

Sixth Sunday after The Epiphany

February 16, 2020

• 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. •
Church • El Paso, Texas

Ascension Lutheran

As We Gather

One of the stunning things about Jesus' words in today's Gospel is the distance Jesus is saying we might go for reconciliation. It is about 80 miles from the north side of the Sea of Galilee (where He spoke these words) to Jerusalem, which would be 160 miles roundtrip just to seek peace and reconciliation with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We remember today that there is no distance too great to seek reconciliation. Indeed, Jesus came from heaven to earth so that we might be reconciled with God. Jesus traveled to the cross to make peace by His blood. What an amazing trip for us! What an amazing gift to us!



✠ We Gather in God's Name ✠

The sign of the cross (✠) may be made at times by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Opening Sentences

P We begin in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Lord God, I want so very much to please You, to walk in Your ways

C and to carry out Your purposes.

P There is nothing as important to me as being in the center of Your will

C and living within Your design for my life.

P While others may find their fulfillment in the acquisition of wealth

C or the accumulation of things,

P in doing something better than everyone else,

C or in the plaudits of their peers,

P my foremost desire is to be the object of Your love

C and to be Your child and servant forever.

P Not only have You fashioned me with Your hands, Lord God, and created me for Your purposes,

C You have stamped Your image upon my heart. (Adapted from Psalm 119:1-8)

Opening Song

MAJS 31 | "As the Deer"

As the deer panteth for the water,
So my soul longeth after Thee.
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship Thee.
You alone are my strength, my shield;
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship Thee.

You're my Friend and You are my Brother,
Even though You are a King
I love You more than any other,
So much more than anything.
You alone are my strength, my shield;
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship Thee.

I want You more than gold or silver,
Only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy giver,
And the apple of my eye.
You alone are my strength, my shield;
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship Thee.

Please stand.

Confession and Forgiveness

P God calls on us to be blameless, to live in peace with one another, to not hold grudges or be angry with anyone. But we have failed to live as God has instructed. We have created division and discord. We have refused to be reconciled with others. So, let us come before our heavenly Father to ask for His forgiveness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

P Heavenly Father,
A *we confess that we have not always walked in Your ways. We confess that we have ignored and avoided conflict rather than seek reconciliation. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive our sins. Bring Your reconciliation and peace that surpasses all understanding into our lives. Amen.*

P Even though we have held on to our anger and resentment of others, our heavenly Father sent Jesus to be our reconciliation and peace. By the blood of Jesus, we are reconciled to God and can approach Him in all confidence. By the blood of Jesus, we are reconciled with one another. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

Please be seated.

Hymn of Praise

"This Is the Feast"

Refrain

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb — who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*



Final Refrain
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

P Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son to bring us peace and reconciliation. Grant that we may forgive others as You have forgiven us by the blood of Jesus; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

✠ We Listen to God's Word ✠

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15–20

The Lord sets before the people of God a clear choice. Life and prosperity will come to the faithful; loss of the land will be the consequence of disobedience. Choosing life entails loving and holding fast to the Lord. Life in God's presence presupposes the promise made to Israel's ancestors.

¹⁵See now, today I have set before you life and prosperity, death and disaster. ¹⁶This is what I am commanding you today: Love the LORD your God, walk in His ways, and keep His commandments, His statutes, and His ordinances. Then you will live and increase in number, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are going to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away, and you do not listen, and you are lured away, and you bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸then I declare to you today that you will most certainly perish. You will not live a long life on the land that you are about to enter and possess by crossing over the Jordan. ¹⁹I call the heavens and the earth to witness against you today that

I have set before you life and death, a blessing and a curse. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live ²⁰by loving the LORD your God, by listening to His voice, and by clinging to Him, because that means life for you, and you will live a long life on your land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Paul planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. Human leaders in the church are not the ones who control ministry. Rather they are fellow workers who belong to God, the One who truly controls and continuously empowers the ministry of the church.

¹Brothers, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but as people who are led by the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, because you were not yet ready. Why, even now you are still not ready, ³because you are still people who are following the flesh. Indeed, insofar as jealousy, strife, and factions have a place among you, are you not people who are following the flesh? Are you not behaving in a merely human way? ⁴When one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not being merely human? ⁵What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? They are ministers through whom you believed, and each served as the Lord gave him his role. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. ⁷So then, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but it is God who causes the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters are united, and each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. ⁹For God is the one Whom we serve as coworkers, and you are God's field, God's building.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Please stand in honor of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia Verse

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

Message

Please stand.

