

# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany

## The Greatest of These is Love

February 2, 2025 • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

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### **As We Gather:**

God told Jeremiah to be bold. Even though the people were stubborn and antagonistic, the Lord gave Jeremiah strength and authority to speak God's Word. Jesus also taught with authority and healed people without apologies. God has sent us also as Christ's representatives to the world. No matter who wants to criticize our faith, we have nothing to be ashamed of. But the authority that God has given us is not to lord it over other people or to imagine that we are better than they are; it is authority to share Christ's love in words and actions. **The most important thing of all is God's love.** So be bold – to share Christ's love!

### **The Season of Epiphany**

"Epiphany" means the "revelation" or "manifestation" of God. Jesus Christ is God, who came to our world as one of us. Jesus showed himself to be our God and Savior, not only to the Jews but also to people of every nation and culture. These people "had an epiphany", that is, they saw Jesus and came to realize who Jesus really is, and they believed in him. The light went on!

We also have "had an epiphany" because we have come to see that Jesus is our God and Savior too! And God wants the people around us also to come to understand and believe in Jesus. During January and February (the season of Epiphany this year), we are hearing from the Bible how many different people saw the light of Jesus and came to believe in him. And God's Word also shows us how we can shine the light of Jesus to the people around us, by what we say and do.

### **Prelude**

### **Words of Welcome**

Stand

### **Sharing God's Peace with One Another**

We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying "Peace be with you" as a sign of our unity and reconciliation in the Holy Spirit. As we are forgiven by God, so we forgive each other. (Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3)

## Hymn **We've a Story to Tell To the Nations** (Songs of Praise and Worship 184)

1. We've a story to tell to the nations  
That will turn their hearts to the right,  
A story of truth and mercy,  
A story of peace and light.

Refrain: For the darkness shall turn into dawning,  
And the dawning to noonday bright,  
And the Kingdom of God shall come to earth,  
The Kingdom of love and light.

2. We've a song to be sung to the nations  
That will lift their hearts to the Lord,  
A song that will conquer evil  
And shatter the spear and sword. (Refrain)
3. We've a message to give to the nations –  
That the Lord who reigns from above  
Has sent us his Son to save us  
And show us that God is love. (Refrain)
4. We've a Savior to show to the nations  
Who the path of sorrow has trod,  
That all of the nations and peoples  
Might come to the truth of God. (Refrain)

Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen.**  
**P** Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." (John 8:12)  
**C** **He wants his light to shine in our lives.**  
**P** Jesus shines through us,  
**C** **And we reflect his light.**  
**P** Just as Jesus loves everyone,  
**C** **We too should love the same way.**  
**P** Just as Jesus stretched out his hand to the suffering and the needy,  
**C** **So we also should help wherever we can.**  
**P** Just as Jesus proclaimed the forgiveness of sins,  
**C** **So we also should proclaim to others and forgive others.**

- P** In this way we will light up the world with Christ's light.
- C** **The Bible says, "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light."** (Isaiah 9:2)
- P** We are that people, and Jesus is our light.
- C** **May the world see the light of Christ in our lives. Amen.**

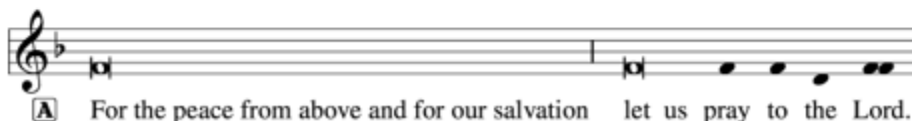
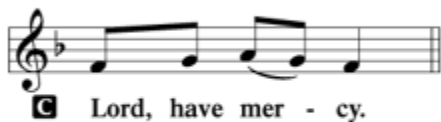
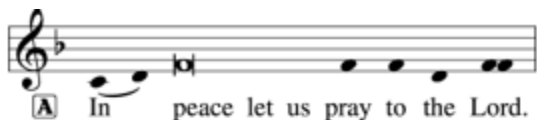
### Prayer of Confession and Words of Forgiveness

