



Fifth Sunday in Lent March 17, 2024



900 Washington Crossing Road
Newtown PA 18940
215-497-0447
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

God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God's love with all the world.

Cover Image:

Jyoti Sahi, "Seed Labyrinth" (1994). Retrieved from jyotiartashram.blogspot.com. In this seed labyrinth, we can meditatively follow Jesus on the path becoming seeds ourselves, dying and arising to bear fruit.

*"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 | RESTORE IN US, O GOD



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
4 Three - per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flow'r.
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company.

Music © 1985 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING | JEREMIAH 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

R The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM | PSALM 51:1-12 *prayed responsively*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your
sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your
judgment.**

Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother’s womb.

Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,

and would have me know wisdom deep within.

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness;

that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation

and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

SECOND READING | HEBREWS 5:5-10

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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 12:20-33

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

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

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your

sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SERMON

Rev. Kayla J. Hopgood

HYMN OF THE DAY | NOW THE GREEN BLADE RISES

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



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

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 | “LAMENT FOR A BROKEN WORLD” by Dan Barta

Risë Kagen, Myers Rauh, Peter de Mets

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. 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.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

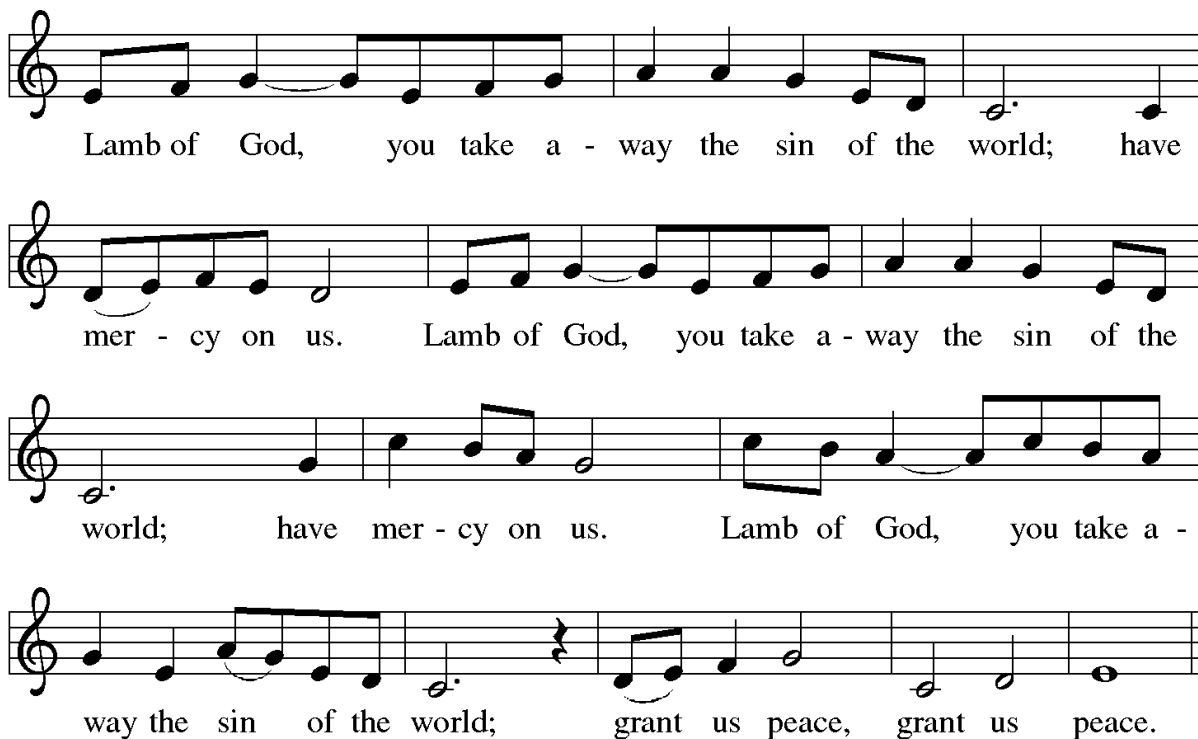
C

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.

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 Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
now make us one loaf to free the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF LIFE & MINISTRY AT ALC

BLESSING (*Adapted from the Prayer of St. Patrick, fifth century*)

May God's strength pilot you,
God's might uphold you,
God's wisdom guide you,
God's ear hear you,
God's word speak to you,
God's hand guard you,
God's way to lie before you,
And God's shield to protect you afar, anear, alone or in a
multitude,
In the name of + the Holy Trinity, the Three in One:
Amen.

SENDING HYMN | LORD, DISMISS US WITH THY BLESSING

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
 3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,

let us each, your love pos - sess - ing, tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace.
 May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
 let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.

Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
 Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
 May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.
 Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

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 Lynn D’Esmond
- ReaderTony Eith
- Altar Service.....Tony Eith
- UsherLeslie Gallant
- CountersSheryl White
Leslie Gallant
- GreeterLynn D’Esmond
Tom D’Esmond
- Fellowship.....Anne Chmielewski
- TechJohn Carducci
Tony Eith

To give online please scan the QR Code below.



LENT AT ASCENSION

March 20 th 6pm	Soup Supper and Lenten Bible Study
March 24 th 10am	Palm Sunday Worship
March 27 th 7pm	Maundy Thursday Service
March 28 th 12noon	Family Service - Sights, Sounds, and Smells of Good Friday
March 28 th 7pm	Good Friday Service
March 31 st 9:30am	Easter Egg Hunt
March 31 st 10am	Easter Sunday Worship

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, or email the office at officealc900@gmail.com



Rev. Kayla J. Hopgood, *Pastor* | pastor.kayla.alc@gmail.com
Peter de Mets, *Director of Music* | pdm@peterdemetsmusic.com
Ginny Kraft, *Church Administrator* | officealc900@gmail.com
Beth Peroni, *Bookkeeper* | 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
Facebook: www.facebook.com/AscensionLutheranNewtown
Instagram: AscensionLutheranNewtown