

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*



Sacrifice of Isaac, c.1960-1966, Marc Chagall

Judica

March 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.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT In the temple Jesus said, "If anyone keeps my word, he will never see death" (John 8:51). For Jesus came to taste death for us—to drink the cup of suffering to the dregs in order that we might be released from its power. Clinging to His life-giving words, we are delivered from death's sting and its eternal judgment. Christ is our High Priest, who entered the Most Holy Place and with His own blood obtained everlasting redemption for His people (Heb. 9:11–15). He is the One who was before Abraham was, and yet is his descendant. He is the promised Son who carries the wood up the mountain for the sacrifice, who is bound and laid upon the altar of the cross. He is the ram who is offered in our place, who is willingly caught in the thicket of our sin, and who wears the crown of thorns upon His head (Gen. 22:1–14). Though Jesus is dishonored by the sons of the devil, He is vindicated by the Father through the cross.

+GOD GATHERS US BEFORE HIS HOLY PRESENCE+

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

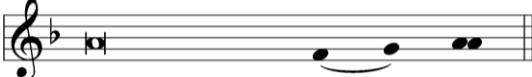
PRELUDE

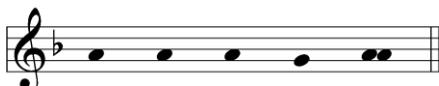
Please stand and face the cross at the sound of the chimes.

PROCESSION

Kneel/remain standing

THE LITANY PRAYER

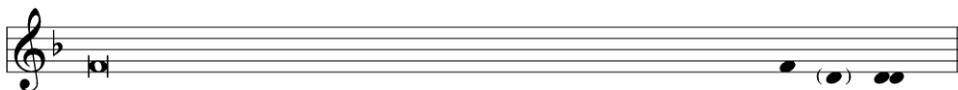
 L O Lord,	 C have mer - cy.
 L O Christ,	 C have mer - cy.
 L O Lord,	 C have mer - cy.
 L O Christ,	 C hear us.
 L God the Fa - ther in heaven,	 C have mer - cy.
 L God the Son, Redeemer of the world,	 C have mer - cy.
 L God the Holy Spir - it,	 C have mer - cy.
 L Be gra - cious to us.	 C Spare us,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

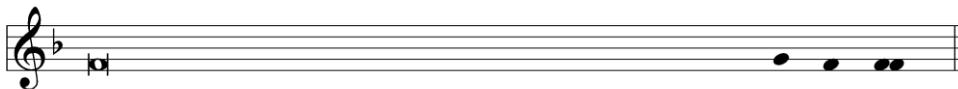
from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from re - bel - lion;

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:



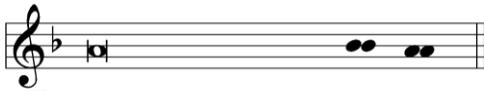
C Help us, good Lord.



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:



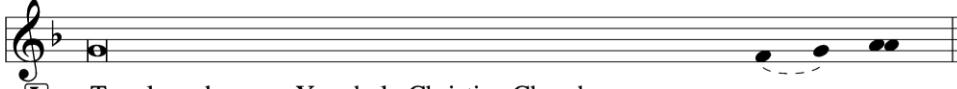
C Help us, good Lord.



L We poor sinners im - plore You



C to hear us, O Lord.



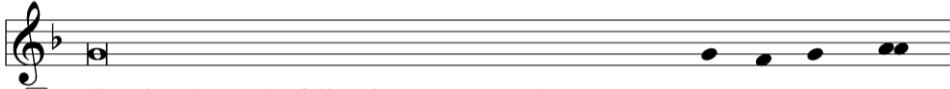
L To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church;
to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your
Church in the true knowledge and understanding
of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy liv - ing;

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:



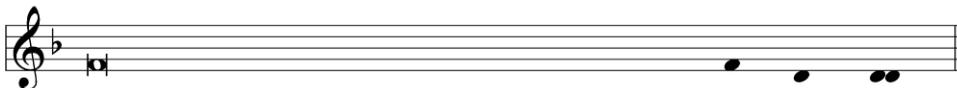
C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.



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

P The Lord be with you.

C  **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray. Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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

I LAY MY SINS ON JESUS

LSB 606

+GOD SPEAKS TO US IN HIS WORD+

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 22:1-19

¹After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." ²He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." ³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." ⁶And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both

of them together. ⁷And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

⁹When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." ¹²He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you

have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” ¹³And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your

son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.” ¹⁹So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL



Psalm 143:9a, 10a; 18:48a, c

Deliver me from my enemies, | O LORD!*

Teach me to do your will, for you | are my God!

[You] delivered me from my | enemies;*

you rescued me from the man of | violence.

EPISTLE

¹¹When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹²he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer

Hebrews 9:11-15

sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

¹⁵Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the

transgressions committed under the first covenant.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

TRACT

Psalm 129:1–4

“Greatly have they afflicted me | from my youth” —*

let Israel | now say —

“Greatly have they afflicted me | from my youth,*

yet they have not prevailed a- | gainst me.

The plowers plowed up- | on my back,*

they made long their | furrows.”

The LORD is | righteous;*

he has cut the cords of the | wicked.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:46-59a

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th chapter.

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

⁴⁶“Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? ⁴⁷Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

⁴⁸The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” ⁴⁹Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” ⁵²The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ ⁵³Are you greater than our father Abraham,

who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?” ⁵⁴Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ ⁵⁵But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” ⁵⁷So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” ⁵⁹So they picked up stones to throw at 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

CHRIST, THE LIFE OF ALL THE LIVING

LSB 420

SERMON

+GOD RECEIVES OUR PRAYERS AND OFFERING+

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 - raise;



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



Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

<i>A LAMB GOES UNCOMPLAINING FORTH</i>	LSB 438
<i>NOT ALL THE BLOOD OF BEASTS</i>	LSB 431
<i>WHEN I BEHOLD JESUS CHRIST</i>	LSB 542

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 *MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN* **LSB 430**

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+