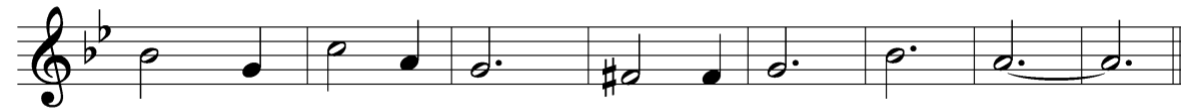
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Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. For you a -



lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,



with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his
 peo - ple on earth.

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Be seated

The Word

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith, and present us at last holy and blameless before you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading.....Daniel 12:1-3

As these days draw closer to the end of time when Jesus returns, Satan will stir up much trouble against God's people. But God's promise is that he will send his angels to stand guard over his people. Michael, the powerful prince of the angels, will himself protect us. When the end comes, it will mean resurrection to eternal life for all of God's people.

Then at that time, Michael, the great prince who stands over your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress that has not happened from the first time that there was a nation until that time.

At that time your people will be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. ²Many who are sleeping in the dusty ground will awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame, to everlasting contempt. ³Those who have insight will shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who bring many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever and ever.

M: The Word of God

C: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm of the Day.....Psalm 116

Refrain

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

Psalm tone

Refrain

I love the LORD, for he heard my voice;*
 he heard my cry for mercy.

Because he turned his ear to me,*
 I will call on him as long as I live.

The LORD is gracious and righteous;*
 when I was in great need, he saved me. **Refrain**

For you, O LORD, have delivered my soul from death,*
 my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

How can I repay the LORD*
 for all his goodness to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation*
and call on the name of the LORD.

**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.
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Second Scripture Reading.....Hebrews 9:24-28

What will happen to us when Jesus comes to settle accounts on Judgment Day? This Word of God assures us our balance has been settled by the one who is coming to judge, the same one who came to do away with all our guilt. Unlike the sacrifices in the Old Testament age, Jesus' sacrifice of himself is so complete and perfect that it needs never be made again!

For Christ did not enter a handmade sanctuary, a representation of the true sanctuary. Instead, he entered into heaven itself, now to appear before God on our behalf. ²⁵ And he did not enter to offer himself many times, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own. ²⁶ Otherwise he would have needed to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once and for all, at the climax of the ages, in order to take away sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ And, just as it is appointed for people to die only once and after this comes the judgment, ²⁸ so also Christ was offered only once to take away the sins of many, and he will appear a second time—without sin—to bring salvation to those who are eagerly waiting for him.

M: The Word of God

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Gospel Acclamation.....Revelation 2:10



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



Be faithful, even to the point of death,

Refrain



and I will give you life as your vic - tor's crown.

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Gospel.....John 5:25-29

Having been given life by the Son of God, we can look forward to his return. First, he gave us spiritual life when we were spiritually dead. What a demonstration of his grace and saving power! No less gracious and powerful will be the life he brings to our lifeless bodies on the Last Day.

“Amen, Amen, I tell you: A time is coming and is here now when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who listen will live. ²⁶ For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he has granted the Son to have life in himself. ²⁷ And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

²⁸ “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice ²⁹ and will come out. Those who have done good will rise to live, but those who have practiced evil will rise to be condemned.

M: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Be seated

Hymn of the Day.....489 The King Will Come at Age's End



1 The King will come at age - 's end, the
2 The Book of Life will name its names, each
3 All - glo - rious on his gleam-ing throne, the
4 And nights of tears, though late and long, will
5 A - men, a - men! Lord Je - sus, come! My



trum - pets trill, the heav - ens rend, un - veil - ing
bought by cross - 's bit - ter pain, each inked in
King will claim his saints, his own, and with them
dis - ap - pear in splen - did dawn, and deeps of
Sav - ior fair, come bear me home, for you are



new Je - ru - sa - lem. Al - le - lu - ia!
blood and sealed in flame. Al - le - lu - ia!
dwell and make a home. Al - le - lu - ia!
death will all be gone. Al - le - lu - ia!
King of kings a - lone! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Laurie F. Gauger, b. 1965; Tune: Joyce Schubkegel, b. 1937; Text: © 2004 Laurie F. Gauger, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. A-713900;

Sermon.....John 5:25-29: Jesus Gives Life!