✠ We Respond to God's Grace ✠

Profession of Faith

Nicene Creed

A *I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.*

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, be gotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated.

Prayer of the Church

P Dear heavenly Father, You sent Your Son to reconcile the world to Yourself and to make peace by the blood of His cross. Give us courage to seek forgiveness and reconciliation with one another that Your peace, which surpasses all understanding, may rule our hearts and minds. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord Jesus, there are many divisions in Your Church. Too often we have identified ourselves as those who follow earthly leaders, rather than as those who follow You. Bring unity where there is division, peace where there is discord, and reconciliation where there is conflict. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Holy Spirit, strengthen all marriages, encourage those who are single, and help us to recognize the value of each person, for all have been redeemed by Christ, the Crucified and Risen One. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Gracious God, bless all pastors, teachers, church planters, missionaries, musicians, and servants in Your Church. Embolden them as they plant and water good seed in Your kingdom. We humbly ask You to provide growth where and when You will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Loving God, comfort all those who are suffering in grief, (especially . . .). Console them with the hope of the resurrection to eternal peace and life. Lord, in Your mercy,

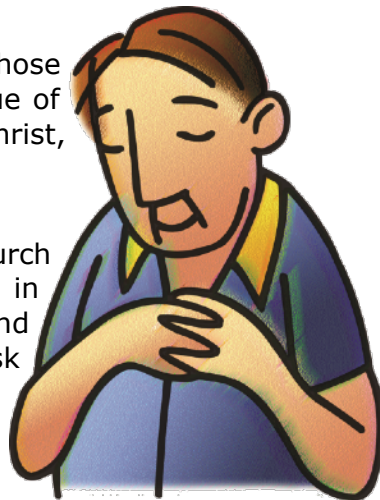
C hear our prayer.

P Merciful God, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, hospitalized, and recovering, (especially . . .). Have mercy upon them and heal them according to Your good and gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P (Other petitions may be offered.) Father in heaven, we place these prayers and all others in the hands of Jesus, our crucified and risen Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit reign forever and ever.

C Amen.



Choir Anthem | 10:30

“Gather Us In” | Marty Haugen

Offering

A SPECIAL NOTE: The mission and ministries of Ascension are supported by the love, generosity and sacrificial giving of our members and friends. If you are a GUEST today, please do not feel obligated to make a contribution, but know that any financial gift which you make will be used to help share Christ’s love and salvation. Our offerings are an important part of our worship. Also, take a moment to fill out a blue Friendship Card and place it in the offering plate. Thank you!

Reception of New Members

Please stand.

✠ We Feast at the Lord's Table ✠

Preparation for Holy Communion

Holy Communion is celebrated at Ascension in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very Body and Blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of our sins and to strengthen our union with Him and one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who are baptized and who trust His words, repent of all sins, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes again. The following questions are helpful for those preparing to receive the Lord's Supper:



- Do I believe that I am sinful and without hope of eternal life without God's mercy in Christ Jesus?
- Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my personal Savior?
- Do I believe that He is personally and truly present in this meal with His Body and Blood?
- Do I intend by the power of the Holy Spirit to live a godly life?

Preface

P The Lord be with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by His blood has given us reconciliation and peace. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus | Latin for "Holy"

Tune: DIX

Holy, holy, holy, sing
To the heav'nly armies' King.
For His glory, might, and worth
Fill the heavens, fill the earth.
Holy, holy, holy cry
To the Lord of hosts most high.

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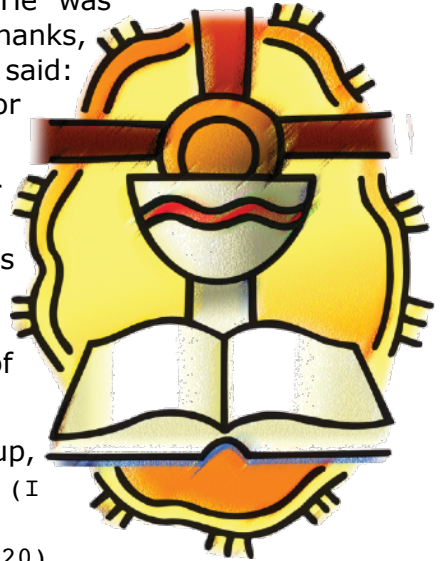
Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgive-ness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes (I Corinthians 11:26).