- P** We have not always let Christ's light shine clearly in our lives. Let's take a moment to pray and ask God for forgiveness.
- C** **Lord God, many times your light doesn't shine in our lives as it should. Forgive us and fill us with you love so that we can be brighter lights in this dark world. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.**
- P** God says, "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more." (Isaiah 43:25) The Lord doesn't "remember" our sins because Jesus suffered and died to pay for them and because he rose from the dead to forgive us. Through faith in Jesus, all our sins and wrongdoing are forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!
- C** **Amen.**

## Service of the Word

### Kyrie

*LSB 152*





**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



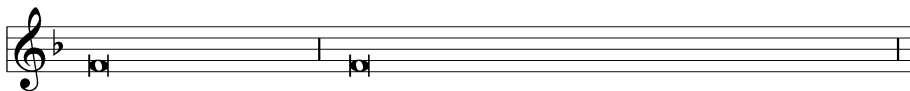
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



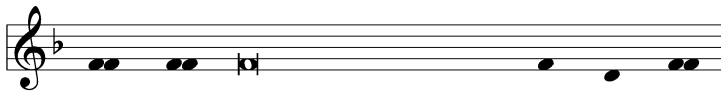
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

# This is the Feast

*Refrain*

☐ 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.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

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

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **Lord Jesus, you were bold to teach and to heal, to share your love in word and action. Help us to make love our priority also. Help us to be bold to share your love in everything we say and do. In your own name we pray. Amen.**

Sit

## Old Testament Reading

*Jeremiah 1:4–10*

*(God encourages Jeremiah to be bold to speak his Word)*

<sup>4</sup>Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, <sup>5</sup>"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

<sup>6</sup>Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth."

<sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. <sup>8</sup>Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD."

<sup>9</sup>Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. <sup>10</sup>See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle (New Testament Reading)

1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13

*(Love is more important than all the talents and knowledge that anyone might have.)*

I will show you a still more excellent way.

<sup>1</sup>If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice at

wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup>Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. <sup>12</sup>For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

<sup>13</sup>So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

### Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Below the first staff is a copyright symbol (C) and the lyrics: "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the". The second staff continues the melody with quarter and eighth notes, ending with a double bar line. Below the second staff are the lyrics: "words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia."

*(Jesus heals and teaches with authority)*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.

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

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, <sup>32</sup>and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. <sup>33</sup>And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, <sup>34</sup>“Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” <sup>35</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. <sup>36</sup>And they were all amazed and said to one another, “What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!” <sup>37</sup>And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

<sup>38</sup>And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon’s house. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. <sup>39</sup>And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

<sup>40</sup>Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. <sup>41</sup>And demons also came out of many, crying, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

<sup>42</sup>And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, <sup>43</sup>but he said to them, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.” <sup>44</sup>And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit

**Song while Children Come to the Front:** I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy

1. I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart.  
Down in my heart, down in my heart.  
I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart.  
Down in my heart to stay.



Refrain: And I'm so happy, so very happy,  
I've got the love of Jesus in my heart.  
And I'm so happy, so very happy.  
I've got the love of Jesus in my heart.

## Children's Message

### Hymn of the Day    Blest Be the Tie that Binds    LSB 649



1 Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris - tian love;  
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne We pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3 We share our mu - tual woes, Our mu - tual bur - dens bear,  
4 When here our path - ways part, We suf - fer bit - ter pain;  
5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free



The fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove.  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our com - forts and our cares.  
And of - ten for each oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart, We hope to meet a - gain.  
And per - fect love and friend - ship reign Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon    "Overflowing Love"

Stand

### 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, begotten, 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.**

### **Prayer of the Church**

We go to God with all of our needs, because he is our light.

