

# 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

**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? \_\_\_\_\_

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!*): \_\_\_\_\_



**IDENTITY**  
revealed

When Jesus was conceived, he took on our humanity. His human nature was evident as he taught his disciples. But one day atop a high mountain, Jesus revealed his true glory as the Son of God. After he came down from the mountain, Jesus went to Jerusalem to suffer and die. In so doing, he revealed his true identity as the One who came to give his life as our ransom. It is good for us to view Jesus in glory on the mountain. It prepares us for Lent, and it prepares us for life.

## Ascension Lutheran Church

A mission-minded congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

February 15, 2026

# Welcome to worship today at Ascension!

## SERIES THEME

“**Epiphany**” comes from a Greek word that means “**reveal**.” It is the season when you see Jesus begin his public ministry, revealing the reason the Son of God came to earth. During Epiphany, you will come to understand that when the true identity of Jesus is revealed, you realize your own true identity as well.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND PERMISSION TO PRINT

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## 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. Ascension is a mission-minded congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

## MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ASCENSION LUTHERAN

### CHURCH

Please contact Pastor Dan Simons at [revdsimons@gmail.com](mailto:revdsimons@gmail.com). Phone or text him at 586-569-9895. Visit our website at [www.ascensionmacomb.com](http://www.ascensionmacomb.com) or check us out on Facebook at [facebook.com/ALCmacomb](https://facebook.com/ALCmacomb).

## 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

## THE LORD’S SUPPER, OR HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

### Opening Hymn

### 389 How Good, Lord, to Be Here



- 1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
- 2 How good, Lord, to be here your beau - ty to be - hold,
- 3 Ful - fil - ler of the past, and hope of things to be,
- 4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;



- your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.  
where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.  
we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.  
we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.

- 5 But you, Lord, do not stay.  
With mercy resolute  
you leave this glorious hill to die—  
our perfect substitute.
- 6 How good, Lord, to be here!  
Yet we may not remain;  
but since you bid us leave the mount,  
come with us to the plain.

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### 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



## Glory to God in the Highest

Musical notation for 'Glory to God in the Highest'. It consists of four staves in G major (one flat) with a treble clef. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The lyrics are: 'Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your'. The lyrics are written below the staves.

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,  
 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.

### The Word

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of your only-begotten Son, you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice that came from the bright cloud, you foreshadowed our adoption as your sons. In your mercy, make us co-heirs of glory with Jesus our King, and bring us at last to heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Scripture Reading

## Exodus 24:9-18

*On Mount Sinai, Moses saw the glory of the Lord's law. On the Mount of Transfiguration, Moses would see the glory of the Lord's gospel.*

Then Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up. <sup>10</sup> They saw the God of Israel. Under his feet they saw what looked like a pavement of sapphire as clear as the sky. <sup>11</sup> The Lord did not lay his hand on the dignitaries of the people of Israel. They gazed at God, and they ate and drank.

<sup>12</sup> The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain. Wait there, and I will give you the stone tablets with the law and the commands that I have written, so that you can teach them."

<sup>13</sup> Moses set out with his assistant Joshua and went up onto the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup> He said to the elders, "Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, here are Aaron and Hur. They will be with you. Whoever is involved in a dispute can go to them."



<sup>15</sup> Moses went up onto the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup> The Glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered the mountain for six days. On the seventh day the Lord called to Moses out of the middle of the cloud. <sup>17</sup> The appearance of the Glory of the Lord looked like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. <sup>18</sup> Moses entered into the middle of the cloud and climbed up the mountain. Moses

was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day

## 2D Great Are the Works of the LORD

### Refrain



Great are the works of the LORD. Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le -



lu - ia! Great are the works of the LORD.

### Tone



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### Refrain

Why do the nations / conspire  
and the peoples / plot in vain?

The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together a- / gainst the Lord  
and against his A- / nointed. **Refrain**

The One enthroned in / heaven laughs;  
the Lord / scoffs at them.

He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, / saying,  
"I have installed my King on Zion, my holy / mountain." **Refrain**

I will proclaim the / Lord's decree:

He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your / Father."

