



ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

4th Sunday of Lent

8:30 a.m., March 19, 2023

Worship Leadership

Rev. Christian Marien, *Lead Pastor*

Rev. Anthony Acompañado, *Associate Pastor*

Edwin Aparicio, *Pastoral Intern*

Vicki Taylor, *Director of Music Ministries*

Acolyte: Max Stigler

Altar Guild: Jim and Kathy Hahn

Accompanist: Kathy Johnson

Communion: Jim Hahn, Becky Pepper

Media: Kurt Werner

Ushers: Bill Klippel, Dennis Mohr,
Jeff Rohrer

PRELUDE

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus, *Paul Manz*

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 \dagger and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

ELW 843

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. 147

PRAYER OF THE DAY

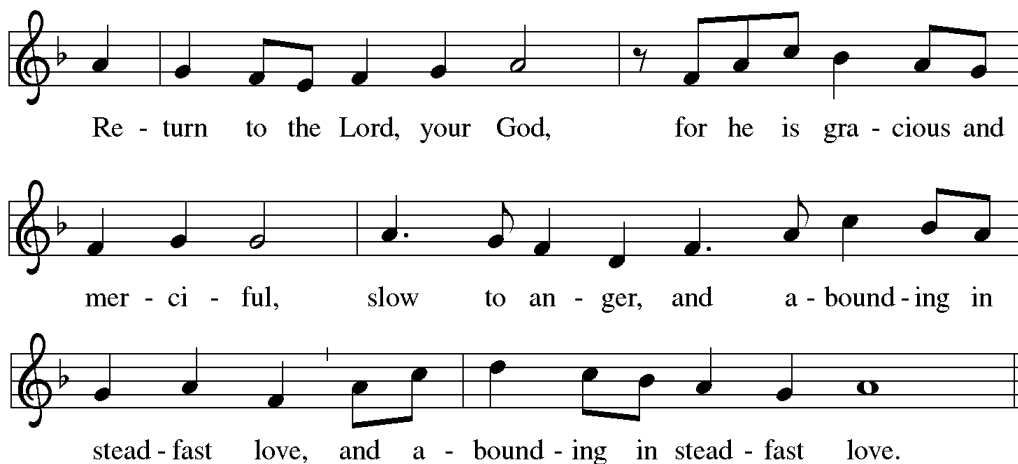
P: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Chris

LENTEN VERSE



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 9th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL READING

John 9:1-41

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to

him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Chris

HYMN

I Love to Tell the Story

ELW 661

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

Thanksgiving: For Michael Frank Payne born to Amanda and Mike Payne on March 14. Big brothers are George and Charlie.

Healing: For Peter Passante's friend, Renata, awaiting medical test results

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

Amazing Grace, *arr. Lloyd Larson*

Ascension Ringers

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.

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.

To Donate
Or use the Vanco
Giving app or
online at
[tinyurl.com/
DonateAscension](https://tinyurl.com/DonateAscension)



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

p. 154

HYMNS

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

ELW 814

Now We Join in Celebration

ELW 462

O God of Mercy, God of Light

ELW 714

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

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793

SENDING

P: Let us go forth in peace.

C: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name, *Flor Peeters*



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.

Pew Pads: Please fill-out the blue pew pad and pass it to your neighbor.

March Newsletter: The March newsletter is now available on our website, <https://ascensionelca.org/events/newsletter/>.

Lily Donations: Fill out the form on the next page to donate a lily for the sanctuary on Easter. Additional forms are available at the Welcome Center.

Wednesday Soup Suppers & Worship: Through March 29, we will have soup suppers at 6 p.m. followed by worship at 6:45 p.m. We will be looking for soup and bread. Please sign-up on the board in the narthex.

Endowment Fund Requests: The Endowment Committee is now accepting requests for distribution of funds to support and enhance the ministries, missions, and physical premises of Ascension apart from the annual budget. Requests must be submitted by March 31 to be considered. Requests can be made by email to a member of the Endowment Committee: Jim Hahn, jwhahn@milwpc.com; Ric Simon, ricsimon@yahoo.com, or Jessica Jahner, jessicajahner@gmail.com, or to Pastor Chris.

Starting Point for Membership: Interested in joining Ascension? We'll hold a session for people to get to know more about our church TODAY between services.

BLAST Easter Egg Hunt Donations: BLAST families will be participating in an Easter egg hunt followed by lunch on Sunday, April 2. To help us prepare, we are looking for donations of individually wrapped candies small enough to fit in an Easter egg. Some great ideas would be chocolate miniatures or Kisses, Starbursts, etc. Please place donations in the baskets in the narthex by March 19.

