



ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

8:30 a.m., Sunday, February 5, 2023

Worship Leadership Today

Rev. Christian Marien, *Lead Pastor*

Rev. Anthony Acompañado, *Associate Pastor*

Edwin Aparicio, *Pastoral Intern*

Vicki Taylor, *Director of Music Ministries*

Anabelle Rook, *acolyte*

Gary Bauer, *Altar Guild*

Kathy Johnson, *choir accompanist*

Brian Novotny, Paul Wehmeier, *communion*

Kurt Werner, *media*

Bill Klippel, Dennis Mohr, *ushers*

Al Wollschlager, *usher*

PRELUDE

God Himself Is Present

setting by Michael Burkhardt

Nun lob, mein Seel, den herren (My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker!)

J. G. Walther

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

Rise, Shine, You People!

ELW 665

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

KYRIE

p. 138

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God in the Highest

p. 139

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Tony

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never

fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.

C:



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

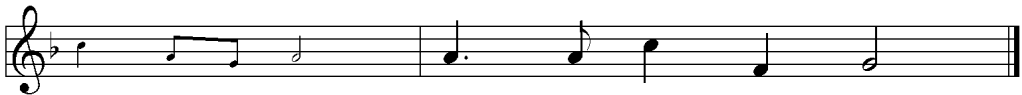
GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:13-20

[Jesus said:] “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C:



Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Tony

HYMN

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW 715

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Healing: Bill Riutta, hospitalized with covid

Comfort: For Linda Hansen and family at the death of Jerry
For the family and friends of Roland Tonn at his death
For Patti Mueller and family at the death of Patti's uncle Don
For Michelle Shulfer for her friend Tyreace at the death of his uncle

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

We Are Marching in the Light (Siyahamba)
Traditional South African

**Ascension
Choir**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray ... Merciful Father,

C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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PROPER PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

p. 144

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All those believing in the saving power of Jesus Christ through the gift of his life, death, and resurrection are welcome to receive communion at this table of grace. We offer both bread and wine for holy communion. Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.

LAMB OF GOD

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To Donate



or online at
[tinyurl.com/
DonateAscension](https://tinyurl.com/DonateAscension)

HYMNS	We Come to the Hungry Feast	ELW 479
	O Master, Let Me Walk with You	ELW 818
	Lord of Light (<i>v. 1, 3, 4</i>)	ELW 688

COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN	Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us (<i>v. 1, 3, 4</i>)	ELW 707
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SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE	Siyahamba (We Are Marching in the Light of God) <i>setting by John Behnke</i>
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ASCENSION

Children Are God's Gift: We are a noisy church. We are happy to celebrate the sounds of children during worship. You are welcome to step into the lobby with your child for a break if needed. A changing table is in the women's bathroom in the lobby.

Pew Pads: Please fill-out the blue pew pad and pass it to your neighbor. You might make a new friend.

Jerry Hansen Funeral: We invite your continued prayers of comfort for Linda Hansen and family. Jerry's funeral will be at Ascension on Monday, Feb. 6, at 12 p.m. preceded by visitation beginning at 10 a.m.

Worship Help: We're always looking for volunteers to help during worship. If you want to get more involved at Ascension, please contact Tamie Greenwood in the church office, tamie@ascensionelca.org, about how you can help. See the schedule online, <https://tinyurl.com/worshippupport>.

Choir: If you haven't had a chance to participate in one of our choirs, it's never too late! The Children's Choir is for children in grades K-6 and meets Thursdays, 5-5:40 p.m. Ascension Ringers Handbell Choir is for ages high school through adult and meets Wednesdays, 6-7:15 p.m. The Ascension Choir is for high school through adults and meets Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Vicki Taylor, vicki@ascensionelca.org.

Mental Health Resources: Stop at the table in the narthex this week to find a wide variety of resources from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).


JOLT & CRASH Schedules: CRASH will meet today, at 6 p.m. JOLT will meet Thursday, Feb. 9, 6 p.m.

Love Your Church, Love Your World: In the month of February, Ascension celebrates *Love Your Church/Love Your World*. We invite you to choose a heart from the windows of the narthex/lobby to purchase items or defray the cost of items already purchased. See the complete request list online, <https://ascensionelca.org/love-your-church-love-your-world/>.