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son**

**and to the Holy / Spirit,**

**as it was in the be- / ginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

## Second Scripture Reading

2 Peter 1:16–21

*As an eyewitness to the majesty and glory of Jesus, St. Peter testifies to the reliability of the Christian faith.*

<sup>16</sup>To be sure, we were not following cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the powerful appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup>For he received honor and glory from God the Father, when the voice came to him from within the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” <sup>18</sup>We heard this voice, which came out of heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

<sup>19</sup>We also have the completely reliable prophetic word. You do well to pay attention to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the Morning Star rises in your hearts, <sup>20</sup>since we know this above all else: No prophecy of Scripture comes about from someone's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup>In fact, no prophecy ever came by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were being carried along by the Holy Spirit.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Stand for the Gospel Acclamation; be seated following*

## Gospel Acclamation

Mark 9:7



### Refrain



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

### Tone



A cloud covered them, and a voice came from the cloud:



“This is my Son, whom I love. Lis - ten to him!”

## Hymn of the Day

388 Down from the Mount of Glory



1 Down from the mount of glo - ry came Je - sus Christ, our Lord.  
2 Trans - fig - ured, Christ, the low - ly, stood ra - diant in the light,  
3 Yet mark this glo - ry hid - den! See him the mount de - scend  
4 Strange how his jour - ney end - ed! In love that is his fame  
5 Then hail the dou - ble glo - ry of Je - sus Christ, our Lord,



Re - call the won - drous sto - ry, rich gem in sa - cred Word.  
light found in God - head sole - ly, for hu - man eyes too bright.  
and, by the Fa - ther bid - den, his will - ing foot - steps bend  
our Lord a - gain as - cend - ed a mount—the hill of shame.  
and let the won - drous sto - ry full peace and joy af - ford!



A - gain your faith will view him in dou - ble glo - ry here;  
Then came a voice from heav - en, con - firmed what here we see;  
to seek hu - mil - i - a - tion in deep - est depths of woe,  
Up - on the cross he prof - ered him - self to ag - o - ny;  
The ho - ly mount ac - claims him the maj - es - ty di - vine;



the great - er hom - age due him will in your life ap - pear.  
the words “my Son” were giv - en to seal his de - i - ty.  
to suf - fer deg - ra - da - tion no mind can probe or know.  
his ho - ly soul he of - fered to set the guilt - y free.  
Mount Cal - va - ry pro - claims him Re - deem - er—yours and mine.

Text: Werner H. Franzmann, 1905-1996

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*Stand for the reading of this Gospel text; be seated following*

## **Sermon**

## **Matthew 17:1–9**

<sup>1</sup>Six days later Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John the brother of James; and he led them up onto a high mountain by themselves. <sup>2</sup>There he was transfigured in front of them. His face was shining like the sun. His clothing became as white as the light. <sup>3</sup>Just then, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Jesus.

<sup>4</sup>Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you want, I will make three shelters here: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

<sup>5</sup>While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them. Just then, a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him.”

<sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this, they fell face down and were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Jesus approached and as he touched them, he said, “Get up, and do not be afraid.” <sup>8</sup>When they opened their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus alone. <sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, “Do not tell anyone what you have seen until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

## **See Jesus for Who He Is!**

See his unmatched glory!

See his unimaginably generous grace!

*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.

### Offering Hymn

### 699 Take the World, but Give Me Jesus



1 Take the world, but give me Je - sus, all its  
2 Take the world, but give me Je - sus, sweet-est  
3 Take the world, but give me Je - sus; in his

joys are but a name; but his love a - bides for -  
com - fort of my soul; with the Sav - ior watch - ing  
cross my trust shall be till with clear - er, bright - er

ev - er, through e - ter - nal years the same.  
o'er me, I can sing, though thun - ders roll.  
vi - sion face to face my Lord I see.

*Refrain*

Oh, the height and depth of mer - cy! Oh, the  
length and breadth of love! Oh, the full - ness of re -  
demp - tion, pledge of end - less life a - bove!