**P** Lord God, thank you for your salvation. Please grant us your peace.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Heavenly Father we pray for your church, here at Ascension and around the world. Protect your people, guide us and help us to shine your light to the community around us.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Holy Spirit, we pray for those who do not yet believe in Jesus. Take away the veil that covers their eyes and encourage them to turn to your light.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Lord Jesus, we pray for all pastors and teachers and leaders and all who serve. Keep them in your truth and help them in their mission.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Lord, we pray for our nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all. Guide our leaders and protect all who serve.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Almighty God, we pray for our world. Bring peace and justice, especially in Israel and other places where there is oppression or fighting.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Lord, we pray for those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, for the immigrants and for those in prison.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Heavenly Father, heal those who are sick and encourage those who are depressed or grieving.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Lord Jesus, let your love rule in our church and in our families. Reconcile those who are at odds with each other.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Lord, we pray for seasonable weather and for the earth to be fruitful in order to provide for the needs of every person.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Almighty God, we ask for your mercy for those on our prayer list. Some are members of our congregation; many are our friends and relatives; all need your help. Comfort those who are grieving; heal those who are sick; help and strengthen those who are facing daunting problems. *(See the prayer list at the end of this order of service.)*

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Lord, we pray for these and for all our needs of body, mind, heart and soul. We put them in your hands and trust in your mercy. In Jesus' name.

**C Amen.**

Sit

### **Offering**

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor? Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them? For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. (Romans 11:33-36, NIV) We owe everything to God! And so we set aside for God's mission a portion of what he has blessed us with.

**Choir Anthem during the Offering** The Gift of Love (Hal Hopson)

- 1. Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass and hopeless gain.*
- 2. Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,  
but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.*
- 3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.*

Stand

## Offering Prayer

- A** Lord, bless and prosper the work of our hands as we bring you the first and best of the fruit of our labor. Let these offerings be used to proclaim your glory and support your mission. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## Offertory: We Are One in the Spirit (Praise y Adoración 667)

1. We are one in the Spirit. We are one in the Lord.  
We are one in the Spirit. We are one in the Lord.  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

## Preface

*LSB 160*



**P** The Lord be with you.



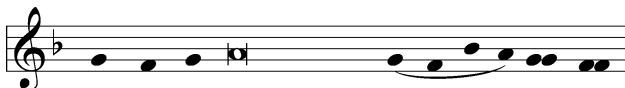
**C** And al - so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



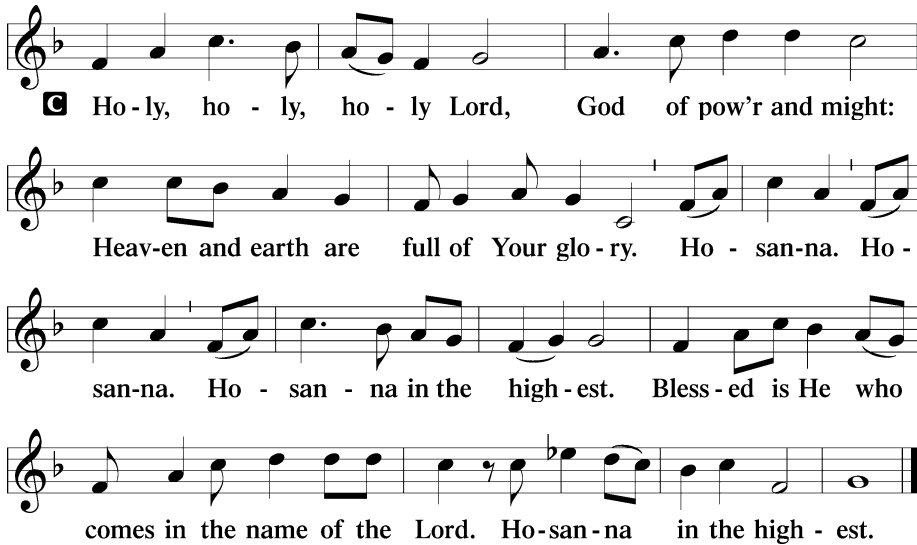
**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

- P** It is truly good and right 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. For you have revealed to all the nations your glory and your salvation through your Son. Therefore with all the angels and with all believers in heaven and on earth, we magnify Your glorious name and sing your praises forever:

## Sanctus

LSB 161



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

## The 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 T 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 T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness 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.