CRASH & JOLT: CRASH will meet TONIGHT at 6 p.m. and JOLT will meet on Thursday, March 23 at 6 p.m.

Children's Choir: Children's choir will meet on Thursday, March 23 from 5 to 5:40 p.m. There is no choir on March 30 for Spring Break.

GriefShare: If you or a loved one have suffered loss and would like some help and support, this may be the program for you. Led by Pastor Tony, the program will be held on Tuesdays beginning on Tuesday, March 28, from 6-8 p.m. in the Conference Room. Please sign-up online or by calling the church office, 262-547-8518.

Tutoring: We are still in need of people to substitute. You will receive guidance and resources to use with the students. Contact Shirley Wehmeier shwehmeier@gmail.com if you can help.

Upcoming Worship Support Schedule		
<i>See the complete schedule online https://tinyurl.com/worshippupport</i>		
Sunday, March 26	8:30	10:45
Acolytes	Grace Paczesny	Joshua Gunderson
Altar Guild	Marge Schroeder	Kathy and Mike Tomchek
Communion	Marge Schroeder, Al Wollschlager	Becky Hastings, Melody Maass
Media	Adam Boales	Cheryl Anspach
Ushers	Bill Klippel, Dennis Mohr, Brian Novotny	Kathy and Mike Tomchek

Become a Homeowner With Habitat for Humanity: Habitat Waukesha is looking for families who are interested in becoming a homeowner. Sweat equity becomes the down payment. Applications are available on their website, <https://www.habitatwaukesha.org/>.

Blessing Box & the Food Pantry: The Food Share increase that was given by the government during the pandemic is ending as of March 1. This will greatly impact many families as they see a reduction in their food benefit and rising prices at the stores. Our donations can make a difference. Please remember to pick up a few items from the grocery store and put them in the marked bins in the Donation Center.

Bunco! A group is forming to play Bunco at Ascension. Play begins Wednesday, March 22, at 1 p.m. Please contact Arlene Davis, 262-542-9119, or Beth Hoffmann, 262-542-7447, if interested.

Outreach for Hope: 2023 Lenten Devotions titled “God Sightings: Seeing God’s Movement in Our Day” are available throughout the 40 days of Lent (Mondays through Saturdays). The video devotions by the Ministry Partners, Ministry supporters and staff will include some Ascension celebrities. This series will inspire you to reflect on the gifts of partnership and accompaniment and how they may impact our faith walk at Ascension. See <https://outreachforhope.org/lenten-devotions/> for details on the varied ways you can access the devotions: email, You Tube, Social Media, print format. We will also share on the Ascension Mission Outreach page.

Calendar on the back page.

Easter Lily Donations

If you would like to donate an Easter Lily for our sanctuary, please fill-out this form and place in the offering plate along with your donation or return the form with your donation to the church office. Lilies are \$15 each.



Donor(s)

Donation amount \$ _____

This donation is given (*please check*):

In celebration of the resurrection of Jesus

To the glory of God

Donated in honor of:

Donated in memory of:

Thank you for helping make the sanctuary beautiful as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus!

Are You Visiting?

Date of Visit: _____

Time of Worship: _____

Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

How did God invite you 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 Mar 19

8:30am Worship S

9:50am BLAST

10:00am Starting Point

10:45am Misa EH

10:45am Worship S

12pm Spanish Listening

Session EH

6pm CRASH CR

7pm AA WH

Mon Mar 20

6:30pm AA Sm Group

WH

6:30pm AMEN CR

6:30pm Comm. Outreach

HR

7pm Jubilate Rehearsal S

Tue Mar 21

7am AMEN Zoom

9:30am Women's Bible

6pm Handbells S

7pm Church Council HR

7:15pm Choir S

Wed Mar 22

1pm Bunco WH

6pm Soup supper EH

6:45pm Worship S

7pm AA WH

Thurs Mar 23

10am Al Anon CR

5pm Children's Choir

6pm JOLT

Fri Mar 24

Sat Mar 25

9am Tutoring

10am Egg Filling WH

Sun Mar 26

8:30am Worship S

9:45am Listening Session

9:50am BLAST

10:45am Misa EH

10:45am Worship S

7pm AA WH

Mon Mar 27

1pm Knit Wits WH

6:30pm AA Sm Group

WH

6:30pm AMEN CR

7pm Jubilate Rehearsal S

Tue Mar 28

7am AMEN Zoom

9:30am Women's Bible

6pm GriefShare CR

6pm Handbells S

7:00pm Holloway Group

7:15pm Choir S

Wed Mar 29

11:30am Staff Mtg HR

6pm Soup supper EH

6:45pm Worship S

7pm AA WH

Thurs Mar 30

10am Al Anon CR

Key

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