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*Stand*

### Prayer of the Church

### PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

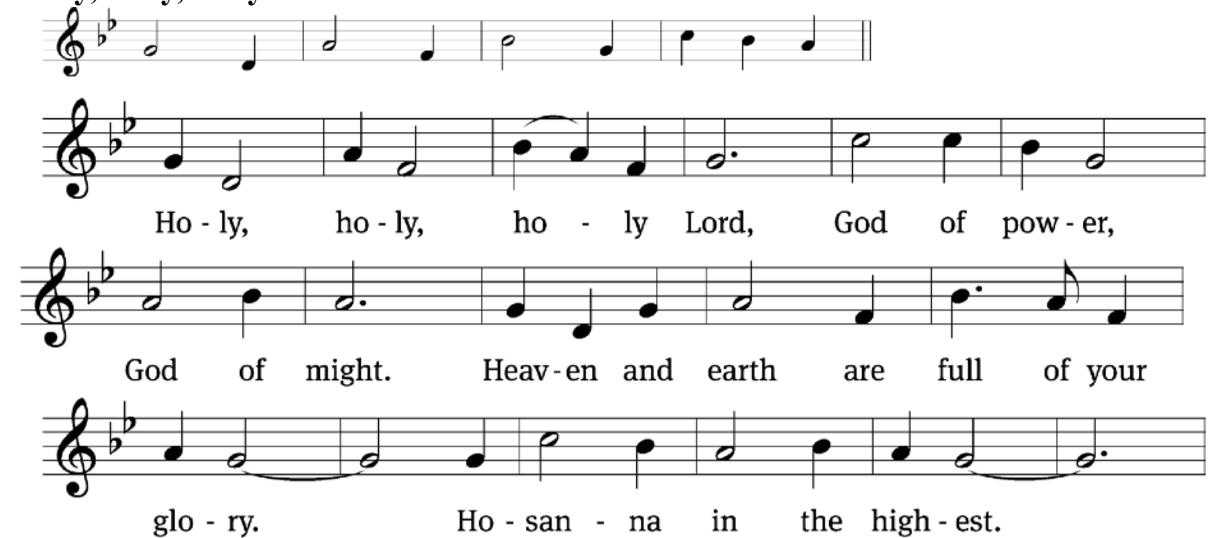
C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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 lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. 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.

*Please be seated. Follow the usher's direction for coming forward for Holy Communion.*

## Hymn During Holy Communion

## 383 The Only Son from Heaven



1 The on - ly Son from heav - en, fore - told by an - cient seers,  
2 O time of God ap - point - ed, O bright and ho - ly morn!  
3 O Lord, our hearts a - wak - en to know and love you more,  
4 O Fa - ther, here be - fore you with God the Ho - ly Ghost



by God the Fa - ther giv - en, in hu - man form ap - pears.  
He comes, the King a - noint - ed, the Christ, the vir - gin - born,  
in faith to stand un - shak - en, in spir - it to a - dore,  
and Je - sus, we a - dore you, O Pride of an - gel host.



No sphere his light con - fin - ing, no star so  
grim death to con - quer for us, to o - pen  
that we, through this world mov - ing, each glimpse of  
Be - fore you mor - tals low - ly cry, "Ho - ly,



bright - ly shin - ing as he, our Morn - ing Star.  
heav'n be - fore us and bring us life a - gain.  
heav - en prov - ing, may reap its full - ness there.  
ho - ly, ho - ly, O bless - ed Trin - i - ty!"

*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

## 522 Beautiful Savior



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of  
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands, robed in  
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light, bright the  
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of



God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love thee,  
flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er,  
spark - ling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er,  
God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or,



tru - ly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
Je - sus is pur - er, he makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.  
Je - sus shines pur - er than all the an - gels in the sky.  
praise, ad - o - ra - tion now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

**LAST WEEK:**

Worshipped in person – 61 (49 members, 12 repeat visitors, 0 first-time visitors)  
Worshipped online – 7  
Hard copies mailed/delivered – 6  
Worship Total – 74  
Christlight for Kids – 4 (also 3 teachers)  
Outreach contacts by members of the Ascension family – 9  
Inreach contacts by the members of the Ascension family – 8

**THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION:**

**Today at 9:30 a.m.** – Worship with Holy Communion  
**10:45 a.m.** –Bible class: Favorite Psalms of God’s People – Psalm 2  
Christlight for Kids  
**12:00 a.m.** – Sisters of Ascension Lutheran; Confirmation Instruction Class

**Monday at 7:00 p.m.** Covenant Chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous

**Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.** – Confirmation Instruction Class  
**7:00 p.m.** – The Chosen Watch Party and Discussion S5 E7

**Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.** – Lenten Fellowship Supper  
**6:30 p.m.** – Ash Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion

**Thursday 6:30 p.m.** – Church Council (January reports)

**Sunday 2/22 at 9:30 a.m.** – Worship with Children’s Message at Chancel Steps  
**10:45 a.m.** – Bible class: Favorite Psalms of God’s People – Psalm 23  
Christlight for Kids

**Love Local: This Month’s Offering Too Big for the Basket**



Elli's House is a 501(c)3 nonprofit serving homeless and runaway women involved in human trafficking in the city of Detroit. Its mission is to abolish sex trafficking in Detroit through building relationships, offering safe shelter, and providing education. For the month of February, we are gathering men’s and women’s socks. They are also in need of women’s underwear size (XS and small) and leggings.

