



Second Sunday in Lent
10:45 a.m., March 1, 2026

Worship Leadership

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

Acolytes: Kaiana Nichols-Schroeder, Audrey Roehl **Altar Guild:** Cindy Finn, Kris Wells
Communion: Christine Piper, Jackson Piper, Julia Piper **Media:** Cheryl Anspach
Reader: Brad Piper **Ushers:** Dennis Leatherwood, Mark Pichler

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.**

SONGS

That's What We Came Here For

We come into Your presence with singing
We come into Your presence with praise
Enter Your gates with thankful hearts
We are going to celebrate
All of Heaven's waiting
Power is on its way
So we shout "Hallelujah"
Lift it to You
In a mighty roar of praise

**You deserve the highest praise
And we can give you more
Lord, we give you our praise
That's what we came here for**

You deserve the highest praise (4x)
(Chorus)

Sing to the King

Sing to the King who is coming to reign
Glory to Jesus, the Lamb that was slain
Life and salvation His empire shall bring
Joy to the nations when Jesus is King

For His returning, we watch and we pray
We will be ready the dawn of that day
We'll join in singing with all the redeemed
Satan is vanquished and Jesus is King
(Chorus)

**Come let us sing a song
A song declaring that we belong to Jesus
He is all we need
Lift up a heart of praise
Sing now with voices raised to Jesus
Sing to the King**

PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Tony

FIRST READING

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep. Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep; the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life. The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SONG

Meet With Me

I'm here to meet with You
Come and meet with me
I'm here to find You
Reveal yourself to me

As I wait, You make me strong
As I long, draw me to Your arms
As I stand, and sing Your praise
You come, You come and You fill this place

GOSPEL READING

John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Pastor Tony

SONG

Your Love Defends Me

You are my joy, You are my song
You are the well, the one I'm drawing from
You are my refuge, my whole life long
Where else would I go?
Surely my God is the strength of my soul
Your love defends me, Your love defends me
And when I feel like I'm all alone
Your love defends me, Your love defends me

Day after day, night after night
I will remember, You're with me in this fight
Although the battle, it rages on
The war is already won
I know the war is already won (*Chorus*)
We sing Hallelujah
You're my portion
My salvation
Hallelujah (*Chorus*)

Your Love Defends Me: Hannah Kerr | Matt Maher © 2016 Be Essential Songs; I Am A Pilgrim Songs; Hannah Kerr Music; Songs of Black River. **How Great Is Our God:** Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Jesse © 2004 Rising Springs Music; Vamos Publishing; worshiptogether.com songs; Wondrously Made Songs. **Good, Good Father:** Anthony Brown, Pat Barrett; © 2014 Capitol CMG Paragon Common Hymnal Publishing Housefires Sounds sixsteps Music Tony Brown Publishing Designee Vamos Publishing worshiptogether.com songs. All rights reserved. Used by permission CCLI License # 90978.

SERVICE OF BAPTISM FOR HUNTER REUBEN THOMAS RICHTER

P: Praise and thanksgiving be to our God our maker, source of all blessing. In life, in death, we trust in God's most holy name. Here at this font, we hear God's promise. Here, in the presence of water and God's Word, moments of life-changing grace enter into the world.

C: Thanks be to God!

P: Emily and Jeff, do you present Hunter Reuben Thomas for the sacrament of holy baptism?
Sponsors: We do.

P: Jennifer and Thomas, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Hunter Reuben Thomas baptized into Christ?

Parents: We do.

P: As you bring Hunter Reuben Thomas to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people; bring him to worship to hear the Word of God and to share in holy communion; teach him the Lord's prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments; place in his hands the Bible, the living Word; and tend him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help Hunter grow in the Christian faith and life?

C: We do.

P: Emily and Jeff, God has led you to this moment. You have been invited to tend this miracle of life in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church. Do you promise to encourage Hunter: to walk alongside him as he grows in his faith and in his relationship with God?

Sponsors: We do.

P: People of God, do you promise to support Hunter and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

C: We do.

A: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce the devil, his empty promises and all the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C: I do.

A: With all the faithful who came before us we dare to confess our faith. Do you believe in God the Father?

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

A: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: 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.

A: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth. You are the fountain of resurrection. Praise to you for your saving waters: Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again. At this font, holy God, we praise you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this water. Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation. Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us. Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Hunter Reuben Thomas Richter, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

All please sing: **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

P: Let us pray. God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through the gift of baptism. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon Hunter Reuben Thomas: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

C: **Amen.**

P: Hunter Reuben Thomas, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen.