“Amen, Amen, I tell you: A time is coming and is here now when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who listen will live. ²⁶For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he has granted the Son to have life in himself. ²⁷And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

²⁸“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice ²⁹and will come out. Those who have done good will rise to live, but those who have practiced evil will rise to be condemned.

Stand

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.

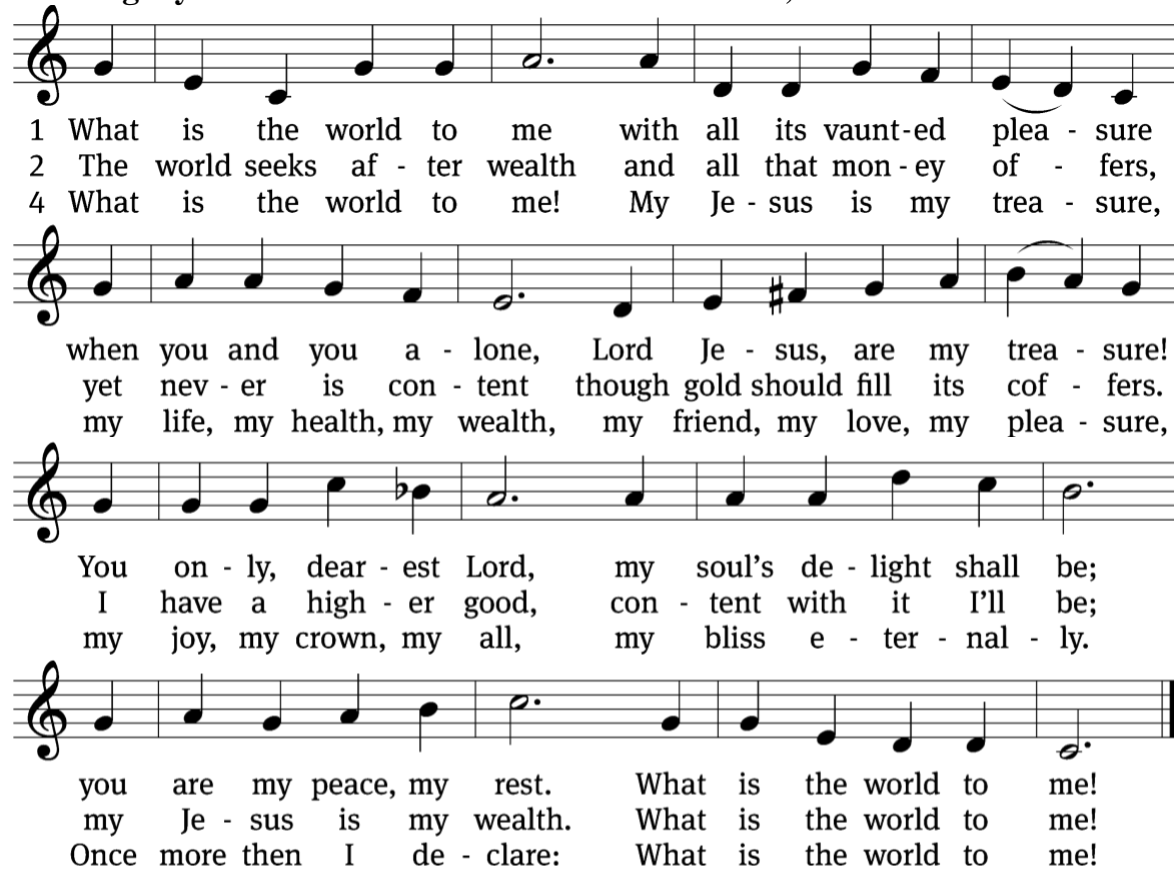
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

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.....717L1-2, 4 What Is the World to Me