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (Revelation 22:20)



Lord's Prayer

P So, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

A *Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread;*

and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Agnus Dei | Latin for “Lamb of God”

Tune: PUER NOBIS

O, Lamb of God, who takes away
The whole world's sin, now hear us pray:
Have mercy on us, grant us peace,
From all our sins give us release.

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Please be seated.

Distribution Hymns

Choir Anthem | 10:30 | “Eat This Bread” Jacques Berthier

LSB 628 | “Your Table I Approach”

LSB 553 | “O Christ, Our Hope, Our Hearts’ Desire”

LSB 707 | “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”

LSB 643 | “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Please stand.

Dismissal

P The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you steadfast in the true faith to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

C Amen.

† We Depart with God’s Blessing †

Benediction

P The blessing of God Almighty—the Father, who gave His Son for the life of the world; the † Son, who has revealed to us God’s grace, mercy, and love; and the Spirit, by whose fruit we are seen to be children of God—bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

Parting Hymn

LSB 763 | “When Peace, Like a River”



1 When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way; When
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, Let
 3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; My



sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to His cross, and I



taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!



It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

Sending

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

Postlude

✠ We Exit to Witness ✠

Acknowledgments

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This Week at Ascension



February 16

Flowers for Sunday

Flowers on the altar are given by Ed & Judy Stone in celebration of Ed's birthday.

Mark Your
Calendar!

Important Informational Meeting

There will be an informational meeting held immediately following the second service on Sun, March 1. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss plans to go to one worship service. Please plan to attend.

New Members Received Today at Both Services

We will welcome our newest Ascension members at both services today. Please welcome, Gilbert & Mary Lou Provencio, Ross, Maggie & Michael Provencio and Dee Tolman to the Ascension family!

CarePartner Equipping Workshop

Being a CarePartner is being available to people as they make their daily journey through life experiencing the ups and downs life inevitably seems to provide. "God is indeed our shelter and strength and provides hope and comfort through presence, listening, prayer and the Word." Every person can be a CarePartner ... Please join us **TODAY from noon to 2:00 p.m. for a workshop and potluck lunch** as we learn from Dr. Lou Jander and explore practical ways to walk along with others in times of stress and difficulties ... just being caring!

Dr. Jander has been an elementary school teacher and principal, Director of Christian Education, District Parish Education Executive with the Missouri District of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Director of Adult and Leadership Ministry for the LCMS, and a Mission and Ministry Facilitator for the Texas District of the LCMS. During this last phase, he served as the district coordinator for disaster relief, helping congregations in times of disaster, keeping the rest of the district informed and connected to what was happening, and asking for their help in contributions and prayers.

A care offering will be collected for the CarePartner Equipping Workshop.

Adult Bible Class

Dr. Lou Jander will lead our Bible class today at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall: Sow the Word is a simple, blessed way to involve people in giving away the “gift of the Word.” We know that God works through His Word ... we know that His Word is powerful ... we know how the written Word touched the lives of the Hmar Indians in 1910 through the missionary, Watkins Roberts. We know God’s promise in Isaiah 55:11, “So shall My Word be ... it shall not return to Me void.”

Youth Ministry

God is described as all-knowing, all-present, all-powerful, and never changing. If Jesus really is God, why did He say there were things only God knew? Why was He unable to perform miracles in Nazareth? Why was He unable to be in two places at once? All youth are encouraged to come downstairs to the Youth Room at 9:15 a.m.

Children’s Sunday School

In Sunday School today, the children learned, “Jesus Heals Ten Lepers.” Jesus forgives and heals us from the sickness of sin and death. *Discuss, “What does it mean to be healed of our sin-sickness? How do we thank God for His grace?”*

Interim Sunday School Head Coordinator:

Kim Bestian

Preschool – Kindergarten: Lauren Hannemann

Grades 1-3: Debbie Epperson

Grades 4-6: Cheryl Canada

Children’s Sunday School meets in the Children’s Christian Education Wing of the building.

Preschool

Ascension Lutheran Church Preschool offers a Christian-based curriculum for ages 2 to Pre-K. Visit ALConnect.faith for more information or contact the preschool at (915) 833-4849. **Open registration begins on Mon, Feb 24.**

Sign Up to Provide Sunday Flowers for our Sanctuary

This is a lovely way to remember birthdays, anniversaries, and loved ones. Both arrangements are \$50 or you can split it with another family and you can each take an arrangement home after the late service. Please place your check in the offering plate or drop it off in the church office.