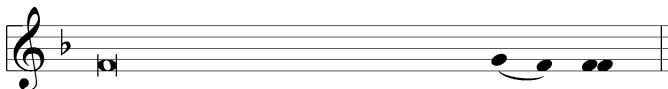
**C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

## Lord's Prayer

**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.

## Pax Domini

*LSB 163*



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**C** A - men.

# Agnus Dei

LSB 163

© 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.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below the notes. A copyright symbol (©) is placed at the beginning of the first line of lyrics. The word 'grant' in the final line is underlined with a curved line.

*Sit*

## Communion Hymns

### Special Music: Patient Love (Bryan Perdue)

- 1. Patient love, a love that's kind;  
Open hearts that know but one, are the ties that bind.  
Patient love can bear all things,  
A love with hope will never end, when two hearts sing.*
- 2. If I could speak in tongues, Lord, and know everyone,  
But lose the love of God, what good have I done?  
If I could move the mountains away from the sea,  
But if I have not love, Lord, then what can I be?*
- 3. Love's not jealous, Lord, love's not proud.  
Love's not selfish, love's not rude, but love's His sign.  
Love is peace, Lord, love brings joy,  
And your gift of love, Lord, will last through all time.*
- 4. Here's my heart, here's my hand.  
Here lives trust, here lives truth, here lives my Lord.*



## Beautiful Savior (Lutheran Service Book 537)



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of  
2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in  
3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the  
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of



God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love Thee, Tru - ly I'd  
flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is  
spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines  
God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -



serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
pur - er, He makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.  
pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.  
ra - tion Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

Text and tune: Public domain

## What Wondrous Love Is This (Lutheran Service Book 543)



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When  
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; To  
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this That  
I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When I was sink-ing down Be -  
God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, Who  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll



caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread-ful curse for my  
neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a-side His crown for my  
is the great I AM, While mil-lions join the theme, I will  
sing His love for me, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!  
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side His crown for my soul.  
sing, I will sing, While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.  
on, I'll sing on, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

Text and tune: Public domain

**Sing Alleluia! Amen!** (Brothers and Sisters in Christ – Make a Joyful Sound 28)

1. Sing Alleluia! Amen! Let your prayers and your praises ascend.  
Lift up your voices and sing to our Lord God, our Savior and King!  
Here brought together by grace, we are gathered as friends in this place.

Refrain: And assembled as one, in the name of the Son,  
Lifting hearts, lifting hands, celebrating as friends,  
And proclaiming the Lord, all our praises afford.  
We are brothers and sisters in Christ.

2. Man walked alone and in need, without faith, hope, or promise or creed,  
Wandering aimlessly lost, unaware of the staggering cost  
That God in his mercy would save all his people from death and the grave.  
(Refrain)
3. Lord, teach us how to proclaim all your goodness, your love and your name!  
Lord, teach us how to forgive, and in love teach us, Lord, how to live.  
Raising our voices in song, help us tell all the world we belong. (Refrain)

## After Communion:

### Thank the Lord

LSB 164



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

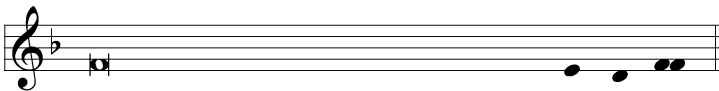
### Closing Prayer

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **Lord God, you are the strength of those who hope in you. Be with us, we pray, and help us in our weakness. Guide us so that we can be different, so that we can become more and more like Jesus. In Jesus' own name we pray. Amen.**

## Benediction

LSB 166



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



**C** A - men.

## Closing Hymn To God Be the Glory (Make a Joyful Sound 46)

1. To God be the glory – great things he hath done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!  
Oh, come to the Father through Jesus the Son,  
And give him the glory – great things he hath done!

