



## Fourth Sunday in Lent March 10, 2024



900 Washington Crossing Road  
Newtown PA 18940  
215-497-0447  
[ascensionlutheranchurch.org](http://ascensionlutheranchurch.org)

# WELCOME TO ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

## **You are welcome here.**

*If you have a prayer request, please fill out the yellow prayer sheet found in your bulletin. Prayer sheets will be collected by the usher during the hymn of the day. Prayer requests will be collected from Zoom worshipers via the Zoom meeting's chat function. Prayer requests will be voiced by the pastor during the prayers of the people and added to the weekly prayer list circulated by email. All worshipers are welcome to receive Holy Communion, the body and blood of Jesus, given and shed for us.*

## **Introduction to the Day**

*The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.*

## **Cover Image:**

*Brass Serpent Monument, Mt. Nebo, by JoTB – Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, [Wikimedia Commons](#)*

*“Thanksgiving at the Table for Lent.” From *Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks: A Collection of Litanies, Laments, and Thanksgivings at Font and Table* by Gail Ramshaw, copyright © 2017 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Adapted by Rev. Kayla Hopgood.*

*Presiding Minister (P), Assisting Minister (AM), Congregation (C)*

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✠ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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.

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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 Here is a flood of grace:  
Out of love for the whole world,  
God draws near to us,  
breaks every snare of sin,  
washes away our wrongs,  
and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

## OPENING HYMN | JUST AS I AM WITHOUT ONE PLEA

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was  
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict,  
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,  
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,  
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in four lines, corresponding to the four verses. The final line of the hymn is a doxology: 'O Lamb of God, I come, I come.'

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

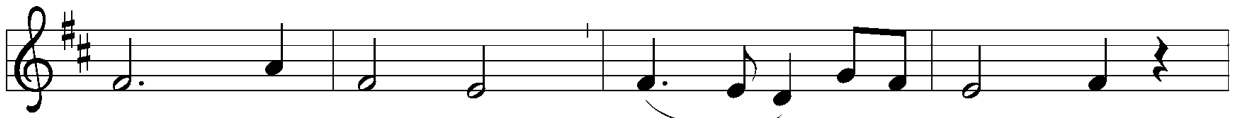
Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

## GREETING

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

## KYRIE



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937  
Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 www.giamusic.com  
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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **FIRST READING | NUMBERS 21:4-9**

From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

R The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM | PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22** *prayed responsively*

Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,  
for God’s mercy endures forever.

**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim**

**that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

gathering them in from the lands;

from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;**

**through their sins they were afflicted.**

They loathed all manner of food  
and drew near to death's door.

**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD  
and you delivered them from their distress.**

You sent forth your word and healed them  
and rescued them from the grave.

**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love  
and your wonderful works for all people.**

Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

## **SECOND READING | EPHESIANS 2:1-10**

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

R The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

**GOSPEL | JOHN 3:14-21**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “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. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Doreen Bourbon

SERMON

Rev. Kayla J. Hopgood

# HYMN OF THE DAY | LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

An usher will collect prayer requests during the hymn of the day

*Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## APOSTLES CREED

**P** Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles Creed:

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended to heaven, he is seated at the right hand of God the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**AM** Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

ANTHEM | IN TERRA PAX

Mary Lynn Lightfoot

## GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*A brass plate will be passed during the offertory for your tithes and offerings. You may also give online by visiting [ascensionlutheranchurch.org/give](http://ascensionlutheranchurch.org/give). Thank you for your gifts.*

## OFFERING HYMN | CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

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 your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

