



**First Sunday in Lent**  
8:30 a.m., February 22, 2026

**Worship Leadership**

Rev. Christian Marien, *Lead Pastor*  
Rev. Anthony Acompañado, *Pastor*  
Rev. Edwin Aparicio, *Pastor*  
Vicki Taylor, *Director of Music Ministries*

**Acolytes:** Brooklyn Stigler, Simon Williams   **Altar Guild:** Julie Kinunen  
**Choir Accompanist:** Kathy Johnson   **Communion:** Julie Kinunen, Steve Spieker  
**Greeters:** Rick and Susan Kremel   **Media:** Adam Boales  
**Reader:** Maggie Mulroy   **Ushers:** Dennis Mohr, Jeff Rohrer

**PRELUDE**

**Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer, *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 ☩, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

**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****HYMN OF PRAISE****Glory to God****p. 148****PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S TIME****Pastor Chris****FIRST READING****Psalm 32**

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away! Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile! While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long. For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin. Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them. You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye. Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you." Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD. Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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.

## GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

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

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

## GOSPEL READING

**Matthew 4:1-11**

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward 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 glory, and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## SERMON

**Pastor Chris**

## HYMN

**Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer**

**ELW 618**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Healing:** For Marty Grunfelder following heart surgery  
With Paul Eggers for his friend Debbie, cancer

**Thanksgiving:** For Bob Zastrow's successful hip surgery

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

**OFFERING****O Love Divine, Irish Folk Tune**  
*arr. John Hudson***Ascension Choir****Many Ways to Give Electronically**

- QR code
- VancoMobile Giving app on your smartphone
- Online at [tinyurl.com/SupportALC](http://tinyurl.com/SupportALC)
- Via text to 262-214-3681 with the amount

**OFFERTORY****Create in Me a Clean Heart****ELW 186****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****p. 154****HYMNS****Come, Let Us Eat****ELW 491****The Holy Wings****ELW 613****When Peace like a River****ELW 785****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****I Love to Tell the Story****ELW 661****SENDING****P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord!**C:** Thanks be to God.**POSTLUDE****Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott, Johann Gottfried Walther**



**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. There are also Busy Bags available in the lobby.

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

**Today!**

- Worship at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.
- Journey to the Cross, 9:45 a.m.
- Love Your Church, Love Your World
- Partners AFAR, 11:45 a.m.
- CRASH, 6 p.m.

**Love Your Church, Love Your World:** Choose a heart from the sanctuary window to show your love for Ascension and the work we do in the wider world. Return the heart with your donation.

**Children's Choir Resumes, New Rehearsal Day:** Children's Choir resumes Feb. 25 for a limited time! Children grades K-5 are invited to join us in preparation to sing in worship on Palm Sunday, March 29. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 5:15-6 p.m. (just prior to soup suppers!) on Feb. 25 and March 5, 11, 18, and 25. Email [vicki@ascensionelca.org](mailto:vicki@ascensionelca.org) with questions or to sign up.

**Sing for a Season:** Join the Ascension Choir and sing for the Lenten season and/or Holy Week. Rehearse with us on Tuesdays from 7:15-8:15 p.m., Feb. 24 through March 24; sing for Palm Sunday, March 29, Maundy Thursday, April 2, Good Friday, April 3, and Easter Sunday, April 5. Interested singers are invited and welcome to join in for 4-5 rehearsals and sing with us on whatever dates work best. Email [vicki@ascensionelca.org](mailto:vicki@ascensionelca.org) with questions and to sign-up.

**February Young at Heart:** Join the Young at Heart group (for people over 55) on Wednesday, Feb. 25, for a potluck lunch and games. Bring a dish to pass if you are able. There will be no buncos in February.

**First Communion:** First communion stepping stone classes will be March 1, 8, and 15, between worship services. The Rite of First Communion will be held on March 22 during worship. Watch for more information to come.

**JOLT & CRASH Shop 'n' Serve:** JOLT & CRASH will meet on Sunday, March 1, 4 to 6 p.m. for the Shop 'n' Serve event to benefit the Food Pantry of Waukesha County.

**New Member Classes:** Interested in joining Ascension? We'll have new member conversations between worship on March 15 and March 22. Fill-out this online form, <http://tinyurl.com/AscensionNewMembers>, to RSVP or let us know if you'd like to learn more about Ascension. A copy is also available in the office.

*More next page.*

**GriefShare:** Are you or someone you know struggling with grief after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend? Consider Ascension's grief support ministry, GriefShare. The next session is Tuesdays, March 3 – May 19, at 6 – 8 p.m. and led by Pastor Tony. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or contact the church office to sign up. Questions? Contact Pastor Tony, 262-547-8518 or [tony@ascnesionelca.org](mailto:tony@ascnesionelca.org).

