Ascension of Christ Lutheran Church

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

Feeding the Five Thousand, 1580-1590, Marten van Valckenborch, Vienna

Laetare

March 15, 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.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT The Lord provided bread from heaven for His people in the wilderness (Ex. 16:2–21). Now He who is Himself the living bread from heaven miraculously provides bread for the five thousand (John 6:1–15). This takes place near the time of the Passover, after a great multitude had followed Jesus across the sea, and when He went up on a mountain. Seen in this way, Jesus is our new and greater Moses, who releases us from the bondage of Mount Sinai and makes us free children of the promise (Gal. 4:21–31). Five loaves become twelve baskets—that is, the five books of Moses find their goal and fulfillment in Christ, whose people continue steadfastly in the doctrine and fellowship of the twelve apostles, and in the breaking and receiving of the bread of life, which is the body of Christ together with His precious blood, and in the prayers (Acts 2:41–47). So it is that God's people "shall not hunger or thirst" (Is. 49:8–13). For He abundantly provides for us in both body and soul.

+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

Kneel/remain standing

THE LITANY PRAYER

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

P The Lord be with you.

C ♪**And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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 *A MULTITUDE COMES FROM THE EAST AND THE WEST* **LSB 510**

+GOD SPEAKS TO US IN HIS WORD+

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Exodus 16:2-21*

2And the whole congregation of the
people of Israel grumbled against
Moses and Aaron in the wilderness,
3and the people of Israel said to them,
"Would that we had died by the hand of
the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we
sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the
full, for you have brought us out into
this wilderness to kill this whole
assembly with hunger."

4Then the LORD said to Moses,
"Behold, I am about to rain bread from
heaven for you, and the people shall go
out and gather a day's portion every
day, that I may test them, whether they
will walk in my law or not. 5On the sixth
day, when they prepare what they bring
in, it will be twice as much as they
gather daily." 6So Moses and Aaron said
to all the people of Israel, "At evening
you shall know that it was the LORD
who brought you out of the land of
Egypt, 7and in the morning you shall see
the glory of the LORD, because he has
heard your grumbling against the LORD.
For what are we, that you grumble
against us?" 8And Moses said, "When
the LORD gives you in the evening meat
to eat and in the morning bread to the
full, because the LORD has heard your
grumbling that you grumble against
him—what are we? Your grumbling is
not against us but against the LORD."

9Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to
the whole congregation of the people of
Israel, 'Come near before the LORD, for
he has heard your grumbling.'" 10And as
soon as Aaron spoke to the whole
congregation of the people of Israel,
they looked toward the wilderness, and

behold, the glory of the LORD appeared
in the cloud. 11And the LORD said to
Moses, 12"I have heard the grumbling of
the people of Israel. Say to them, 'At
twilight you shall eat meat, and in the
morning you shall be filled with bread.
Then you shall know that I am the LORD
your God.'"

13In the evening quail came up and
covered the camp, and in the morning
dew lay around the camp. 14And when
the dew had gone up, there was on the
face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like
thing, fine as frost on the ground.
15When the people of Israel saw it, they
said to one another, "What is it?" For
they did not know what it was. And
Moses said to them, "It is the bread that
the LORD has given you to eat. 16This is
what the LORD has commanded:
'Gather of it, each one of you, as much
as he can eat. You shall each take an
omer, according to the number of the
persons that each of you has in his
tent.'" 17And the people of Israel did so.
They gathered, some more, some less.
18But when they measured it with an
omer, whoever gathered much had
nothing left over, and whoever gathered
little had no lack. Each of them gathered
as much as he could eat. 19And Moses
said to them, "Let no one leave any of it
over till the morning." 20But they did not
listen to Moses. Some left part of it till
the morning, and it bred worms and
stank. And Moses was angry with them.
21Morning by morning they gathered it,
each as much as he could eat; but when
the sun grew hot, it melted.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL *Psalm 122:1, 7*

I was glad when they | said to me,*
"Let us go to the house | of the LORD!"
Peace be with- | in your walls*
and security within your | towers!

CHOIR ANTHEM *"In God, My Faithful God"* arr. Carl Schalk

EPISTLE *Galatians 4:22– 5:1a*

22For it is written that Abraham had
two sons, one by a slave woman and one
by a free woman. 23But the son of the
slave was born according to the flesh,
while the son of the free woman was
born through promise. 24Now this may
be interpreted allegorically: these
women are two covenants. One is from

Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. [25]Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. [26]But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. [27]For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband."

[28]Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. [29]But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. [30]But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman." [31]So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

[1]For freedom Christ has set us free.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

TRACT *Psalm 125:1–2, 5b*

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount | Zion,*
which cannot be moved, but abides for- | ever.
As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his | people,*
from this time forth and forevermore. Peace be upon | Israel!

HOLY GOSPEL *John 6:1-15*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 6th chapter.

C ♪**Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

[1]After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. [2]And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. [3]Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. [4]Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. [5]Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" [6]He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. [7]Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." [8]One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, [9]"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" [10]Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number.

11 Jesus then took the loaves, and when he
had given thanks, he distributed them to
those who were seated. So also the fish,
as much as they wanted. 12 And when
they had eaten their fill, he told his
disciples, "Gather up the leftover
fragments, that nothing may be lost."
13 So they gathered them up and filled
twelve baskets with fragments from the
five barley loaves, left by those who had
eaten. 14 When the people saw the sign
that he had done, they said, "This is
indeed the Prophet who is to come into
the world!"

15 Perceiving then that they were about
to come and take him by force to make
him king, Jesus withdrew again to the
mountain by himself.

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 ***JESUS, PRICELESS TREASURE*** **LSB 743**

SERMON

+GOD RECEIVES OUR PRAYERS AND OFFERING+

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Sit

OFFERING

Stand

OFFERTORY **LSB 422**

+GOD GIVES A FORETASTE OF THE FEAST TO COME+

PREFACE

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

Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

LORD JESUS CHRIST, LIFE-GIVING BREAD	**LSB 625**
JESUS, GRANT THAT BALM AND HEALING	**LSB 421**
O LIVING BREAD FROM HEAVEN	**LSB 642**

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.**

POST-COMMUNION HYMN *FATHER, WE THANK THEE* **LSB 652**

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+