

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*



Vincent Van Gogh, *The Sower*, 1888.

SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY

February 8, 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 am, the Divine Service at 10:15 am, and Fellowship, Sunday School and Confirmation after church.

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.

THE LITURGY FOR SEXAGESIMA *Scripture Alone*

The Sower sows the seed of His Word (Luke 8:4–15). This Word is living and powerful (Heb. 4:9–13) to conceive new life in those who hear it. But the planting of Christ is attacked by the devil, the world, and the flesh. Satan snatches the Word away from hard hearts. The riches and pleasures of this life choke off faith. Shallow and emotional belief withers in time of temptation and trouble. But see how Christ bears this attack for us! Christ's cross was planted in the hard and rocky soil of Golgotha. A crown of thorns was placed upon His head. Satan and His demons hellishly hounded and devoured Him. Yet, through His dying and rising again, He destroyed these enemies of ours. Jesus is Himself the Seed which fell to the ground and died in order that it might sprout forth to new life and produce much grain. In Him, the weak are strong (2 Cor. 11:19–12:9). He is the Word of the Father which does not return void (Is. 55:10–13) but yields a harvest hundredfold.

+GOD GATHERS US BEFORE HIS HOLY PRESENCE+

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

PRELUDE

Stand

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

GOD HAS SPOKEN BY HIS PROPHETS

LSB 583

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ♫ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Kneel/Stand Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ♫ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

+GOD GATHERS US BEFORE HIS HOLY PRESENCE+

Stand

INTROIT

Psalm 44:1–2, 7–8; antiphon: vv. 23, 25a, 26a



Awake! Why are you sleeping, | O Lord?*

Rouse yourself! Do not reject us for- | ever!

For our soul is bowed down | to the dust.*

Rise up; come | to our help!

O God, we have heard with our ears, our fathers have | told us,*

what deeds you performed in their days, in the | days of old:

you with your own hand drove out the nations, but them you | planted;*
you afflicted the peoples, but them you | set free.

But you have saved us | from our foes*

and have put to shame those who | hate us.

In God we have boasted con- | tinually,*

and we will give thanks to your name for- | ever.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Awake! Why are you sleeping, | O Lord?*

Rouse yourself! Do not reject us for- | ever!

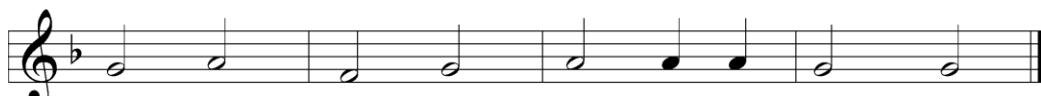
For our soul is bowed down | to the dust.*

Rise up; come | to our help!

KYRIE



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C ♫And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray. O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; 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 SPEAKS TO US IN HIS WORD+

OLD TESTAMENT

¹⁰"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²"For you shall go out in joy and be led

Isaiah 55:10-13

forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the **LORD**, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL



Psalm 83:18, 13

[Let your enemies] know that you alone, whose name **I** is the **LORD**,*
are the Most High over **I** all the earth.

O my God, make them like **I whirling dust,*
like chaff be- **I** fore the wind.**

EPISTLE

¹⁹For you gladly bear with fools, being wise yourselves! ²⁰For you bear it if

2 Corinthians 11:19-12:9
someone makes slaves of you, or devours you, or takes advantage of you, or puts

on airs, or strikes you in the face. ²¹To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that!

But whatever anyone else dares to boast of—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast of that. ²²Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they offspring of Abraham? So am I. ²³Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. ²⁴Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. ²⁵Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; ²⁶on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; ²⁷in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. ²⁸And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. ²⁹Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant?

³⁰If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. ³¹The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not

lying. ³²At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me, ³³but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands.

¹I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. ³And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—⁴and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. ⁵On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶Though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. ⁷So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my

weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Stand

TRACT



Psalm 60:1–2, 5

O God, you have rejected us, broken our de- | fenses;*
you have been angry; oh, re- | store us.

You have made the land to quake; you have torn it | open;*
repair its breaches, for it | totters.

That your beloved ones may be de- | livered,*
give salvation by your right hand and | answer us!

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 8:4–15

P The continuation of the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eighth chapter.

C ♫Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

⁴When a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to [Jesus], he said in a parable: ⁵“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. ⁸And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

⁹And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰he said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’ ¹¹Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹²The ones along the path are those who have heard. Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. ¹⁴And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C ♫Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

(Back cover of hymnal)

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY **MAY GOD BESTOW ON US HIS GRACE**

LSB 823

SERMON

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS *Nick and Sarah Ford*

+GOD RECEIVES OUR PRAYERS AND OFFERINGS+

Kneel/Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Sit

OFFERING

Stand

OFFERTORY

C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho-ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

+GOD GIVES US 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 cometh 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



C 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 OF HOLY COMMUNION

LORD JESUS CHRIST, WITH US ABIDE

LSB 585

PREACH YOU THE WORD

LBS 586

ALMIGHTY GOD, YOUR WORD IS CAST

LSB 577

I KNOW MY FAITH IS FOUNDED

LSB 587

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.

NUNC DIMITTIS



C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light-en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A-men.

THANKSGIVING AND POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; 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 His countenance upon you and give you peace.
C ♫Amen. Amen. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

LORD, KEEP US STEADFAST IN YOUR WORD

LSB 655

POSTLUDE

+GLORY BE TO GOD ALONE+