

Ascension of Christ Lutheran Church

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The Reverend Larry K. Loree, Jr., Pastor

*A member congregation of The English District of
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*



The Temptations of Christ, 1100-1150, Venice, Basilica of San Marco

Invocabit

February 22, 2026

+IN THE NAME OF JESUS+

WELCOME to the Divine Service at Ascension of Christ! We pray that you will be richly blessed by God as you hear His Word, receive His gifts and worship Him with your prayer and praise!


TO OUR GUESTS Welcome, we are glad that you have chosen to worship with us this morning. Please don't hesitate to ask an usher or a greeter if you have any questions. Be sure to introduce yourself to our Pastor. We invite you to consider Ascension of Christ if you are looking for a church home. We gather every Sunday morning for *Adult Bible Study* at 9:00 a.m., the Divine Service at 10:15 a.m. and Sunday School immediately after the Divine Service.

CHILDREN AT ASCENSION At Ascension, we want you to feel at home. First, please relax and enjoy your time here. Jesus knows that children tend to wiggle and squawk a bit, so please don't feel embarrassed by it. Your children are welcome here! To make it easier on your family, please dare to sit closer to the front where your children can easily see what's going on, note the colors, watch the pastors, wonder about those heads on the lectern, and embrace the action at the altar. What Jesus does here is for them, too! As we go through the Divine Service, encourage them to join in on their parts: *Amen! Lord have mercy. And with your spirit. I believe! Our Father!* And please be sure to sing and pray your parts too! Children learn by following your lead. There are some busy bags in the back of the church for you and if you must take your children out of the church, please hurry back!

THE LORD'S SUPPER IS JOYFULLY RECEIVED HERE TODAY At the altar, our Lord Jesus Christ delivers His true body and blood into our mouths. His gift of body and blood given in, with, and under the bread and wine, bestows tremendous benefits. His body and blood forgives our sins, strengthens our faith, binds us to the Lord, and unites us with each other. In this is life and salvation. All members of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have publicly confessed this sacred gift and its blessings and so are encouraged to commune. When you have examined yourself according to Christ's bidding (1 Corinthians 11:28), come to His Supper rejoicing, just as Jesus asks, knowing that our Lord meets you at His altar with joy. If you are a guest and would like to learn more about the practice of the Lord's Supper at Ascension of Christ, or if you are uncertain about whether you should receive the Lord's Supper, please speak with Pastor Loree before communing for the first time.

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT In the Garden, man exalts himself to be a god in place of God (Gen. 3:1–21). He succumbs to the temptation of the devil, and eating of the forbidden fruit, he receives death. But in the sin-cursed wilderness, God humbles Himself to become man in place of man (Mt. 4:1–11). He does not eat but fasts and bears the onslaughts of the devil for us that we may be restored to life. Jesus stands as David in our place to do battle against the Goliath, Satan (1 Samuel 17:40–51). Though outwardly Jesus appears weak, yet He comes in the name of the Lord of hosts. He draws from the five smooth stones of the books of Moses and slings the Word of God. The stone sinks into the forehead, and the enemy falls. In Christ we are victorious over the devil. Let us therefore not receive the grace of God in vain (2 Cor. 6:1–10), but seeing that we have a great High Priest, let us come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain help in time of need (Heb 4:14–16).

+GOD GATHERS US BEFORE HIS HOLY PRESENCE+

Please note the  symbol is used to indicate a sung response.

PRELUDE

Please stand and face the cross at the sound of the chimes.

PROCESSION

THE LITANY PRAYER

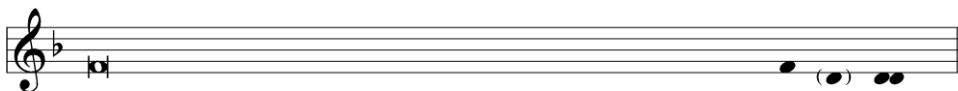
 L O Lord,	 C have mer - cy.
 L O Christ,	 C have mer - cy.
 L O Lord,	 C have mer - cy.
 L O Christ,	 C hear us.
 L God the Fa - ther in heaven,	 C have mer - cy.
 L God the Son, Redeemer of the world,	 C have mer - cy.
 L God the Holy Spir - it,	 C have mer - cy.
 L Be gra - cious to us.	 C Spare us, good Lord.



L Be gra - cious to us.



C Help us, good Lord.



L From all sin, from all error, from all e - vil;

From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and e - vil death;

From pestilence and famine;

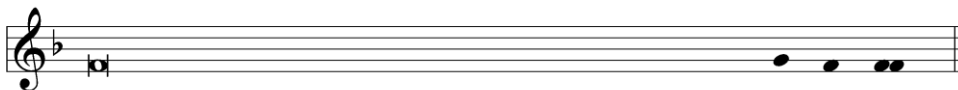
from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from re - bel - lion;

From lightning and tempest;

from all calamity by fire and water; and from ever - last - ing death:



C Good Lord, de - liv - er us.