2. Oh perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
To every believer the promise of God.  
The vilest offender who truly believes,  
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives. (Refrain)
3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son.  
But purer, and higher, and greater will be  
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (Refrain)

Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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## Worship Leaders

Pastor:	Rev. Richard Schlak
Organist:	Ruth Ann Ostergren
Elder:	Dave DeMartelaere, Russ DeWitt
Acolyte:	Rudy Valdes
Reader:	Lori Duff
Ushers:	Team 1

### **Prayer Ministry      Philippians 4:6-7**

Please call the church office @ 915-833-1009 to include a prayer request or update for the bulletin. If you have a prayer request or update for the prayer chain, please e-mail Jan Schlak at [oveja6925@aol.com](mailto:oveja6925@aol.com).

The passing of **Jeremiah Johnson** (nephew of David DeMartelaere), pray for peace and comfort for the Johnson family and for the DeMartelaere family.

The passing of **Marcy La Framboise** (friend of Connie Swinney), pray for peace and comfort for the Framboise family and for Connie.

The passing of **Delores Behl-Strassburg** (Steve Behl's mother) **and Maria Sotero** (Leticia Behl's mother), pray for peace and comfort for the Behl family.

### **Illness and Recovery:**

**Judith Morenos** (for continued recovery from COVID and improvement at home; for comfort and strength for the family); **Dov Kupfer** (our Sanctuary flower provider, for encouragement, strength and resources to recover from condo fire); **Leticia Behl** (for no cancer found in polyps); **Robin Wiegert** (for no evidence of malignancy be found); **Melissa Reddick** (friend of Barbara Lewis diagnosed with inoperable cancer, pray for a miracle, peace and comfort for her and her family); **Turner Allen** (Praises for successful knee surgery and for recovery); **Skipper Balgemann** (Brother of Maxx Balgemann, for continued improvement and support, expect discharge 21 Jan); **Pastor Patten and Marilyn** (Marilyn fell and broke her leg. She is at White Acres (Good Samaritan) in rehab. Pray for healing for Marilyn and for strength and patience for both Pastor & Marily); **BJ Schwab** (Praise the Lord! Her recent thyroid biopsy came back benign); **(Helen Weesner** (friend of Maritza Schlak recovery from mini stroke), **Gloria Voge** (for successful therapy and strengthening of her legs with resulting better mobility); **Sophia**, Lorena's mother, Concepcion Arellanes's, caregiver, has cancer (prayers for

recovery). **Margaret Yeager** (complete recovery with no complications); **Aubrey McDermott** (15-year-old with MS in hospital due to stroke); **Ken McLennan** (pray for upcoming heart procedure and peace, patience, and strength for his wife); **Barb Spott** (for no further medical issues and for relief from vertigo); **Richard Neal** (husband of Martha Neal recovery from stroke and for peace and strength for Richard and Martha); **Abigail Kailukatis** (friend of Jan Schlak's daughter Elizabeth for effective treatment); **Lupita Burke** (Ascension Preschool Teacher recovery from fracture); **Merle DeMartelaere** (father of David DeMartelaere correct diagnosis and treatment for Edema and AFib); **David Kwiatkowski** (friend of Connie Swinney recovery and treatment for brain cancer); **Gilbert Provencio** (for lumbar puncture good results Leading to walking improvement); **Mary Lou Provencio** (pray for strength, peace and guidance); **Elizabeth Hinson**, (for recovery from intestinal bug); **Ruby Lugo** (sister of Jessica Acosta and co-worker of Sally Benitez and Kristal Wade for recovery from heart issues); **Jim Werner** (brother of Elliott Werner successful treatment of and healing from cancer); ; **Brian Stickney** (recovery from cracked ribs); **Rebekah Livesay** (For healing and correct diagnosis); **Dick Seiders** (father of Ron Seiders healing from cancer and recovery from hip surgery); **Mary Spott** (Barb Spott's niece Keighley Spott's mother heart related issues); **Ann Perdue** ( relief from Osteoarthritis); **Amanda Bowser** (friend of the Walker Family recovery from cancer); **Donna Welch** (sister of Candice Gebler heart issues); **Sherri Pfeifer Wilson** (niece of Vicki Pfeifer cancer); **Patty Jones**, (sister of Martha Neal-stage 4 breast cancer); **Robert and Karin Gaudet**, (restoring relationships); **Sean Sweeney**, (brain tumor); **Laurie Sterling**, (colon cancer); **Bruce Walker**, (being treated for Parkinson's); **Coby Clark and family**, (continued cancer recovery); **Ryan Walker**, (cancer is in remission), **Mariella Kraus**, (cancer), **Kathy Kiphart**, **John Weiske**, **Bob Gallagher**, **Linda Seiders**.

