

6th Sunday After Epiphany

Blessed are Those Who Trust in Jesus

February 16, 2025 • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

As We Gather:

“Don’t worry; be happy!” Do you remember that song? But how can you be happy if you’ve just lost your job, or if you’re sick in bed, or if your sister is getting a divorce or if your mom or dad has passed away? A lot of times we’re only happy if things are going well – and things never go well all the time. Someone has said that “happiness” depends on what “happens”, but “joy” comes from “Jesus”. Even when we go through bad times, we are blessed if we have Jesus. Why? Because Jesus is with us and strengthens us in both good times and bad times, and because with Jesus we have a bright future, eternal life, that can never be taken away from us. I know a couple of people who, when I ask them how they are doing, always respond, “I am blessed.” No matter what happens, we are blessed if we trust in Jesus.

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 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (Lutheran Service Book 699)

- 1 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down Thy head upon My breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, So weary, worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting place, And He has made me glad.
- 2 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one, Stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, And now I live in Him.
- 3 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light.
Look unto Me; thy morn shall rise And all thy day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found In Him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk Till trav'ling days are done.

Text: Public domain

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ 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

Special Music from the Choir: Psalm 1 (Blessed is the one who follows God's Word)

Refrain: Happy are they who trust, who trust in the Lord.

- 1. Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!*
- 2. Their delight is in the law of the Lord,
And they meditate on God's teaching day and night.*
- 3. They are like trees planted by streams of water,
Bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
Everything they do shall prosper. (Refrain)*
- 4. It is not so with the wicked;
They are like chaff which the wind blows away.*
- 5. Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
Nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.*
- 6. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
But the way of the wicked shall be destroyed. (Refrain)*

This is the Feast

LSB 171



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.



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



lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



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



for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.



Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

C **Lord Jesus, those who trust in you are blessed, because no matter what happens in our lives, you are with us and you give us eternal life that no one can take away. Thank you! And help us not to worry, but to find real joy in you. In your own name we pray. Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-8

(Blessed is the one who trusts in God and not in human beings)

Thus says the Lord: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord. He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle (New Testament Reading)

1 Corinthians 15:1-20

(Blessed is the one who trusts in Jesus because even if he dies, he will be raised to life)

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to

Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

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.

Holy Gospel

Luke 6:17-26

*(Blessed is the one who trusts in Jesus,
for he will be comforted even while he struggles)*

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus] came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.

And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

“Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

“Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry.

“Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

“Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.”

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: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (Lutheran Service Bok 803)



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,
△ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.
Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap-py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di-vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy-ful, we by grace are Thine!

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Affirmation of Faith: Jesús Moreno

Pastor: Jesus Christ said: "*Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.*" (Matthew 10:32) Jesús has studied the doctrines of the Bible which we teach in our church and he desires to publically affirm that he believes as we do and wants to join with us in encouraging and supporting each other in following Jesus.

Pastor: Jesús: at your Baptism you renounced the devil and all his works and all his ways. Therefore I ask you before God and these witnesses: Do you promise to continue to reject the devil and everything he stands for? (If so, please respond: "I do reject them.")

Response: I do reject them.

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? I invite the whole congregation to rise and to respond together with Jesús, using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastor: Do you promise to stay strong in that faith and to share it with others? (If so, please answer, "Yes, with the help of God.")

Response: Yes, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you accept the Bible as the Word of God, and do you promise to read it and hear it, and to put this Word into practice? (If so, answer, "Yes, I accept the Bible as God's Word.")

Response: Yes, I accept the Bible as God's Word.

Pastor: Do you accept as true the teachings of the Lutheran Church, which come from the Bible, and which you have learned in your classes? (If so, please answer, "Yes, I accept these biblical teachings.")

Response: Yes, I accept these teachings.

Pastor: As a member of the church, do you promise to love your brothers and sisters, to study God's Word with them and to share the Lord's Supper with them? (If so, please answer, "Yes, with the help of God.")

Response: Yes, with the help of God.

Pastor: Are you willing to support the mission of the church with your prayers and with the gifts God has given you? (If so, please answer, "Yes, with the help of God.")

