

Look for the

Resister

Committer

1st Sunday in Lent

February 26, 2023



Ascension Lutheran Church
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Welcome to Worship...

Welcome to all God's guests, including those who call themselves "members" of this church named Ascension Lutheran Church more than 50 years ago.

A special welcome to guests who are here for the first time or who call yourselves "visitors" among the people of this community. It is at God's invitation, through worship, the Holy Spirit calls each of us to come to a place of **community, communion** and **commitment**. Each of us brings a different lens to worship, and yet, in a worshiping community, these differences become celebrations of diversity.

**Children are always welcome in worship services;
however please know a nursery space is available for
parents who need to tend to their little ones.**

Please silence your cell phones at this time.

Introduction—Lookin' for Love in All the Wrong Places

The Christian scriptures offer many images of where love, grace, forgiveness, righteousness, and healing can REALLY be found. And it is not in the "usual" places. Isn't it as true of us today as it was of the scriptural authors? Don't we often look for wholeness and happiness in places that offer only temporary "good feelings" and satisfaction?

Lent is a wonderfully reflective time to reassess where we are searching for meaning and purpose. We'll move through stories of Jesus to find out who offers the "real deal."

Call to Worship

(All) Hearts o - pen, minds a -
wake, change us now for heav - en's
sake; leave us not a - lone in ha - tred's wake. -
- Show us how - to love, show us how -
- to love, show us how, show us how -
- to love.

P Lent is a time when we are invited to slow down – to examine where we have been in our lives – where we are – and where we hope to be. A helpful question to ask ourselves is this, “Have I been looking for wholeness and happiness in places that only offer temporary satisfaction?”

Through the stories of Jesus we will discover true love – how to truly love. This week through Matthew’s lens, we will hear how Jesus resists evil in the desert wilderness.

This story shows us the futility of looking for love in empty highs, in tempting fate, and in mindless adoration. As Jesus demonstrates, it is in our resistance of empty promises that we find true lasting love and communion with God.

P Our turning from empty promises begins with our own confession of complicit acts that move us farther from love. Our groaning can turn to “glad cries of deliverance” as we choose good over evil time after time – even when – especially when it isn’t the popular thing to do.

(All) Eyes o - pen, shocked a -
 wake, much to learn from our mis -
 takes; draw us clo - ser in our heart - ache.
 Show us how - to love, show us
 how - to love, show us how, show us
 how - - to love.

Confession and Assurance

P Let us join together in opening our hearts to the love of God. Before we even utter a word, we can be assured God will offer us grace and a way forward. For this reason, we can be honest with what pains us most about our own thoughts and actions. Let us pray:

All Holy and Merciful One,

**we come bringing our deepest longings,
and our failed attempts at satisfying them.**

We have often looked for love in things that cannot give us love.

**We yearn for lives that matter,
we desire relationships that thrive,
we want less regret.**

**We fail to see that you have already given us what really matters:
your love and acceptance.**

P You provide opportunities all around us
to make a difference in the lives of others.

You give us a fresh start each day, inviting us to trust you.

In this silence, we confess we have looked for love in all the wrong places.
Today may we open ourselves to a change in our paths to seeing with
new eyes, to setting aside empty promises.

Silence for self reflection.

My friends, be assured by the Psalmist who says,

“I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.”

Let us respond together:

**All We open our hearts, our minds, our souls, our vision
to the ways of love created by God,**

embodied in Jesus,

and already moving in us by the Spirit.

We are forgiven, loved, and freed! Amen!

A reading of Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you. Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Psalm 32

L The word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand as you are able.



o - pen the eyes of my heart; I want to see You,

I want to see You. O - pen the eyes of my heart,

Lord, o - pen the eyes of my heart; I want to

see You, I want to see You.

Gospel Reading

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 4th chapter.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.

The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only God.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Matthew 4:1-11

P The Word of God that is still speaking,

All Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be Seated

Sermon

Pr. Debra Jimenez

Hymn of the Day

Please stand as you are able.

You Are My Hiding Place

Words and Music by
Michael Ledner

You are my hid - ing place, You al - ways
fill my heart with songs of de - liv - er - ance; When -
ev - er I am a - fraid, I will trust in You.
I will trust in You. Let the weak say,
"I am strong in the strength of the Lord!"