P: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify our God in heaven. Brothers and sisters, please welcome our new brother Hunter into the family of God.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYERS

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

How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, all will see
How great, how great is our God

Healing: For Sheri Greger's cousin, Thomas, recovering from surgery, now on ventilator
For Cara Boyer, knee replacement
For Vicki Dian, knee replacement
For Chris Holloway's mother Dorene, surgery following a fall

Thanksgiving: For Warren Madison celebrating his 96th birthday today

OFFERING

How Great Is Our God

The splendor of a King, clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice
He wraps himself in light, and darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice, trembles at His voice

How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, all will see
How great, how great is our God

Age to age He stands, and time is in His hands
Beginning and the end, beginning and the end
The Godhead three in one, the Father, Spirit, Son
The lion and the lamb, the lion and the lamb (*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

Good, Good Father

SONG

Come Thou Fount

Come thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love

Here I raise my Ebenezer hither by thy help I've come
And I hope by thy good pleasure safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger wandering from the fold of God
He to rescue me from danger interposed His precious blood

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be
Let thy goodness like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee
Prone to wander Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, o take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above

SONG

Revelation Song

Worthy is the lamb who was slain
Holy, holy is He
Sing a new song, to Him who sits on
Heaven's mercy seat

Clothed in rainbows, of living color
Flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder
Blessing and honor
Strength and glory and power be
To You the only wise King (*Chorus*)

**Holy, Holy, Holy
Is the Lord God Almighty
Who was, and is, and is to come
With all creation I sing
Praise to the King of kings
You are my everything
And I will adore You**

COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

SONG

Awesome Is the Lord Most High

Great are You, Lord, mighty in strength
You are faithful You will ever be
We will praise You all of our days
It's for Your glory we offer everything

**Raise your hands
All you nations shout
To God all creation
How awesome is the Lord most high
We will praise You together for now and forever
How awesome is the Lord most high**

Where You send us God, we will go
You're the answer we want the world to know
We will trust You when You call our name
Where You lead us we'll follow all the way (*Chorus*)

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God.**



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. 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.
- **First Communion Stepping Stone**, 9:45 a.m., West Hall
- **Caminando Juntos/Walking Together** information table, 9:45 - 11:45 p.m.
- **No JAM, BLAST, JUMP**
- **Wild Church**, 2 p.m. West Hall
- **JOLT & CRASH Shop & Serve**, meet at Ascension at 4 p.m.

Baptized: We welcome Hunter Reuben Thomas Richter in baptism today at the 10:45 a.m. service. Hunter's parents are Jennifer and Thomas Richter. Hunter's sponsors are Emily Brown and Jeff Baier. Big sister is Gianna.

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. Contact Pastor Tony, tony@ascnesionelca.org, with questions.

JOLT & CRASH Shop 'n' Serve: JOLT & CRASH will meet today, 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.

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.

Caminando Juntos / Walking Together: Caminando Juntos will meet on Saturday, March 7, at 9:30 in the Hearth Room. Anyone interested in ways to walk with our Latino brothers and sisters is welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Teri Quam, tquam61@gmail.com.

Many Ways to Give



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

SOPHIA Presentation: On March 15, we will host a special guest from SOPHIA between services to give a presentation on Ascension as a founding member of SOPHIA, current community activities and how Ascension can become more involved in SOPHIA's future. This guest is well known to Ascension. He is now the vice president of SOPHIA but we know him as Pastor Jim Bickel, a former long-time pastor of Ascension.

Your Lenten Journey with Ascension



- **Soup supper and Wednesday Night Worship:** Through March 25, join us Wednesday nights at 6 p.m. for soup supper and stay for worship at 6:45 p.m. Worship will end by 7:15 p.m.
- **Lenten Book Study:** There's still time to join us for PC's book study of "The Message of Jesus" by Adam Hamilton Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. 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 8	8:30	10:45
Acolytes	Howie Leatherwood, Joey Leatherwood	Camden Johnson, Henry Schultz
Altar Guild	Marge Schroeder	Mary Kolberg, Sue Mathews
Communion	Lauren Birner, Marge Schroeder	Mary Ellen Comp, Mary Kolberg, Sue Mathews
Greeters	Dennis and Joyce Beauchene	<i>Always appreciated</i>
Media	Cheryl Werner	Jeff Froh
Readers	Beth Hoffmann	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Ushers	Jim Hahn, Dennis Mohr, Scot Werner	Cynthia and Mike Carlson

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 MR
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 First Communion SS
WH

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
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 MR
6pm Soup Supper EH
6:45pm Worship S
7pm AA WH

Thu Mar 12

10am Al Anon CR
10:30am Book Study HR
10:30am Boyer group MR
11:30am Worship S

Fri Mar 13

5:30p BLAST Movie Night

Sat Mar 14

9am Adult Choir S
12pm Handbells S

Sun Mar 15

8:30am Worship S

9:45am First Communion SS
WH
9:45am New members conversation HR
9:45am SOPHIA EH
10:45am Worship EH S
7pm AA WH

Mon Mar 16

Alfombra reservation MR
10am/6pm Chosen HR
6:30pm AA Sm Group WH
6:30pm AMEN CR

Tue Mar 17

Alfombra reservation MR
7am *AMEN zoom*
9:30am Women's Bible CR
6pm GriefShare CR
6pm Handbells S
6:30pm Church council HR
7:15pm Adult Choir S

Key

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

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 53188
262-547-8518 ascensionlca.org