Starting Point for Membership: Interested in joining Ascension? We'll hold two informal sessions for people to get to know more about our church, on March 5 and March 19, between services. RSVP online <http://tinyurl.com/AscensionNewMembers>, or by phone or email (262-547-8518, admin@ascensionelca.org, to let us know you're interested.

Serve With Ascension: The Mission Outreach/Serve Wing will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 7, at 6:30 p.m. Contact Shirley Wehmeier, shwehmeier@gmail.com, if you are interested in learning more about how you can be a part of the many ministries.

To Donate
Or use the Vanco Giving app or online at
tinyurl.com/DonateAscension



Tutoring: If you have been interested in our English/tutoring program but cannot commit to weekly attendance, we could use you as a substitute when a tutor needs a day off. We will give you guidance and support in how best to work with the students. Contact Shirley Wehmeier (mailto:shwehmeier@gmail.com) if you are able to help keep our students learning and to be able to give our tutors a break.

Winter Farmers' Market: Save the Date for the Winter Farmers' Market on March 12. Please plan to be part of a day to help local farmers and to enjoy the healthy food available. Tickets for the delicious brunch will be available starting Feb. 19.

Blessing Box: Please watch the weather when making donations to the Blessing Box. If the weather is too cold, cans may explode and other products may freeze. There is a decrease in use during extreme weather so we cut back on what we put in the box. As the weather warms up, we see an increase in use and welcome new donations.

Offering Envelopes & Pledging: 2023 Offering Envelopes are delayed due to printer problems. In the meantime, if you give cash, use an envelope from the pew and put your name on it. If you donate by check, we'll pull the donor information from the check. You can also donate online at <http://tinyurl.com/DonateAscension> or with the QR code.

Upcoming Worship Support Schedule		
<i>See the complete schedule online https://tinyurl.com/worshippupport</i>		
Feb. 12	8:30 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
Acolytes	Grace Paczesny	Ava Steinke
Altar Guild	Marge Schroeder	Jane Collins, Sue Mathews
Communion	Marge and Todd Schroeder	Jane Collins, Sue Mathews
Media	Adam Boales	Cheryl Anspach
Ushers	Bill Klippel, Dennis Mohr, Scot Werner	

Are You Visiting?

Date of Visit: _____

Time of Worship: _____

Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

How did God invite you to here?

How can we share the life of Ascension with you?

- Newsletter: e-mail or U.S. Mail?
- BLAST (ages 3-5th gr.)
- JOLT (confirmation, 6-8th gr.)
- CRASH (high school)
- Bible study (small groups)
- Choirs or other music ministries
- Serving others (local/global options)
- Starting Point class (membership)

Please place in the offering plate.

CALENDAR

Calendar online <https://ascensionelca.org/events/>.

Sun Feb 5

8:30am Worship S

9:50am BLAST

10:45am Adoración EH

10:45am Worship S

12pm Dia de Candelaria
WH

6pm CRASH YR

7pm AA WH

Mon Feb 6

10a Hansen visitation

12p Hansen funeral

1p Hansen reception

6:30pm AA Sm Group
WH

Tue Feb 7

7am AMEN Z

9:30am Women's Bible
CR

6:30pm Mission HR

Wed Feb 8

6pm Handbells S

7pm AA WH

7:30pm Choir S

Thu Feb 9

10am Al Anon CR

5pm Children's Choir

6pm JOLT

Sat Feb 11

9am Jubilate S

9am Tutoring

Sun Feb 12

8:30am Worship S

9:50am BLAST

10:45am Adoración

EH

10:45am Worship S

Sun Feb 12 cont.

7pm AA WH

Mon Feb 13

10am Book Study HR

1pm Knit Wits HR

6:30pm Book Study HR

6:30pm AA Sm Group
WH

Tue Feb 14

7am AMEN Z

9:30am Women's Bible
CR

7pm Holloway Group HR

Wed Feb 15

12pm Young at Heart
WH

6pm Handbells S

7pm AA WH

7:30pm Choir S

Thu Feb 16

9:30am TGIT HR

10am Al Anon CR

5pm Children's Choir

Fri Feb 17

1pm Hansen Group HR

Sat Feb 18

9am Tutoring

12:15pm Knit Fest HR

Key

CR	Conference rm
EH	East Hall
HR	Hearth rm
MG	Memorial Gardens
S	Sanctuary
WH	West Hall
<i>Italics</i>	<i>Virtual or offsite</i>