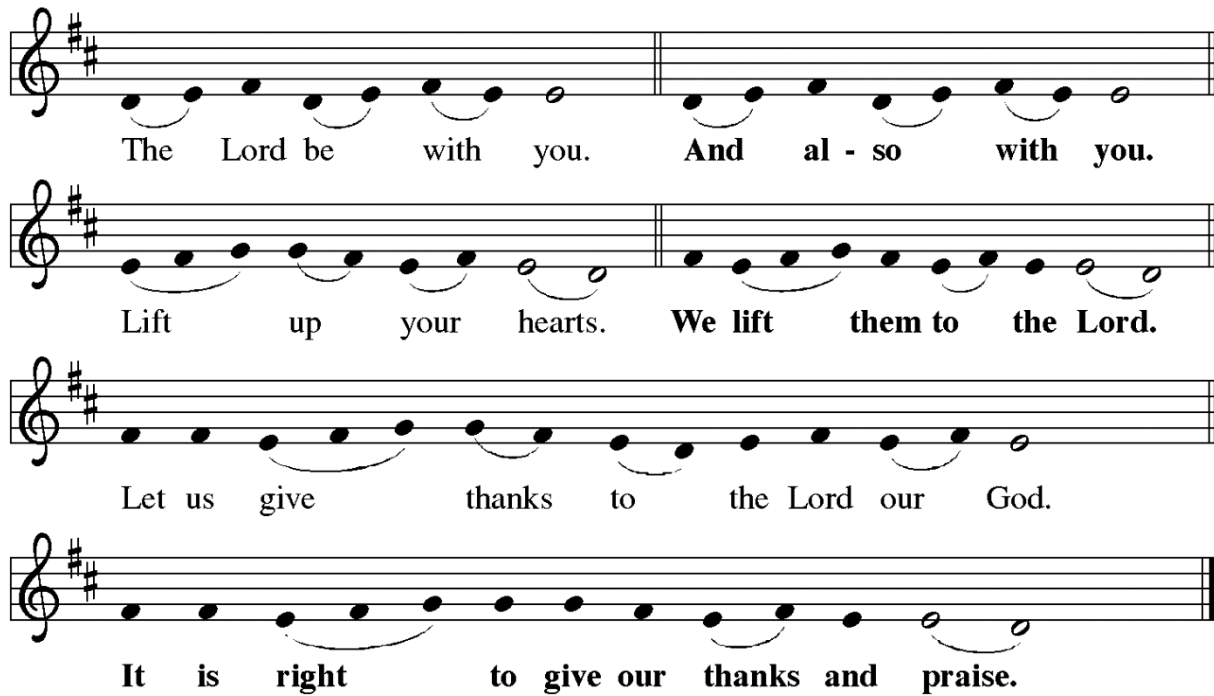
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## OFFERING PRAYER

AM Jesus, you are the bread of life  
and the host of this meal.  
Bless these gifts that we have gathered  
that all people may know your goodness.  
Feed us not only with this holy food  
but with hunger for justice and peace.  
We pray this in your name.

C **Amen.**

## DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,  
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.  
You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the  
pas - chal feast, that re - newed in the gift of bap - tism,  
we may come to the full - ness of your grace.  
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,  
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P O God, Creator of our wilderness world,  
 O God, Savior of the lost,  
 O God, Comforter of the sick and suffering,  
 we give you thanks for your everlasting might;  
 we glorify you for your covenant of mercy.

For forty days you cleansed the earth with the waters of the flood.

For forty days you illumined Moses with the words of your law.  
 For forty years you fed your people with manna from heaven.

You became truly human in Jesus our brother.

For forty days, with fasting and prayer, he renounced the power of the devil.



On the night before he died he took bread, and gave thanks,  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

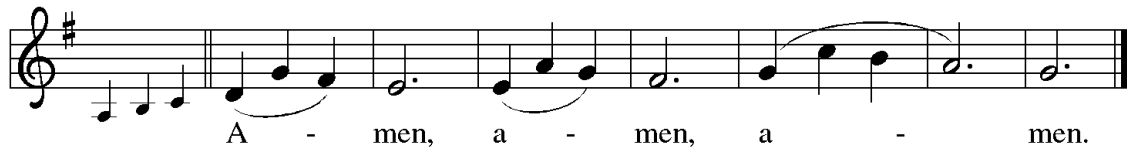
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

We extol his life. We lament his death. We celebrate his  
resurrection, and proclaim together:



Transform us, O God, with your lively Spirit.  
Make this food into manna for our journey, the body and  
blood of your Son.  
Grant us with the Ninevites forty days of repentance.  
Teach us your words of wisdom and justice.  
Renew the whole earth with baptismal grace.  
At the last, lead all your pilgrim people through our deserts to  
your Easter garden.

To you, O God, Creator, Savior, Comforter,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be our worship and praise, adoration and thanksgiving,  
now and forever:



## LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

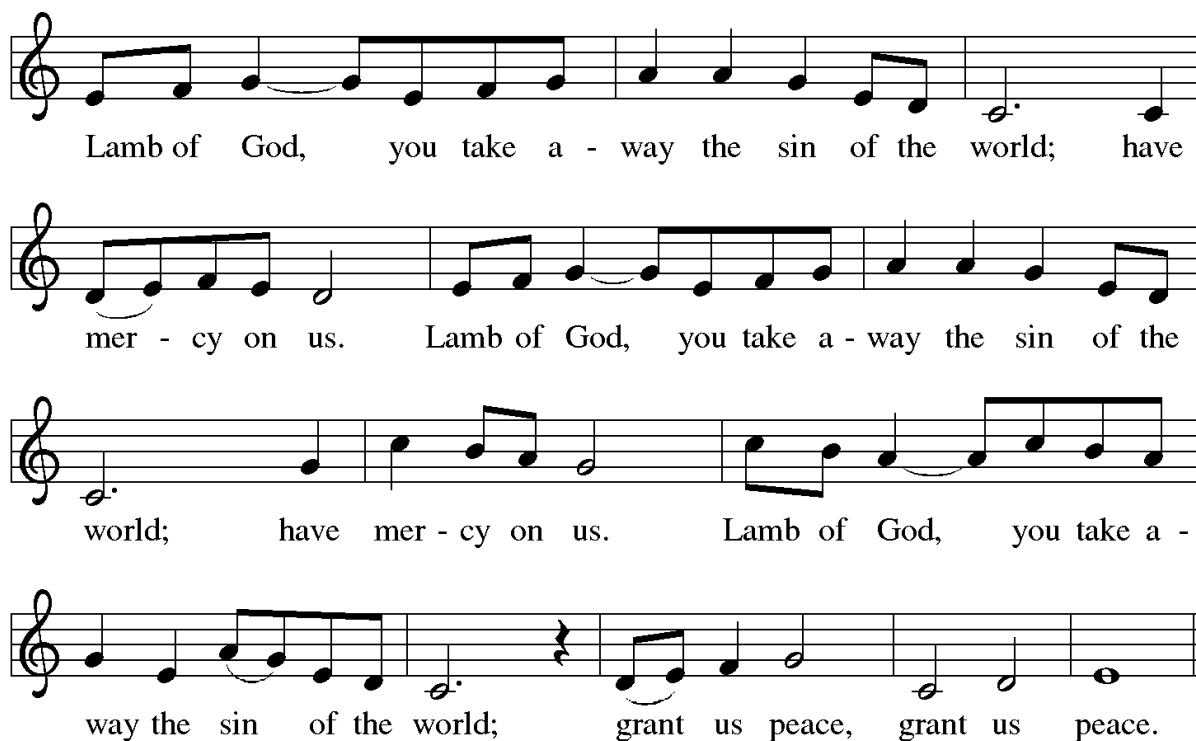
C

Musical notation for the Lord's Prayer, consisting of six staves of music. The key signature is one flat (Bb). The lyrics are: "Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name, your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men." The lyrics are written below the staves, with hyphens under the words to indicate syllable placement.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Bread for the journey.  
A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

## AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

*All are invited forward to receive communion. Communion is celebrated by intinction. Worshipers may receive the blessed bread and dip it in the divided chalice containing red wine or white grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are also available; please let the Pastor know of your preference. Worshipers may also choose to partake using individually-packed elements; these contain a wafer and grape juice. Empty cups may be placed in the basket on your way out of the sanctuary. Those worshipping from home via Zoom are invited to join in communion by providing their own communion elements.*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

- P** May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C** **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

AM Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS OF LIFE & MINISTRY AT ALC

## BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN | WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the  
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that  
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and  
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## DISMISSAL

AM Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;  
 be of good courage;  
 hold fast to that which is good;  
 render to no one evil for evil;  
 strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;  
 help the afflicted; honor all people;  
 love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

## C Thanks be to God.

### Thank you to our volunteers:

Assisting Minister ..... Jillian Rauh  
Reader .....Anne Chmielewski  
Altar Service.....Barbara Raabe  
Usher .....Lisa Murphy  
Counters .....Blaine Orth  
Barbara Raabe  
Greeter .....Irene Miller  
Fellowship.....Amy Loux  
Tech .....John Carducci  
Tony Eith

To give online please scan the QR Code below.



## **Lenten Soup Suppers**

Please join us for Soup Suppers and A Lenten Devotional for the 5 weeks during Lent. Beginning on Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>, Wednesday's at 6:00 pm for simple supper and Devotional at 7:00 pm



We will again be using the devotions from The Sanctified Art, this year's title is: WANDERING HEART Figuring out faith with Peter

## **Connect with US**

The best way to stay informed of church activities is to subscribe to our Constant Contact email listserv. You will receive the weekly worship link, the bi-monthly newsletter, and occasional event reminders and updates. To sign up, visit [ascensionlutheranchurch.org/contactus](http://ascensionlutheranchurch.org/contactus), or email the office at [officealc900@gmail.com](mailto:officealc900@gmail.com)



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Beth Peroni, *Bookkeeper* | [bookkeeperalc900@gmail.com](mailto:bookkeeperalc900@gmail.com)

The Church Office is open Wednesdays from  
9AM - 1PM and Thursdays from 12-4PM.

Learn more about our community at [ascensionlutheranchurch.org](http://ascensionlutheranchurch.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/AscensionLutheranNewtown](https://www.facebook.com/AscensionLutheranNewtown)  
Instagram: AscensionLutheranNewtown