Response: Yes, with the help of God.

All: Heavenly Father, on this special occasion, we ask you to bless Jesús who has confessed his faith. In the world around us there are many temptations and trials and things that discourage us from following Jesus. But your Holy Spirit encourages us and strengthens us. For this reason we ask you to give Jesús wisdom and courage and strength. Give him also peace and patience and love. Help him to remain faithful to you, and be with him and with us always, even

unto the end of the age, as you have promised. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Pastor: In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, whom you have confessed and whom you have promised to serve, we receive you as a communicant member of this congregation.

The congregation stands.

All (members of the congregation): We, the members of this congregation, receive you as our brother and as a fellow member of our church in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. May God bless us and help us all to grow together as the body of Christ!

Prayer by All (including Jesús): Oh Lord, increase our faith and make us all one in you. 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 When We Are Living

- 1. When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
And when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
We belong to God. We belong to God.*
- 2. Through all our living, we our fruits must give,
Good works of service and for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving,
We belong to God. We belong to God.*
- 3. Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,
When sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
Whether we suffer or sing rejoicing,
We belong to God. We belong to God.*

4. *Across this wide world, we shall always find
Those who are crying with no peace of mind.
But when we help them, or when we feed them,
We belong to God. We belong to God.*

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.

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion is one of the precious gifts that God gives to His people, as we receive the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus, who died on the cross to forgive all of our sins. To prepare for this sacrament, we follow the instruction found in 1 Corinthians 11:28: "*Let each man examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks the cup.*" Therefore, we ask that you review and affirm the following questions:

1. Do I believe I am a sinner without hope of eternal life, except for God's mercy offered through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?
2. Do I repent of my sins and turn to Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior?
3. Do I believe that the bread and wine I receive is the true body and blood of Jesus, and not just a symbol of it?
4. Do I intend, with the help of God, to live a life that is pleasing to God?

We believe that your "yes" to these questions indicates a common faith with our Christian congregation and, therefore, we invite you to receive Holy Communion with us.

- The light-colored beverage in the center communion cups is non-alcoholic.
- Gluten free wafers are available. Just ask Pastor during distribution.


- Children and those not communing are welcomed to come forward for a blessing, but are not given communion until they have completed basic instruction classes on the Christian faith.

If you are unable to go to the altar, please let an usher know and the Pastor will bring the Lord's Supper to your pew. Please sit close to any of the three aisles in the church. Our Savior's wish is that all Christians receive His body and blood often. Ascension offers gluten free communion wafers for those who are protein/gluten intolerant or may have a wheat allergy. Simply notify the Pastor during communion if you desire a gluten-free wafer.

Please see the Pastor following service if you have any questions.

Preface

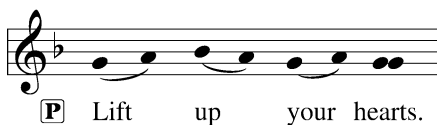
LSB 160



P The Lord be with you.



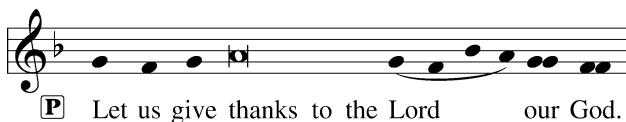
C And al - so with you.



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 ✠ 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 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.

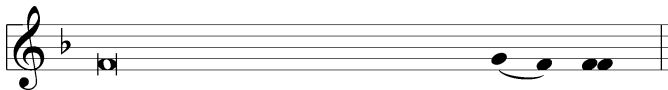
C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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



C 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

Hymn 524 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds



1 How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds In
2 It makes the wound - ed spir - it whole And
3 Dear name! The rock on which I build, My
4 O Je - sus, shep - herd, guard - ian, friend, My



a be - liev - er's ear! It soothes our sor - rows,
calms the heart's un - rest; 'Tis man - na to the
shield and hid - ing place; My nev - er - fail - ing
Proph - et, Priest, and King, My Lord, my life, my



heals our wounds, And drives a - way our fear.
hun - gry soul, And to the wea - ry, rest.
treas - ury filled With bound - less stores of grace.
way, my end, Ac - cept the praise I bring.