1 What is the world to me with all its vaunt-ed plea - sure
2 The world seeks af - ter wealth and all that mon - ey of - fers,
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!
yet nev - er is con - tent though gold should fill its cof - fers.
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;
I have a high - er good, con - tent with it I'll 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!
my Je - sus is my wealth. 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

Stand

Prayer of the Church

PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

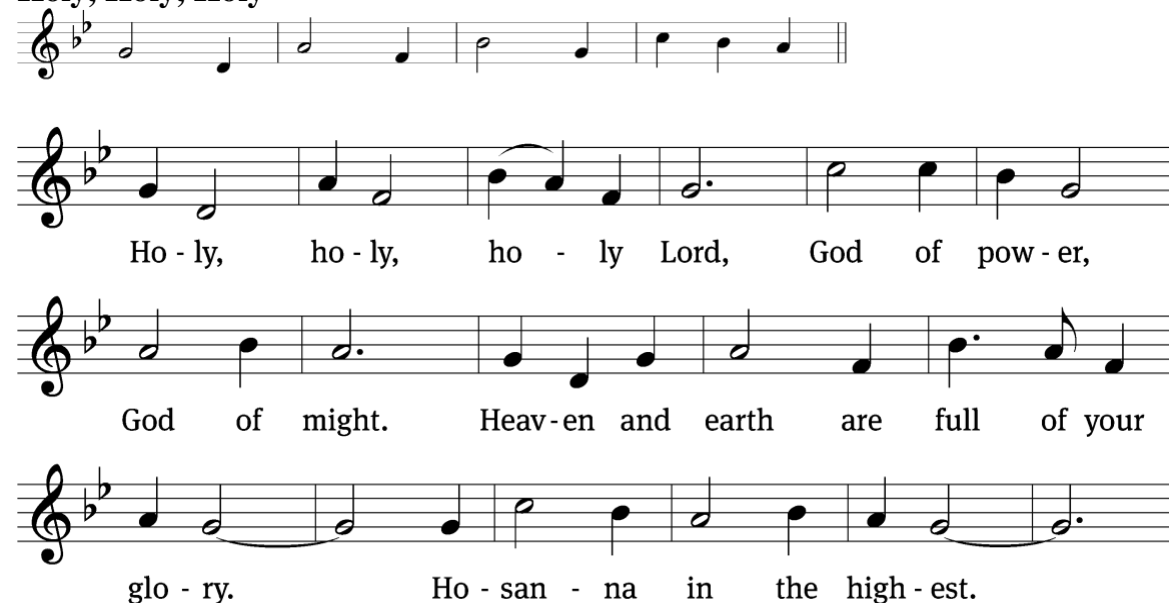
C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

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

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord who preserves his Church to the end of time, when he will come again as king to judge all people and take his own to glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -
 san - na in the high - est!

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

M: Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

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.**

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: Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
 Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
 Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us your peace.

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Be seated

Distribution

Hymn During Holy Communion.....660 Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face

1 Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;
 2 This is the hour of banquet 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.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889, abr., alt.; Tune: Henry Lawes, 1595–1662; Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

C: **his mercy endures forever.**

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Blessing

M: 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: **Amen.**

Be seated

Closing Hymn.....307:1-3 When the King Shall Come Again



1 When the King shall come a - gain, all his pow'r re - veal - ing,
2 In the des - ert trees take root, fresh from his cre - a - tion;
3 Strength-en fee - ble hands and knees, faint - ing hearts be cheer - ful!



splen - dor shall an - nounce his reign, life and joy and heal - ing,
plants and flow'rs and sweet - est fruit join the cel - e - bra - tion.
God, who comes for such as these, seeks and saves the fear - ful.



earth no long - er in de - cay, hope no more frus - trat - ed.
Riv - ers spring up from the earth, bar - ren lands a - dorn - ing.
Deaf ears, hear the si - lent tongues sing a - way their weep - ing;



This is God's re - demp - tion day long - ing - ly a - wait - ed.
Val - leys, this is your new birth; moun - tains, greet the morn - ing!
blind eyes, see the life - less ones walk - ing, run - ning, leap - ing.