L By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy na - tiv - i - ty;

By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation;

by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your

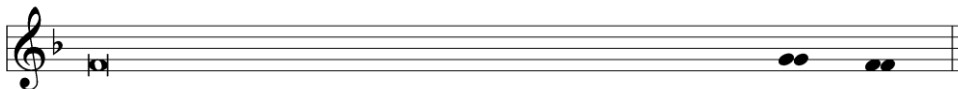
cross and passion; by Your precious death and bur - i - al;

By Your glorious resurrection and ascension;

and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Com - fort - er:



C Help us, good Lord.

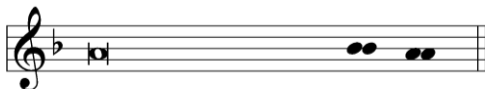


L In all time of our tribulation; in all time

of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judg - ment:



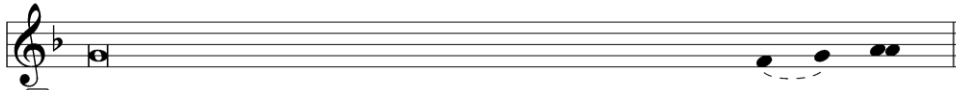
C Help us, good Lord.



L We poor sinners im - plore You



C to hear us, O Lord.



L To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church;
to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your
Church in the true knowledge and understanding
of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy liv - ing;

To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense;
to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are de - ceived;

To beat down Satan under our feet;
to send faithful laborers into Your harvest;
and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spir - it:



C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.



L To raise those who fall and to strengthen those
who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the dis - tressed:



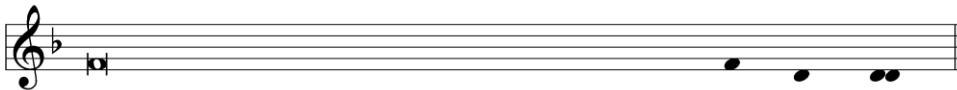
C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.



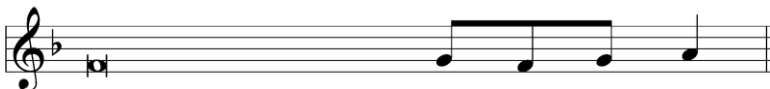
L To give to all peoples concord and peace;
to preserve our land from discord and strife;
to give our country Your protection in every time of need;
To direct and defend our president/queen/king and all in
authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our peo - ple;
To watch over and help all who are in danger,
necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who trav - el;
To grant all women with child, and all mothers
with infant children, increasing happiness in
their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and pro-vide for them;
To strengthen and keep all sick persons and
young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:



C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.



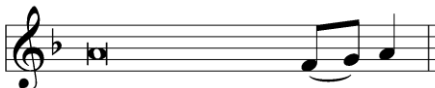
L To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers
and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our
use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:



C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.



L Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,



C we implore You to hear us.



L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,



C have mer - cy.



L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,



C have mer - cy.



L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,



C grant us Your peace.



L O Christ,



C hear us.



L O Lord,



C have mer - cy.



L O Christ,



C have mer - cy.



L O Lord,



C have mer - cy. A - men.

SALUTATION, COLLECT OF THE DAY, COLLECT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray. O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

HYMN

TRIUNE GOD, BE THOU OUR STAY

LSB 505



1 God the Fa - ther be our stay; O let us per-ish nev - er!
2 Je - sus Christ, be Thou our stay; O let us per-ish nev - er!
3 Ho - ly Spir - it, be our stay; O let us per-ish nev - er!



Cleanse us from our sins, we pray, And grant us life for - ev - er.
Cleanse us from our sins, we pray, And grant us life for - ev - er.
Cleanse us from our sins, we pray, And grant us life for - ev - er.



Keep us from the e - vil one; Up - hold our faith most ho - ly,
Keep us from the e - vil one; Up - hold our faith most ho - ly,
Keep us from the e - vil one; Up - hold our faith most ho - ly,



And let us trust Thee sole - ly With hum-ble hearts and low - ly.
 And let us trust Thee sole - ly With hum-ble hearts and low - ly.
 And let us trust Thee sole - ly With hum-ble hearts and low - ly.

Let us put God's ar - mor on, With all true Chris - tians run - ning
 Let us put God's ar - mor on, With all true Chris - tians run - ning
 Let us put God's ar - mor on, With all true Chris - tians run - ning

Our heav'n - ly race and shun - ning The dev-il's wiles and cun - ning.
 Our heav'n - ly race and shun - ning The dev-il's wiles and cun - ning.
 Our heav'n - ly race and shun - ning The dev-il's wiles and cun - ning.

A - men, a - men! This be done; O Lord, have mer - cy on us.
 A - men, a - men! This be done; O Lord, have mer - cy on us.
 A - men, a - men! This be done; O Lord, have mer - cy on us.

Text and tune: Public domain

+GOD SPEAKS TO US IN HIS WORD+

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said

Genesis 3:1-21

to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they

were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The LORD God said to the serpent,
"Because you have done this,
 cursed are you above all livestock
 and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
 and dust you shall eat
 all the days of your life.
I will put enmity between you and the
woman,
 and between your offspring and her
offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
 and you shall bruise his heel."