Text and tune: Public domain

Hymn 461 I Know That My Redeemer Lives



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com - fort
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -
3 He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to
8 He lives, all glo - ry to His name! He lives, my



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious
plead for me a - bove; He lives my hun - gry
Je - sus, still the same; Oh, the sweet joy this



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.
in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.
sen - tence gives: I know that my Re - deem - er lives!

Text and tune: Public domain

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

Closing Hymn

I Love to Tell the Story (Make a Joyful Sound 4)

1. I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and his glory; of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story because I know tis true.
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

Refrain: I love to tell the story! Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

2. I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems
Than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story. It did so much for me,
And that is just the reason I tell it now to thee. (Refrain)
3. I love to tell the story. Tis pleasant to repeat
What seems each time I tell it more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word. (Refrain)
4. I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. (Refrain)

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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 Tuchenhausen/Ron Seiders
Acolyte:	Jake Walker
Reader:	Kristal Wade
Ushers:	Team #2

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.

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.

Illness and Recovery:

Andy Barber (Pray for pain relief radiating from neck to hands); **Bob Gallagher** (Pray biopsies do not find cancer and the doctors find a correct diagnosis and an effective treatment); **Ruthy Pople** (for safe travels to join her family); **Kirstin Hervin**(daughter of Mike & Christy Mielke), for treatment to keep Lupus under control; 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); **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**, **Linda Seiders**.

Praise and Thanksgiving:

Robin Wiegert (Malignant Melanoma was not present in the removed lymph nodes, and the outer margins of the removed melanoma were clear);