Text: Christopher M. Idle, b. 1938; Tune: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547; Text: © 1982 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. A-713900; Tune: Public domain

THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE US TODAY

Worship accompanist - Gloria Aita;
Recording/Streaming Engineers – Sandy Borkowski, Paul Kokesh, Silas Moll
Security – Paul Fuller;
Worship Leader /Preacher – Pastor Dan Simons.

LAST WEEK:

Worshipped in person – (46 members, 13 repeat visitors, 5 first-time visitors)
Worshipped online – NA
Hard copies mailed/delivered – 7
Worship Total – 71

Bible Class - 27 Christlight for Kids – 5 (3 teachers + 1 Mom)

Outreach contacts by members of the Ascension family – 11
Inreach contacts by the members of the Ascension family – 14

COMING UP AT ASCENSION

Today, November 17th 9:30 a.m.....Worship w/ Holy Communion
10:45 a.m.....Christlight for Kids: Naboth's Vineyard
10:45 a.m..... Bible Class: The Gospel of Mark
12:00 p.m.....Confirmation Instruction Class I
12:00 p.m.....Sisters of Ascension Lutheran
Monday, November 11th 6:30 p.m.....Confirmation Instruction Class II
7:00 p.m..... Covenant Chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous
Sunday, November 24th 9:30 a.m.....Worship w/ Children's Message
10:45 a.m.....Christlight for Kids: Elijah and Elisha
10:45 a.m..... Bible Class: The Gospel of Mark
12:00 p.m.....Confirmation Instruction Class I

OUR DIGITAL MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY IS UP AND RUNNING ON OUR LARGE SCREEN MONITOR IN THE FOYER! We've been waiting for a while to see this new way of learning names and faces. It's here! If you have yet to get your personal or family picture taken or if you would like to do a retake, please be in touch with Gary Aita. He will be happy to help you! **The next phase of this project will be a paper edition of our pictorial directory!**

CAN YOU HELP?

The costumes used in our annual Children's Christmas service are be refurbished and improved. Here are some items needed for this project. Can you donate any of them?

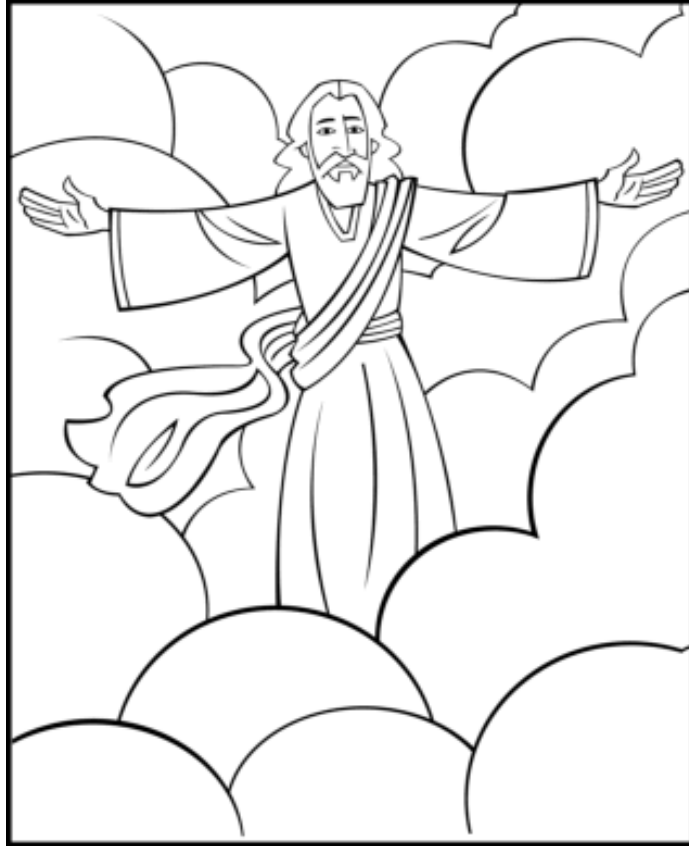
- white cotton balls
- craft Velcro
- gold cord
- white feathers (5-8 inches long)

PARENTS - PLEASE BE SURE YOUR CHILD IS IN CHRISTLIGHT FOR KIDS EACH WEEK. Not only is it a great place for them to learn about the wonderful works of God, but they are also preparing for our Children's Christmas Service to be held at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 22nd.