To the woman he said,

"I will surely multiply your pain in
childbearing;

 in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be for your husband,
 and he shall rule over you."

And to Adam he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of
your wife

 and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
 'You shall not eat of it,'
cursed is the ground because of you;
 in pain you shall eat of it all the days
of your life;
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for
you;

 and you shall eat the plants of the
field.

By the sweat of your face
 you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
 for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
 and to dust you shall return."

The man called his wife's name Eve,
because she was the mother of all living.
And the LORD God made for Adam and for
his wife garments of skins and clothed
them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Psalm 91:11–12



He will command his angels con- | cerning you*
to guard you in | all your ways.

**On their hands they will | bear you up,*
lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone.**

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 6:1-10

¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

"In a favorable time I listened to
you,
and in a day of salvation I have
helped you."

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity,

knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

Stand

TRACT

Psalms 91:1, 4a, 15a, 16

He who dwells in the shelter of the | Most High*
will abide in the shadow of the Al- | mighty.

He will cover you with his | pinions,*
and under his wings you will find | refuge.


When he calls to me, I will | answer him;*
I will be with him in | trouble.

With long life I will sat- | isfy him*
and show him my sal- | vation.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-11

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

C  **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written,

"Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes
from the mouth of God."

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶and said 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,
lest you strike your foot against a
stone."

⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

"You shall worship the Lord
your God
and him only shall you serve."

¹¹Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C  **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED

(back of the hymnal)

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

LSB 656

SERMON

+GOD RECEIVES OUR PRAYERS AND OFFERING+

Kneel/stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Sit

OFFERING

Stand

OFFERTORY

LSB 422



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

+GOD GIVES A FORETASTE OF THE FEAST TO COME+

PREFACE



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

LORD'S PRAYER

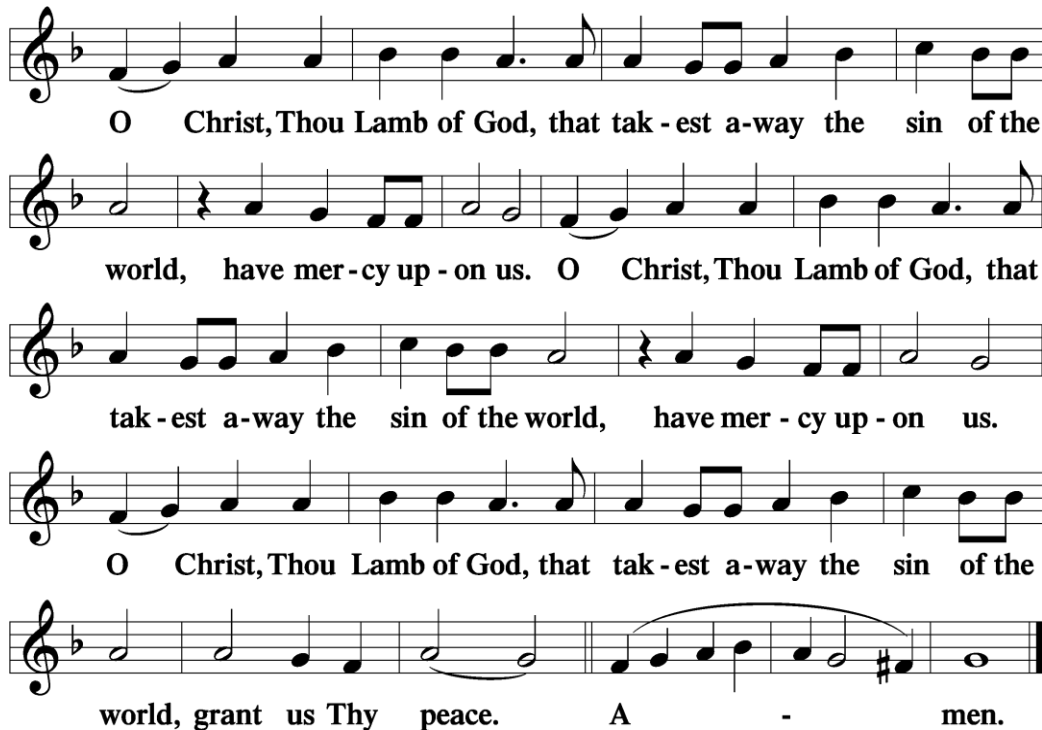
THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C  Amen.

AGNUS DEI



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - - - men.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

<i>PRESERVE YOUR WORD, O SAVIOR</i>	LSB 658
<i>I WALK IN DANGER ALL THE WAY</i>	LSB 716
<i>LORD OF OUR LIFE</i>	LSB 659
<i>WHO TRUSTS IN GOD A STRONG ABODE</i>	LSB 714


Stand

DISMISSAL


P The true body and precious blood of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

THANKSGIVING



- P** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C  and His mercy endureth forever.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT



- P** Let us pray.
O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C  Amen.

+GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US FORTH TO SERVE+

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

- P** The Lord be with you.
C  And with thy spirit.
P Bless we the Lord.
C  Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and  give you peace.
C  Amen, amen, amen.

POSTLUDE

+TO GOD ALONE BE GLORY+