



First Sunday in Lent
10:45 a.m., February 22, 2026

Worship Leadership

Rev. Christian Marien, *Lead Pastor*
Rev. Anthony Acompanado, *Pastor*
Ben Janzow, *Praise Band Leader*

Acolytes: Kai Acompanado, Bly Dringenburg **Altar Guild:** Kathy and Mike Tomchek
Communion: Jeff Froh, Teri Quam, Amy Smith **Media:** Anna Marien
Reader: Teri Quam **Ushers:** Pat Boyer, Patrick Tkach

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.**

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SONGS

God Is With Us Now

Everyone who longs for truth
Needing hope and strength renewed
Come and meet the Savior of the world
Everyone who longs inside
Desperate for the words of life
Come and meet the Savior of your soul

God is with us now
His love rains down, His love reigns now
Saved by grace and power
His love rains down, His love reigns now
God is with us now

God So Loved

Come all you weary, come all you thirsty
Come to the well that never runs dry
Drink of the water, come and thirst no more

Well, come all you sinners, come find His mercy
Come to the table, He will satisfy
Taste of His goodness, find what you're looking for

For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever

Bring all your failures, bring your addictions
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
Jesus is waiting there with open arms (*Chorus*)

The power of hell forever defeated
Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom
For God so loved, God so loved the world

Praise God, praise God
From whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, praise Him
For the wonders of His love
Praise God, praise God
From whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, praise Him
For the wonders of His love

For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save
For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever
Oh, the power of hell forever defeated
Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom
For God so loved, God so loved the world

PRAYER

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.**

SONG

Today Is the Day

I'm casting my cares aside
I'm leaving my past behind
I'm setting my heart and mind on You Jesus
I'm reaching my hand to Yours
Believing there's so much more
Knowing that all you have
In store for me is good, is good

**Today is the day you have made
I will rejoice and be glad in it (2x)
And I won't worry about tomorrow
I'm trusting in what You say
Today is the day**

I'm putting my fears aside
I'm leaving my doubts behind
I'm giving my hopes and dreams to You Jesus
I'm reaching my hands to Yours
Believing there's so much more
Knowing that all You have
In store for me is good, is good
(Chorus)

I will stand upon Your truth (echo)
And all my days I'll live for You (echo)
I will stand upon Your truth (echo)
And all my days I'll live for You (echo)
(Chorus)

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

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SONG

You are here, moving in our midst
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, working in this place
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, moving in our midst
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, working in this place
I worship You, I worship You

**You are Way Maker, miracle worker
Promise keeper
Light in the darkness
My God, that is who You are
You are Way Maker, miracle worker
Promise keeper
Light in the darkness
My God, that is who You are**

Way Maker

You are here, touching every heart
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, healing every heart
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, turning lives around
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, mending every heart
I worship You, I worship You (**Chorus**)

Even when I don't see it, You're working
Even when I don't feel it, You're working
You never stop, You never stop working
You never stop, You never stop working
And even when I don't see it, You're working
Even when I don't feel it, You're working
You never stop, You never stop working
You never stop, You never stop working (**Chorus**)

PRAYERS

Please say, "Hear our prayer" and sing the above refrain after each petition.

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

You give life, You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope, You restore
Every heart that is broken
Great are You, Lord

**It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only**

You give life, You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope, You restore
Every heart that is broken
Great are You, Lord (**Chorus**)

Great Are You, Lord

All the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing
Great are You, Lord

All the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing
Great are You, Lord (**Chorus**)



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 grape juice are available.

SOLO

Reckless Love

SONGS

He Knows My Name

I have a maker, He formed my heart
Before even time began
My life was in His hands

**He knows my name
He knows my every thought
He sees each tear that falls
And hears me when I call**

I have a Father
He calls me His own
He'll never leave me
No matter where I go (*Chorus*)

Breathe

This is the air I breathe, this is the air I breathe
Your Holy presence living in me
This is my daily bread, this is my daily bread
Your very word, spoken to me

**And I, I'm desperate for You
And I, I'm lost without You**

This is the air I breathe, this is the air I breathe
Your Holy presence living in me
This is my daily bread, this is my daily bread
Your very word, spoken to me (*Chorus*)

COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

SONG

Grace

Called and chosen when I was far away
You brought me into your family
Free and forgiven, my guilt is washed away
Your loving kindness is life to me

'Cause it's grace, there's nothing I can do
To make You love me more
To make You love me less than You do
And by faith I'm standing on this stone
Of Christ and Christ alone
Your righteousness is all that I need
'Cause it's grace

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God.**



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 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 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 bunco 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. We'll welcome new members on Palm Sunday, March 29.

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. Through the use of video teaching and small group conversation we seek to provide a safe and supportive space to provide care and encouragement that can be crucial to a person in grief. Participants are encouraged to attend all 10 sessions however you are also welcome to begin our GriefShare group at any point. Each session is “self-contained,” so you do not have to attend in sequence, and you will be able to pick up any session you missed in our 10-week cycle. 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.

Many Ways to Give



Online at tinyurl.com/SupportALC
 Via text to 262-214-3681
 with the amount

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
Acolytes	Elsa Romme, Jakob Wagner	Kaiana Nichols-Schroeder, Audrey Roehl
Altar Guild	Gary Bauer	Cindy Finn, Kris Wells
Communion	Darlene DiBrito, <i>1 volunteer needed</i>	Christine Piper, Jackson Piper, Julia Piper
Greeters	Mike and Sherry Hoelzl	<i>Always appreciated</i>
Media	Buck Houston	Cheryl Anspach
Readers	Darlene DiBrito	Brad Piper
Ushers	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.

CALENDAR <https://ascensionelca.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
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

Key

CR	Conference rm
EH	East Hall
HR	Hearth Rm
MG	Memorial Garden
MUS	Music Room
MR	Meeting Room
N	Narthex (Lobby)
PR	Prayer Room
S	Sanctuary
WH	West Hall (Kit)
<i>Italics</i>	<i>Virtual or offsite</i>



ASCENSION
Lutheran Church

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