SERVING OUR NATION:

Jayden Kardasz, grandson of Laura Kardasz and a member of the Ascension family, is currently serving in the United States Army. In case you'd like to send him a card or message, his address is:

Kardasz, Jayden Rn 249
 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company
 5375 Hanson Dr., Bldg 3245
 Fort Monroe, GA 31905



Christ Is Coming Again



At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Luke 21:27 (NIV)

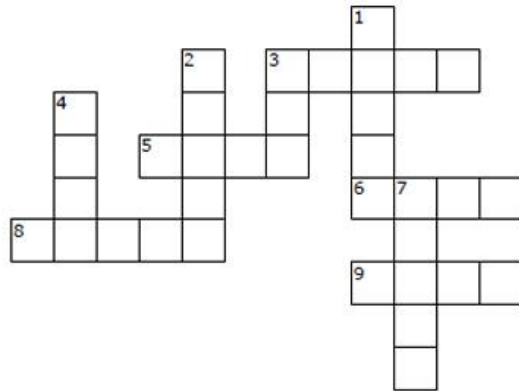
Words are taken from Luke 21:25-36 (NIV).

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

careful	glory	moon	redemption	stars
cloud	heads	nations	sea	sun
earth	heaven	power	signs	watch
escape	lift	pray	stand	world

Christ Is Coming Again

At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Luke 21:27 (NIV)



ACROSS

3. Twinkling points of light in the sky at night
5. The large heavenly body visible in the night sky
6. The part of the body containing the brain, eyes, ears, nose, mouth
8. To rise to an upright position on your feet
9. To make a request to God

DOWN

1. To observe very carefully
2. Large, white, fluffy things floating in the sky
3. The earth's source of heat and light
4. To raise from a lower to a higher position
7. The planet on which we live

earth	moon	cloud	pray	head
sun	stars	watch	lift	stand

Lesson 9 Jesus Is Condemned to Die (Mark 14)

Theme Verse

"They all condemned [Jesus] as worthy of death" (Mark 14:64).

Goal

We seek to understand the circumstances behind Jesus' condemnation to die and the significance of His death for us.

What's Going On Here?

The final hours of Jesus' mission had arrived. Jesus received an anointing for His burial, instituted the Lord's Supper at His last Passover celebration, and predicted that His followers would desert Him. He pleaded with His Father in prayer that the cup He was about to drink be removed. But when it was evident that His Father wanted His mission to proceed, Jesus willingly submitted to the Father's will and went to meet those sent to arrest Him. In front of His accusers Jesus sat silent until asked point blank whether He was the Messiah. He boldly affirmed that He was (at the same time that Peter was denying association with Him) and was condemned to die for His confession.

Searching the Scriptures

1. Read 14:1-11. In contrast to the plotting of the religious leaders and Judas to kill Jesus, what did the woman's action show? What did Jesus say that she was doing? How did Jesus' words in 14:9 point beyond His death? Why was Judas' offer to betray Jesus important to the plan of the religious leaders expressed in 14:1-2?

Read 14:12-26. Jesus' last meal before His death was the Passover meal. The Passover was the celebration where God's people recalled His deliverance of their forefathers from Egypt (Exodus 12). As they did so the people anticipated the day when God would again intervene to save them. The Passover pointed forward to the Messiah and His sacrifice. By identifying the bread of the Passover meal as His body and the wine as His blood, Jesus was indicating that He was fulfilling the Passover (which after His death had served its purpose) and bringing the salvation for which the people longed.

2. What violated the fellowship of the Passover meal (see also Psalm 41:9)? What did Jesus' words about His betrayer say about God's will, about Judas' responsibility for his actions, and about Jesus' ultimate vindication (see also Psalm 41:10-12)?