### **Praise and Thanksgiving:**

**Jean DeWitt** (Thanks and Paise for good annual checkup results);

**Marjy Brady** Becca called us this week stating she'll be staying in San Diego another 3 yrs at Balboa Naval Hospital following her Fellowship which ends in June. (She owes the Navy 6 more yrs!) Thank you, Lord!

If you have an update to the status of those on our prayer list, please contact Jan Schlak or the church office.

# Ascension News & Notes



Jessica Estes Feb 1

Sylvia Diaz Feb 4

Wesley Estes Feb 6

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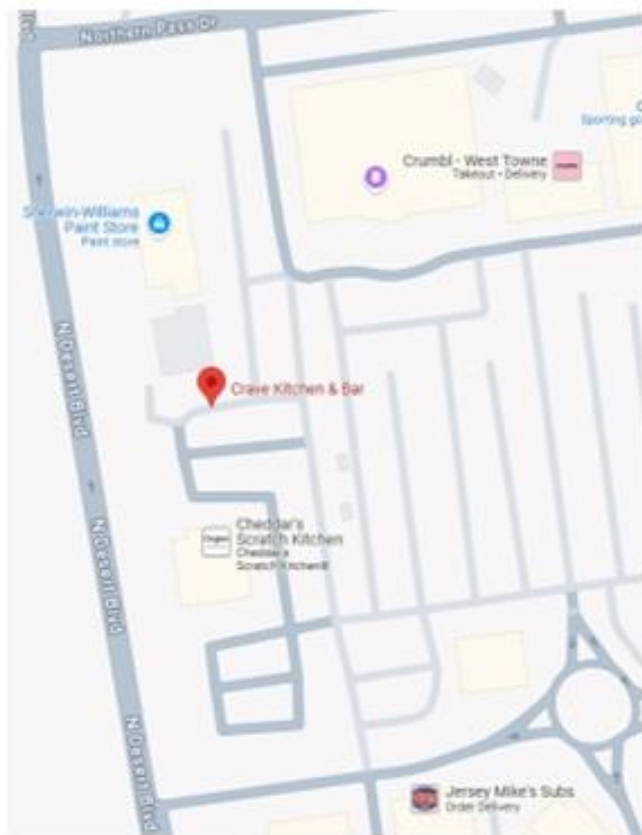


# Attention!! All Ladies of Ascension

Ladies Night Out: February 2025

All ladies of Ascension are welcome.

Once a month on the 3rd Wednesday @ 6:00 PM we meet at a restaurant and enjoy food and fellowship. (Dutch treat)



February 19th we  
will be meeting at:

Crave

6470 N Desert Blvd

(located near Cheddar's & Panera Bread  
restaurants)

For information call Robin Wiegert at (915)581-5566  
I hope you can join us.

## Job Opening

Ascension has an open position for an administrative assistant to our pastor and other church staff members.

The position is part time, working five to six hours per day on Tuesdays through Fridays, though some flexibility of schedule may be required.



Anyone interested in this position can contact the church office by  
alc6520@swbell.net  
eMail .

Position details are posted on church website  
<https://alconnect.faith>

On Sunday Jan 26, we sang

**"Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love."**

We, the people of Ascension, demonstrated that when we collected \$260 in donations to help Dov Kupfer (our sanctuary flower supplier) to help recover from his condo fire and loss of flower supplies.

**Thank you and God bless you for your generosity!**

A Valentines card was provided with the gift:



28 Jan 25

Dov,

God is our refuge and  
strength, an ever-present  
help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

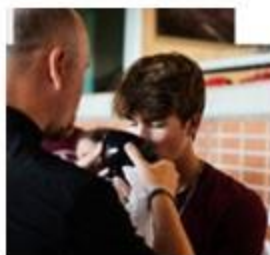
I hope this helps you  
during your time of  
adversity.