**CALENDAR** <https://ascnesionelca.org/events/>

**Sun Feb 22**

**8:30am Worship S**

9:45am Journey to the Cross

**10:45am Worship EH S**

11:45am Partner AFAR

6pm CRASH CR

7pm AA WH

**Mon Feb 23**

10am/6pm Chosen HR

4:30pm *Healing Hearts Meal*

6:30pm AA Sm Group WH

6:30pm AMEN CR

7pm Jubilate rehearsal S

**Tue Feb 24**

7am *AMEN zoom*

9:30am Women's Bible CR

10:30am Boyer group HR

6pm Handbells S

7pm Holloway Mtg HR

7:15pm Adult Choir S

**Wed Feb 25**

12pm Young at Heart WH

5:15pm Children's Choir MUS

6pm Soup Supper EH

**6:45pm Worship S**

7pm AA WH

**Thu Feb 26**

10am Al Anon CR

10:30am Book Study HR

**11:30am Worship S**

**Sun Mar 1**

**8:30am Worship S**

9:45am 1st Communion SS  
WH

**10:45am Worship EH S**

2pm Wild Church MG WH

**Sun Mar 1 cont.**

4pm JOLT & CRASH Shop &  
Serve

7pm AA WH

**Mon Mar 2**

10am/6pm Chosen HR

6:30pm AA Sm Group WH

6:30pm AMEN CR

**Tue Mar 3**

7am *AMEN zoom*

9:30am Women's Bible CR

6pm GriefShare CR

6pm Handbells S

7:15pm Adult Choir S

**Wed Mar 4**

5:15pm Children's Choir MUS

6pm Soup Supper EH

**6:45pm Worship S**

7pm AA WH

**Thu Mar 5**

9:30am TGIT MR

10am Al Anon CR

10:30am Book Study HR

**11:30am Worship S**

1pm Hansen Mtg CR

**Sat Mar 7**

9am Jubilate rehearsal S

9:30am Caminando Juntos HR

10:30am Private event WH

**Sun Mar 8**

Daylight Savings begins

**8:30am Worship S**

9:45am BLAST HR

9:45am 1st Communion SS

WH

**Sun Mar 8 cont.**

9:45am JUMP CR

**10:45am Worship EH S**

6pm CRASH CR

7pm AA WH

**Mon Mar 9**

10am/6pm Chosen HR

12pm Staff Mtg HR

6:30pm AA Sm Group WH

6:30pm AMEN CR

**Tue Mar 10**

7am *AMEN zoom*

9:30am Women's Bible CR

10:30am Boyer group HR

5pm Private event EH

6pm GriefShare CR

6pm Handbells S

6:30pm SOPHIA Immigration

Task Force Mtg WH

7pm Holloway mtg HR

7:15pm Adult Choir S

**Wed Mar 11**

5:15pm Children's Choir MUS

6pm Soup Supper EH

**6:45pm Worship S**

7pm AA WH

**Key**

CR	Conference rm
EH	East Hall
HR	Hearth Rm
MG	Memorial Garden
MR	Meeting Room
MUS	Music Room
N	Narthex (Lobby)
PR	Prayer Room
S	Sanctuary
WH	West Hall (Kit)

# Your Lenten Journey with Ascension



- **Soup supper and Wednesday night worship:** Beginning Feb. 25, 6 p.m. supper, 6:45 p.m. worship that ends by 7:15 p.m. Please see the sign-up in the narthex/lobby on Sunday to bring a soup or loaf of bread. The last soup supper and worship will be March 25.
- **Book Study:** Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. join PC for the book study of “The Message of Jesus” by Adam Hamilton. Purchase a book from PC for \$13 or buy one on your own.
- **Thursday morning worship:** 11:30 a.m., through March 26.

## Worship Support <https://tinyurl.com/worshippupport>

March 1	8:30	10:45
<b>Acolytes</b>	Elsa Romme, Jakob Wagner	Kaiana Nichols-Schroeder, Audrey Roehl
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Gary Bauer	Cindy Finn, Kris Wells
<b>Communion</b>	Darlene DiBrito, <i>1 volunteer needed</i>	Christine Piper, Jackson Piper, Julia Piper
<b>Greeters</b>	Mike and Sherry Hoelzl	<i>Always appreciated</i>
<b>Media</b>	Buck Houston	Cheryl Anspach
<b>Readers</b>	Darlene DiBrito	Brad Piper
<b>Ushers</b>	Dennis Mohr, Paul Wehmeier, Al Wollschlager	Dennis Leatherwood, Mark Pichler

## 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?*

- E-alert
- Newsletter: e-mail or U.S. Mail
- JAM, BLAST, JUMP (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 (membership)

**Please place in the offering plate.**



Ascension Lutheran Church  
1415 Dopp St., Waukesha, WI  
262-547-8518 [ascensionelca.org](http://ascensionelca.org)