# The Transfiguration



As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Luke 9:29 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 9:28-36 (NIV).

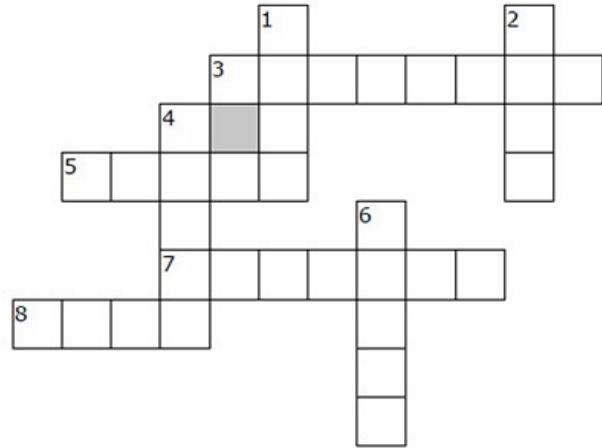
D Y G M S T A L K I N G I M J  
L E N U O E U S G S F P E F O  
A T S C S U E M E D T C P A H  
B E K E H M N L L W A G M P N  
J R S J A A P T G F C U J P I  
K O I J I I N N A R G O T E I  
M V N G C Z I G J I K P G A B  
P X M S H N Q B E Y N Q V R Y  
R I I W T T I Y T D J F U E C  
A D D H D V R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

FLASH	LIGHTNING	MOSES	JOHN	MOUNTAIN
CLOUD	PETER	CHANGED	VOICE	JESUS
JAMES	PRAY	CHOSEN	CLOTHES	ELIJAH
TALKING	FACE	BRIGHT	APPEARED	DISCIPLES

# The Transfiguration

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" Matthew 17:5 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 17:1-9