Blessings,  
The People of  
Ascension

# LCMS Youth Gathering

## ENDURE

July 19-23, 2025; New Orleans, LA



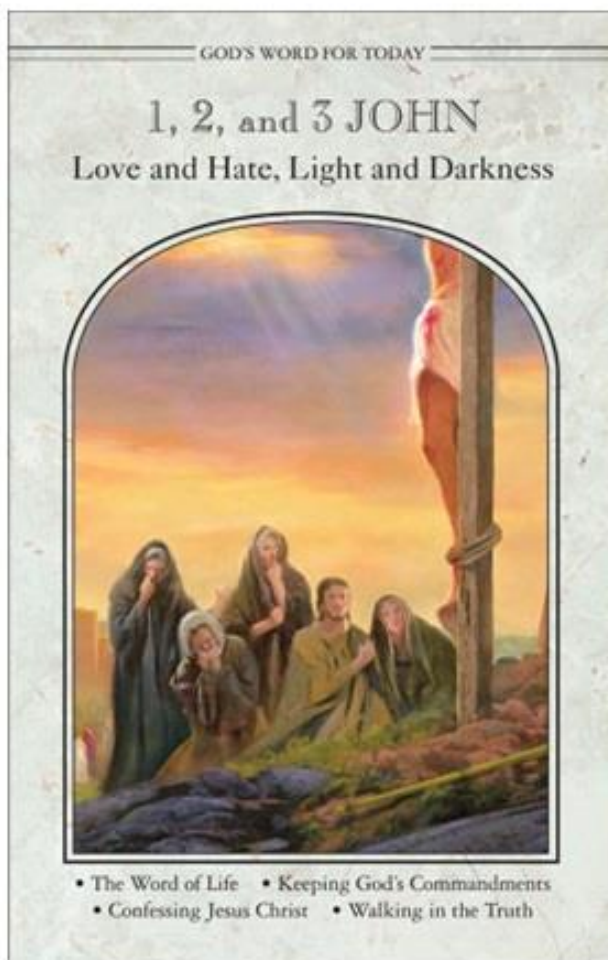
- Youth Gatherings celebrate the meaning of Christian joy in all of life's situations, including transitions and crisis.
- Youth Gatherings recognize and affirm the diversity of God's people.
- Participants **ENDURE** faithfully no matter what they encounter
- Participants cling to and share the good news of God's faithfulness in Christ that **ENDURES forever**

If interested contact the Pastor, David DeMartelaere, or Jacob Meraz for information and registration forms

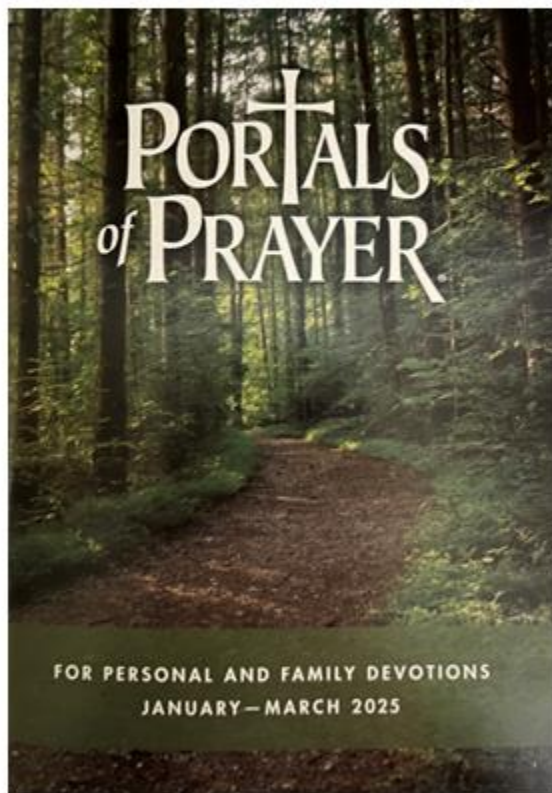
**The Thursday morning Bible study will begin a new study starting January 30. We will be studying 1, 2, 3, John and Jude.**