3. Just as the covenant on Sinai was ratified by blood (Exodus 24:8), so the new covenant (solemn agreement) that God was making with His people through the death of the Messiah would be ratified with the Messiah's blood. How did Jesus' words in Mark 14:24 echo Mark 10:45 and Isaiah 53:12? What additional information about this sacrifice do the last two passages give? To what do Jesus' words in 14:25 point forward (see also Rev. 19:6-9)?

4. Read Mark 14:27-31 and Zechariah 13:7-9. According to Zechariah, of what process were the striking of the shepherd and the scattering of the sheep (the disciples) a part? Again, of what did Jesus assure His disciples in Mark 14:28? What was behind Peter's declaration that he would follow Jesus into death before he would disown Him?

5. Read 14:32-42. The hour was near when the Son of Man would be betrayed into the hands of sinners. The hour was also near when the declarations of Peter (14:31), James, and John (10:38-39) that they would share His suffering were to be tested. What did Jesus do as the hour approached? Three times He interrupted Himself to encourage the three disciples to do the same. Why (14:38)?

6. The cup Jesus was about to drink filled Him with sorrow to the point of death. What was this cup (see Isaiah 51:17, 22)? This last verse promises Israel that someone else-Jesus-would drink the cup for them. What did the way Jesus addressed God show about His relationship with Him? How did Jesus' prayer show His obedient submission? How did His words in Mark 14:42 show the same?

Read 14:43-52. Jesus' arrest had been ordered by the Sanhedrin, the 1 Jewish ruling council, the components of which are listed in 14:43. This council had some jurisdiction to deal with civil and criminal matters that did not involve Roman citizens. Jesus, the sinless Son of God, was humiliatingly arrested like a violent criminal. Jesus pointed out the irony of the party coming to take Him by force when He had been in their midst in the temple. The Scriptures to which Jesus referred in 14:49 likely include Isaiah 53:12 ("was numbered with the transgressors") and Zechariah 13:7 (quoted by Jesus in Mark 14:27). Just as Jesus had said, all His followers deserted Him. The young man noted in 14:51-52 may have been John Mark, the writer of this gospel. Tradition indicates that Jesus and His disciples had celebrated the Passover meal earlier that night in John Mark's home. The use of the

particular Greek term used by Mark for young man indicates one who is especially strong and brave. Mark may have seen in this incident a fulfillment of Amos 2:16.

Read 14:53-65. The members of the Sanhedrin had clearly decided to condemn Jesus to death even before hearing the evidence (14:55). But they pretended to be administering justice by adhering to the requirement to have two or more witnesses (Deuteronomy 19:15), which they were unable to find despite repeated attempts. In fulfillment of Isaiah 53:7, Jesus remained silent and did not answer His accusers. The high priest then decided to interrogate Jesus Himself. The high priest asked Jesus if He was the Messiah. Since the Jews expected the Messiah to prove who He was, it was inconceivable to these men that Jesus could have been in that humiliating position and been the Messiah.

7. How did Jesus' response answer both the question and the implication behind it (see also Psalm 110:1 and Daniel 7:13)? For what did the Sanhedrin condemn Him? What humiliating treatment did they bestow on Him?

8. Read Mark 14:66-72. Mark noted the presence of Peter in the courtyard before recounting Jesus' trial to indicate that Peter's experiences were happening at the same time as Jesus' were. In contrast to Jesus' bold proclamation, what did Peter do when confronted? Why? What awoke Peter to what he was doing? How did he feel?

The Word for Us

1. How can Peter's declaration of 14:31 and his subsequent denial be a warning to us? Why are Jesus' words in 14:38 important for us also? What petitions of the Lord's Prayer are particularly applicable when we are faced with persecution and the temptation to deny our Lord? What assurance and strength does Jesus offer us in the Lord's Supper?

2. If Jesus faced rejection, ridicule, and death, should His followers be surprised when they are called upon to face those things because of their association with Him?