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



Alfonso Diaz

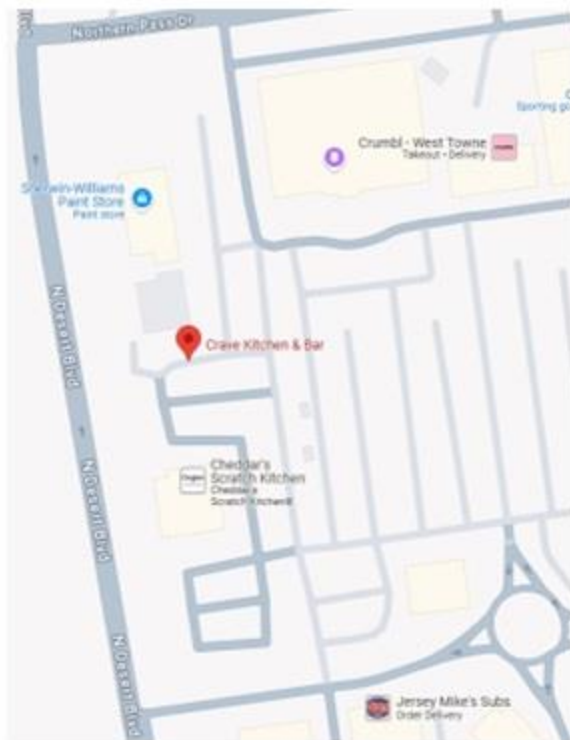
Feb 22

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



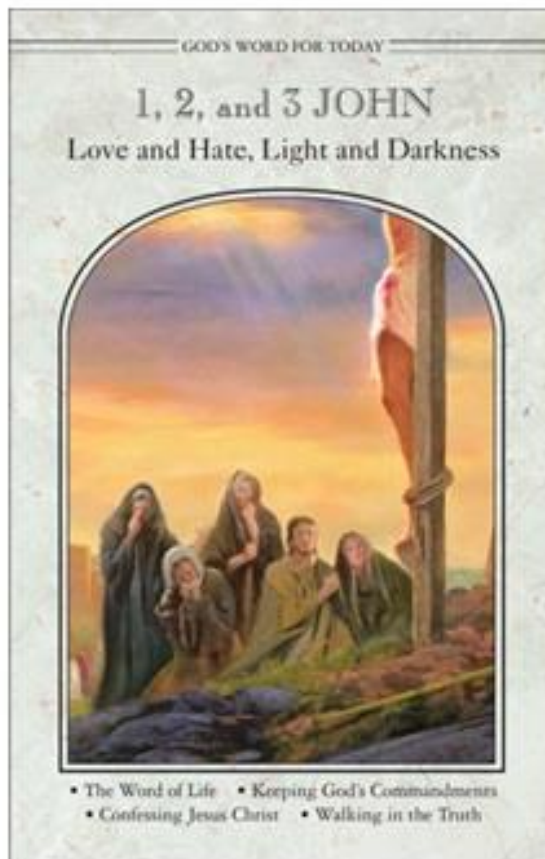
- Youth Gatherings celebrate the meaning of Christian joy in all of life's situations, including transitions and crisis.
- Youth Gatherings recognize and affirm the diversity of God's people.
- Participants **ENDURE** faithfully no matter what they encounter
- Participants cling to and share the good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

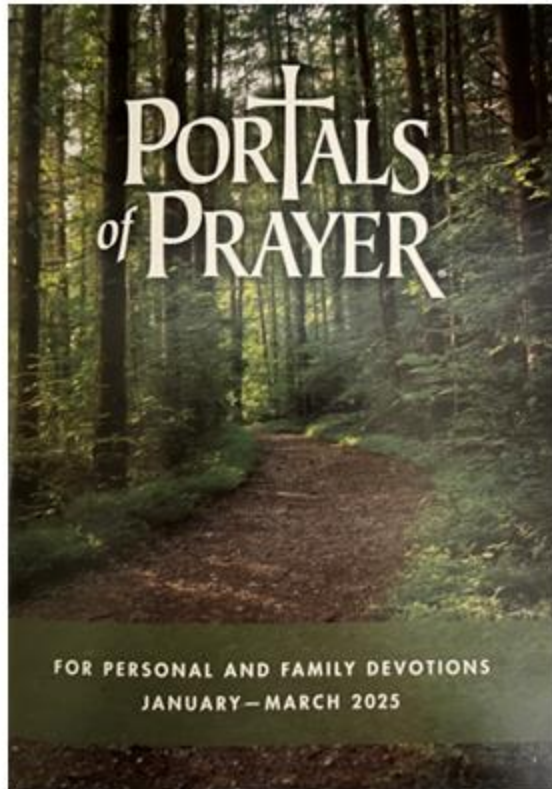
The Thursday morning Bible study is studying 1, 2, 3, John.

We meet at the church on Thursdays mornings, we gather at 9:45, begin the lesson at 10:00 and end at 11:00.

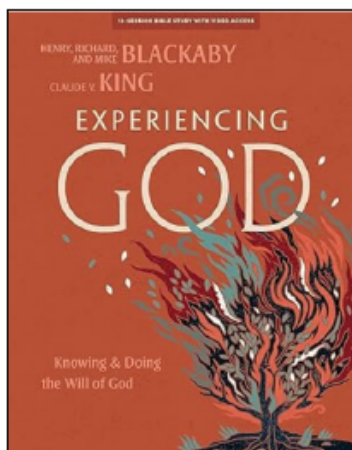
Please let Gretchen Schmalz or Jan Schlak know if you will be joining us. All women are welcome to join us.



NOW AVAILABLE
PICK UP YOUR FREE COPY
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 or 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)

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

This Week @ Ascension

Sunday (February 16)

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



Monday (February 17)

Church Office Closed

Tuesday (February 18)

6:30 PM Boy Scouts
7:00 PM Church Council Meeting (FH)

Wednesday (February 19)

9:00 AM Preschool Chapel
11:00 AM Sit and Sew (FH)

Thursday (February 20)

9:45 AM Women's Bible Study (FH)
3:00 PM Calendar & Newsletter updates due in office
6:00 PM Choir Practice

Friday (February 21)

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

Saturday (February 22)