**We meet at the church on Thursdays mornings, we gather at 9:45, begin the lesson at 10:00 and end at 11:00. Please let Gretchen Schmalz or Jan Schlak know if you will be joining us. We will be ordering the books on January 24.**

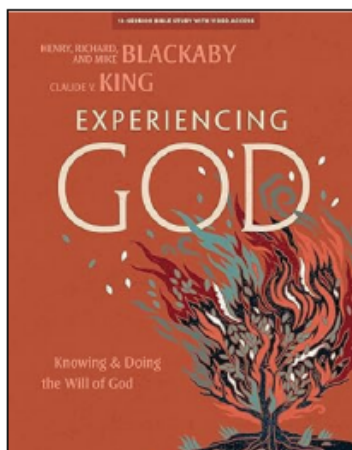
**All women are welcome to join us.**



**NOW AVAILABLE**  
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TODAY IN THE NARTHEX.



Be refreshed daily in God's living



# Tuesday Night Bible Study Winter 2025

- Time:** 6:30 p.m. gather, visit, share prayer requests  
[Video rolls at 7 p.m.]
- Place:** *Via ZOOM!*
- Date:** First session is Tuesday, January 7, 2025  
(proposed schedule below)
- Cost:** Order *Experiencing God* (with video access)  
directly from [Lifeway.com](http://Lifeway.com) or [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)

## Experiencing God

By Henry T. Blackaby, Richard Blackaby, Mike Blackaby and Claude V. King

God is inviting you into an intimate love relationship through which He reveals to you His will, His ways, and His work. When you recognize where God is working, you can join Him in what He is doing. Carefully listening to His voice will anchor you in His plan and set you free to live it with boldness and freedom. Then you will experience God doing through you what only He can do.

### Proposed Schedule:

#### Features:

- Biblically-rooted and gospel-centered content
- Interactive teaching videos  
(approximately 15-20 minutes per session)
- 12 group sessions (12 weeks of homework, optional)

#### Benefits:

- Stay connected with your sisters in Christ with weekly fellowship, encouragement and prayer from the comfort and convenience of your own home!

Date	Lesson #
Jan. 7, 2025	1
Jan. 14th	2
Jan. 21st	Break-Church Council Meeting
Jan. 28th	3
Feb. 4th	4
Feb. 11th	5
Feb. 18th	Break-Church Council Meeting
Feb. 25th	6
Mar. 4th	7
Mar. 11th	8
Mar. 18th	Break-Church Council Meeting
Mar. 25th	9
Apr. 1st	10
Apr. 8th	11
Apr. 15th	Break-Church Council Meeting
Apr. 22nd	12-Final Session
Apr. 29th	Dinner/Fellowship

Please RSVP your attendance to Anita Werner by December 31st ([awerner@elp.rr.com](mailto:awerner@elp.rr.com))

**Please visit [Lifeway.com](http://Lifeway.com) or [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and  
order *Experiencing God* (with video access)  
prior to our first session.**

## **This Week @ Ascension**

### **Sunday (February 2)**

9:00 AM Sunday School and Adult Bible Study  
10:00 AM Fellowship  
10:30 AM Worship  
11:45 AM Confirmation Class



### **Monday (February 3) Church Office Closed**

### **Tuesday (February 4)**

6:30 PM Ladies Zoom Bible Class  
6:45 PM Boy Scouts  
7:00 PM Men's Bible class (FH)

### **Wednesday (February 5)**

9:00 AM Preschool Chapel  
11:00 AM Sit and Sew (FH)  
5:00 PM Board of Elders Meeting

### **Thursday (February 6)**

9:45 AM Women's Bible Study (FH)  
6:00 PM Choir Practice

### **Friday (February 7)**

12:00 PM-2:30PM Preschool Extended Care (FH)

### **Saturday (February 8)**

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