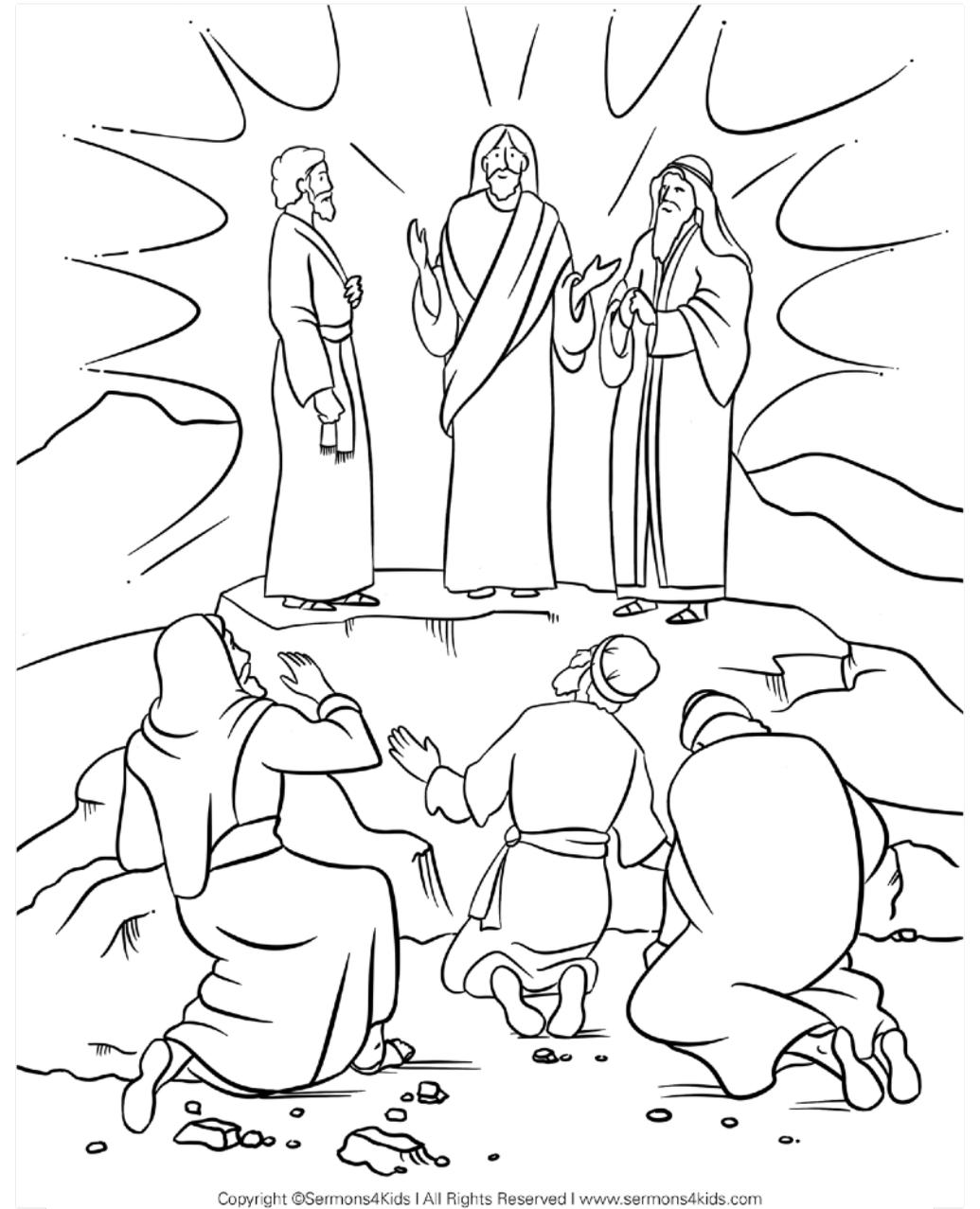
## ACROSS

3. A raised part of the earth's surface, larger than a hill
5. A white or gray mass of very small drops of water that floats in the sky
7. Articles of apparel such as pants, shirts, dresses, etc.
8. To have a strong feeling of affection for someone

## DOWN

1. Something that is pleasing, enjoyable, or of high quality
2. Having a great distance from top to bottom
4. The sound produced by the vocal organs; what we use to speak
6. The color of snow or milk

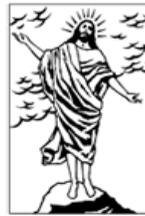
HIGH	CLOUD	WHITE	MOUNTAIN
VOICE	GOOD	LOVE	CLOTHES



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# The Transfiguration

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" Matthew 17:5 (NIV)



Complete the activity by filling in the blanks.

*A number of words have been removed from the text and placed in a word bank. Use the words from the word bank to fill in the blanks in the text. Write the words in the blanks provided.*

After \_\_\_\_\_ days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John and led them up a high mountain.

While they were there, \_\_\_\_\_ was transfigured before them.

His \_\_\_\_\_ shone like the sun and his \_\_\_\_\_ became as white as the light.

Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared and were \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus.

Peter said, "Lord it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up \_\_\_\_\_ shelters-one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.

While they were talking, a bright cloud covered them and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my \_\_\_\_\_, whom I love; I am pleased with him. Listen to him!"

When the disciples heard this, they were terrified and \_\_\_\_\_ face down to the ground.

Jesus said to them, "Don't be \_\_\_\_\_. Get up.

As they went down from the mountain, Jesus told them not to tell anyone what they had \_\_\_\_\_.

Based on Matthew 17:1-9

Son	Jesus	afraid	talking	seen
face	six	clothes	three	fell



# Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks

FAVORITE PSALMS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

## PSALM 2

### Unbelieving People and Powers Will Not Be Successful in Their Plans Against the Anointed One.

#### The Futile Rebellion of the Nations

<sup>1</sup> Why do the nations rage? Why do the peoples grumble in vain?

<sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth take a stand, and the rulers join together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.

<sup>3</sup> "Let us tear off their chains and throw off their ropes from us."

#### The Reaction of the Lord

<sup>4</sup> The one who is seated in heaven laughs. The Lord scoffs at them.

<sup>5</sup> Then he speaks to them in his anger, and in his wrath he terrifies them.

<sup>6</sup> "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy mountain."

#### The Powerful Rule of God's King

<sup>7</sup> I will proclaim the decree of the Lord. He said to me: "You are my Son. Today I have begotten you.