You may be Seated

Apostles' Creed

P Let us join together with the saints across the ages confessing our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

L In this season of Lent, we will come together in prayer using an ancient form in the church. The Greek words, "Kyrie Eleison" mean "God, have mercy on us." The church has been chanting this during prayer since the early centuries of its existence. We will be led in various intercessions—prayers in categories—followed by singing this simple chant as a response to each one. The repetition of this beautiful "Kyrie" is itself a prayer. God's mercy is a gift of love, given freely to us.

♪ ♪ Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison ♪ ♪
Kyrie Eleison, I pray.

Prayers for the World

...God have mercy. In this singing we lift up this world to you with our love:

Prayers for Our Community

...God have mercy. In this singing we lift up this community to you with our love:

Prayers for Our Relationships

...God have mercy. In this singing we lift up each other to you with our love:

Prayers for Our Selves

...God have mercy. In this singing we open ourselves to your love:

Sharing the Peace

In our continued physical distancing out of love for the health of one another, we will share the peace of our risen Lord by “speaking” that peace through sign language.

P Christ become Love and Peace with you.

All And also with you.

Offering

While we still will not physically pass the offering plates we will continue to have the plates available at the entrance to receive your offerings and will lift them up in thanksgiving before the throne of grace.



lay all of my bur - dens down at Your feet. And
 an - y - time that I don't know what to do, I will
 cast all my cares up - on You.

Offertory Prayer

P God of good gifts,

All Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:
 our selves, our time, and our possessions.

Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love.

Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very
 presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

Holy Communion

P May Love be with you!

All And also with you!

P Lift up your hearts!

All We lift them up to the Lord!

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All It is right to give our thanks and praise!

P What love you have given us in your Son Jesus Christ!
Your Spirit poured out through him,
as he brought good news, proclaimed freedom, healed, and fed.
His life of love shows us the way.
His life of love delivers us from false hopes.
His life, death, and resurrection offered ultimate and enduring love.

In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread
and gave thanks;
broke it and gave it to his disciples saying:
Take and eat; this is my body given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

And so, in remembrance of this love in Jesus Christ,
we offer our love completely as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

***All* Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again!**

The Lord's Prayer

Please stand as you are able.

P Now gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught.

***All* 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.**

The Invitation

P Christ has prepared the feast.

Come to the table where all are welcomed home.

Communion Songs

You may be Seated

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Words and Music by
Helen H. Lemmel



1. O soul, are you wea - ry and trou - bled? No light in the
2. Through death in - to life ev - er - last - ing He passed, and we
3. His Word shall not fail you- He prom - ised; Be - lieve Him, and



dark - ness you see? _____ There's _ light for a look at the Sav -
fol - low Him there; _____ O - ver us sin no more hath do - min -
all will be well: _____ Then _ go to a world that is dy -



-ior, and life more a - bun - dant and free! _____ Turn your
-ion- for more _ than con - q'rors we are! _____
-ing, His per - fect sal - va - tion to tell! _____



eyes up - on Je - sus, look full in His won - der - ful face; _____



_____ And the things of earth will grow strange - ly



dim in the light of His glo - ry and grace. _____

Lord Be Glorified

Words and Music by
Bob Kilpatrick

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems. The first system has four vocal lines and a bass line. The lyrics are: 1. In my life, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied; 2. In my song, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied; 3. In Your church, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied; 4. In our home, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied; The second system has four vocal lines and a bass line. The lyrics are: In my life, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to-day. In my song, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to-day. In Your church, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to-day. In our home, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to-day.

Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All Amen.

P Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.

**All With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love. Amen.**

Stewardship of Life and Ministry Announcements

Benediction

Please stand as you are able.

P May the weary weight you have carried here
surrender to the power of connection and communion.
May the fullness of your actual self find warmth and recognition
in the presence of Jesus, the risen One.
May the healing presence of God flow through you,
soothing the cracks of your soul, ✝ anointing your whole life.

All Amen.

- Show us how - to love, show us how -
- to love, show us how, show us how -
- to love.

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Serve in love.

All Thanks be to God.

I COULD **NEVER**
DO WHAT JESUS
DOES HERE.

WELL,
SURE...

IF YOU
COULD,

YOU WOULDN'T
NEED **JESUS!**



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MATTHEW 4:1-11

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Readings for next Sunday,
March 5th
Second Sunday in Lent

First Reading:

Psalm:

Second Reading:

Gospel:

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

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