Paper Products Donations

Donations of paper products for the Opportunity Center for the homeless & Ysleta Lutheran Mission (paper towels, paper plates, napkins and toilet paper) may be placed in the large plastic bin in the fellowship hall. Thank you!

Prayer Ministry

If you have a prayer request for the prayer chain, please call Olga Sullivan at 581-1450 or e-mail Jan Schlak at oveja6925@aol.com. Please call or e-mail the church office at alc6520@swbell.net or (915) 833-1009 to include a prayer request for the bulletin or to remove anyone that can be taken off the prayer list. Thank you!

Prayer Ministry



If you have a prayer request for the prayer chain, please call Olga Sullivan at 581-1450 or e-mail Jan Schlak at oveja6925@aol.com.

Please call the church office @ 833-1009 to include a prayer request for the bulletin.

SUNDAY | 16

8:00 am Worship w/Communion
9:00 am Fellowship
9:15 am Family Bible Hour
10:30 am Worship w/Communion
12:00 pm **CarePartner Equipping Workshop & Potluck**

MONDAY | 17 | President's Day
Church Office Closed
Preschool Closed

TUESDAY | 18

6:30 pm Men's Bible Study
6:45 pm Boy Scouts
7:00 pm **Church Council Meeting**

WEDNESDAY | 19

10:00 am Weight Watchers
11:15 am Sit & Sew
12:15 pm **Preschool Staff Meeting**
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY | 20

9:45 am Women's Bible Study (Schlak Home)
3:00 pm **March Newsletter & calendar updates due in office**
6:30 pm **Ladies' Night Out (Saltgrass)**

SATURDAY | 22

8:00 am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast

Missions: Apples of His Eye Ministry & Ysleta Lutheran Mission.

Immediate Concerns: **Dafney Alvarez** (friend of Luz Soto—complications from kidney transplant), **Tim Weyer** (recovery from heart bypass surgery), **Marilyn Johnson** (recovery from heart surgery—Ordella Uhde’s sister-in-law), **Rhea Tarin** (recovery from surgery), **Judi Eifert** (recovery from surgery - Barb Spott’s sister), **John Switzer** (cancer), **Scarlett Orwig** (leukemia—teammate of Madison Schwitters), **Jesus Gomez** (Alicia Gomez’s father), **Pastor Daniel Salinas** (heart attack), **Sue Anderson**, **Martha Neal**, **Judie Pinal** (successful cancer treatments), **Rosie Aguirre** (friend of John Witty - cancer treatment), **Aaron Levenhagen** (Linda Canada’s nephew—correct diagnosis), **Mona Chandler** (Alzheimer’s—Harry Clark’s sister), **Cindy McGuire** (motorcycle accident), **Jerad Knight**, **Olga Sullivan** (Parkinson’s), **Judy Freubenburg** (Ordella Uhde’s sister-in-law), **James Goldsmith**, **June McClanahan** (Pastor’s aunt—pancreatic cancer), **Brent Behrens** (continued healing after stroke), **Natalie Knight**, **Tony Evans** (ALS diagnosis), **Erin Naylor Leach** (friend of Hite family—successful rehab), **Herb Harper** (effective treatment), **Lorie Nadelborg** (inoperable brain tumor).

Ongoing Prayers: Bob Gallagher, Ron Spott, Annabelle Leupp, Todd Maki, Jerry Aguilera, Helen Allen, Rick Barber, Eric Bell, Juan Chacon, Peter Chisholm, Ron Cleavenger, Micah Cohen, Josephine DeMartelaere, Julie DeRusha, Humberto Garcia, Angelika Grossnick, Tina Guerrero, Wayne Kendrick, William Peevey, Lenae Rasmussen, Cheryl Rasette, Eloisa Regalado, Gideon Rhodes, Alicia Rich, Paul Robinson, Julio Rodriguez, Gabriella Rubio, Garry Simmons, Bill Strickland, Louise Strickland, Anthony Sullivan, Tony Sullivan, Fred Svarney, Jim Swegarden, Greg Vaughan, Grace Wells, Jim Werner, Marge Jordan

Deployed Troops: Please pray for all deployed troops and their families as they serve our country around the world.