<sup>8</sup> Ask me, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance and the ends of the earth as your possession.

<sup>9</sup> You will smash them with an iron rod. You will break them to pieces like pottery."

#### The Lesson to Be Learned

<sup>10</sup> So now, you kings, do what is wise. Accept discipline, you judges of the earth.

<sup>11</sup> Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

<sup>12</sup> Kiss the Son, or he will be angry, and you will be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. How blessed are all who take refuge in him.

## Who are the nations?

*The Psalms uses this expression to refer to the unbelieving people and powers of the world. On the one hand, the Psalms refers to them as people whom God wants to hear of his salvation (Psalm 96:1-3). In Psalm 2, the nations activity of opposing the spread of God's kingdom is described.*

1. What type of psalm is this?
2. The “nations conspire” and the “peoples plot” against the Lord. The early Christians quoted Psalm 2 when Peter and John were released from prison (Acts 4:25-27): **By the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David, your servant, you said:**  
**Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?**  
**<sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers are gathered together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.**  
**<sup>27</sup> For certainly, in this city both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and people of Israel, were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed.** What example did they cite as fulfillment of the words that nations conspired against Jesus?
3. List examples from history of other ways that people in positions of authority schemed and fought against Christ and his church.
4. (Verse 3) Many people feel that obedience to the Word of God is confining, like being bound with chains. Demonstrate how the following essentially are attempts by people to break free from the “chains” imposed by God’s Word.
  - The moral climate today
  - The prevalent worldview about the origins of man and of the world
5. What kind of freedom is won by those who have broken the chains and thrown off the shackles?

6. For Old Testament believers, Zion (v.6) was the name often used for the city of Jerusalem. In the Scriptures, especially the Psalms, Jerusalem foreshadows another important city. How do they help us understand the reference to Zion, God’s holy mountain in verse 2?

Revelation 21:2 **And I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**

Ephesians 5: 25-27 **Husbands, love your wives, in the same way as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, by cleansing her with the washing of water in connection with the Word. <sup>27</sup> He did this so that he could present her to himself as a glorious church, having no stain or wrinkle or any such thing, but so that she would be holy and blameless.**

7. Verses 7-9 proclaim an intermediate prophecy. Compare these words with 2 Samuel 7:11b-14a. Who was a partial fulfillment of these words?

**I will give you rest from all your enemies. The Lord also declares to you that the Lord himself will make a house for you. <sup>12</sup> When your days are complete and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up after you your seed, who will come from your own body. I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup> I will be his father, and he will be my son.**

8. In what way was Jesus the complete fulfillment of these words?

9. The Hebrew word in verse 7 that has been translated “become” is somewhat challenging to express in English. It doesn’t mean that on a given day, God became the Father of Jesus. What do we confess in the Nicene Creed about the origin of the Son of God? *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.*

10. Three passages in the New Testament quote Psalm 2:7. What does each passage emphasize about Jesus as God's Son?

Acts 13:32-33: **We are preaching to you the good news about the promise that was made to our fathers. <sup>33</sup> God has fulfilled this promise for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm:**

**You are my Son.**

**Today I have begotten you.**

Hebrews 1:5: **For to which of the angels did God ever say: You are my Son. Today I have begotten you?**

Hebrews 5:5: **In the same way, Christ did not take the glory of becoming a high priest on himself, but God said to him: You are my Son. Today I have begotten you.**

11. Revelation 2:9,27 helps us understand verse 9. The iron rod or scepter symbolizes that Jesus rules over all. And those who reject him will experience the word of judgment: **I know your suffering and your poverty—but you are rich. And I know the blasphemy that comes from those who say they are Jews but are not; rather, they are a synagogue of Satan. ... <sup>27</sup> and he will rule them with an iron staff and shatter them like clay pots,**

Read also Revelation 19:15: **Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. He will shepherd them with an iron staff. He himself is going to trample the winepress of the fierce anger of the Almighty God.**

What is the iron rod with which he rules?

12. What is the point of the last three verses?

13. List situations in which you might turn to Psalm 2 for comfort.

## Conclusion

People and Satan have and will continue to conspire against Jesus, God's Anointed One. They plot in vain. Jesus defeated their evil plans by conquering sin and death by his death on the cross and his resurrection. What comfort it gives us to know that our Messiah rules his kingdom with his almighty Word. God grant us the wisdom to bow before him in adoration now and one day on judgment day.