

1st Sunday in Lent

Breaking the Chains

March 9, 2025 • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

As We Gather:

Every day of our lives here on earth, we are in the middle of a spiritual war. Temptations beckon and problems threaten, and bad habits entangle us. All too often we lose the fight and do not live as God wants us to. But though we are weak, Jesus is strong! The Israelites were slaves in Egypt, but God freed them and brought them to a beautiful land with bountiful harvests (Deuteronomy 26). Jesus was tempted just as we are, but sent the devil packing with just a few choice verses from the Word of God (Luke 4). This same Word is on our lips, and we confess that Jesus Christ has saved us (Romans 10). In our war, Jesus has won the victory for us!

The Season of Lent

“Lent” is the period of 40 days right before Easter Sunday. This is a time for focusing on self-examination and repentance, and for receiving the forgiveness and peace and salvation that Jesus won for us on the cross.

The 40 days of Lent correspond with the 40 days that Jesus fasted in the desert (Matthew 4:1-2), the 40 days that Moses spent with God on Mt. Sinai (also called Mt. Horeb – Exodus 24:18), the 40 days that Elijah fasted as he walked to Mt. Sinai to meet with God (1 Kings 19:8), and the 40 years that Israel wandered through the desert (Numbers 14:33). Sundays are not included in the 40 days of Lent; they have a more joyful tone because Sunday is the day of the week that Jesus rose from the dead.

Some people practice fasting during Lent. Fasting is giving up something for a time in order to draw closer to God. Fasting is not an obligation but it is an option. Some people abstain from desserts or alcohol or meat during Lent. Other people give up watching TV or some other pleasurable activity. Still other people use the time of Lent as an opportunity to try to leave behind an old, bad habit. Fasting does not make you better than other people, but it does remind you that God is more important than any material thing or pleasure. Fasting encourages us to spend time in prayer. Fasting can also be an expression of repentance or of trusting in God alone in times of deep trouble. If you choose to fast in some way, do so humbly and responsibly, and make Jesus your focus and your priority.

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 Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus (Lutheran Service Book 660)



1 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, Ye sol - diers of the cross.
2 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The trum - pet call o - bey;
3 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; Stand in His strength a - lone.
4 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The strife will not be long;



Lift high His roy - al ban - ner; It must not suf - fer loss.
Stand forth in might - y con - flict In this His glo - rious day.
The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own.
This day the din of bat - tle, The next the vic - tor's song.



From vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry His ar - my He shall lead
Let all His faith - ful serve Him A - gainst un - num - bered foes;
Put on the Gos - pel ar - mor; Each piece put on with prayer.
The sol - diers, o - ver - com - ing, Their crown of life shall see



Till ev - 'ry foe is van - quished, And Christ is Lord in - deed.
Let cour - age rise with dan - ger And strength to strength op - pose.
Where du - ty calls or dan - ger, Be nev - er want - ing there.
And with the King of Glo - ry Shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Seek the Lord while he may be found!
- C** **Call on him while he is near!**
- P** Let the wicked forsake his ways,
- C** **And the evil man his thoughts.**
- P** Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him!
- C** **And to our God, for he will freely pardon!** (Isaiah 55:6-7)

Prayer of Confession

- P** Today we remember how Jesus was victorious over Satan's temptations in the wilderness. We admit that we have not always followed in our Savior's footsteps. Therefore we take a moment to confess our failings, confident of the mercy that flows from Jesus' victory over sin for us.

(A brief moment of silence for individual prayer.)

- C** **Heavenly Father, we admit that we have often fallen into temptation and failed to do what is right. But though we have often failed, Jesus did not. For the sake of Jesus and his death and resurrection, forgive us, restore us, and renew us. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

- P** God does not want us to perish, but to turn from our wrongheadedness and live. (Ezekiel 18:23) Jesus died on the cross in our place, paying the price for our disobedience. The Bible promises: "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9) I therefore proclaim to you by God's authority what Jesus says here in his Word: all our sins and wrongdoing have been forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Special Music based on Psalm 91

("On Eagles' Wings" Michael Joncas)

Choir only

1. *You who dwell in a shelter of the Lord,
who abide in his shadow for life,
say to the Lord: my refuge,
my rock, and whom I trust!*

Choir and Congregation (Refrain)

*And he will raise you up on Eagles wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.*

Choir only

2. *The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear:
under his wings your refuge,
his faithfulness your shield.*

Choir and Congregation (Refrain)

*And he will raise you up on Eagles wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.*

Choir only

3. *You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come.*

Choir and Congregation (Refrain)

*And he will raise you up on Eagles wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.*

Choir only

*4. For to his angels he's given a command
to guard you and all your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.*

Choir and Congregation (Refrain)

*And he will raise you up on Eagles wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.*

Choir only

And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

Kyrie

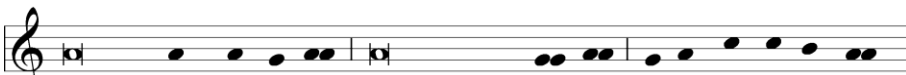
(LSB 168)



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



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 uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



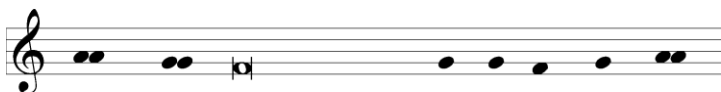
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Hymn: Christ, the Life of All the Living

(LSB 420, verses 1, 6, and 7)



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of
6 Thou hast suf - fered great af - flic - tion And hast borne it
7 Then, for all that wrought my par - don, For Thy sor - rows



death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for me once giv - ing
pa - tient - ly, E - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion,
deep and sore, For Thine an - guish in the Gar - den,



To the dark - est depths of woe: Through Thy suf - f'rings,
Ful - ly to a - tone for me; Thou didst choose to
I will thank Thee ev - er - more, Thank Thee for Thy



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.
be tor - ment - ed That my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
groan - ing, sigh - ing, For Thy bleed - ing and Thy dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
For that last tri - um - phant cry, And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

Text and tune: Public domain

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

C **Lord Jesus, we are weak but you are strong. You overcame every temptation here on earth. Forgive us for the many times when we have fallen when facing those same temptations. Strengthen us and help us to do better. But help us also to remember that our salvation depends on you, not on us. Through faith in you, we have the victory. In your own name we pray. Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

*(The Israelites are to give offerings to the Lord
because he overcame the Egyptians and freed his people)*

When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the Lord your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there. ³And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, 'I declare today to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our fathers to give us.' ⁴Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the Lord your God.

⁵And you shall make response before the Lord your God, 'A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. ⁶And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. ⁷Then we cried to the Lord, the God of our fathers, and the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. ⁹And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O Lord, have given me.' And you shall set it down before the Lord your God and worship before the Lord your God. ¹¹And you shall rejoice in all the good that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle (New Testament Reading)

Romans 10:9-13

(Anyone who trusts in Jesus will be saved)

"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Bible Verse for Lent: Joel 2:13

LSB 173

C Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Holy Gospel

Luke 4:1-13

(Jesus defeats the devil and his temptations)

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

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

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ²for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. ³The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." ⁴And Jesus answered him, "It is written,

"Man shall not live by bread alone."

⁵And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸And Jesus answered him, "It is written,

"You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve."

⁹And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,' ¹¹and

'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"

¹²And Jesus answered him, "It is said,

'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

¹³And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit

Children's Song: Glory Be to Jesus (LOSP 93, melody LSB 433)

Glory be to Jesus, who in perfect love

Died to be my Savior, sent from heaven above. (repeat)

Children's Message

Sermon Hymn: Oh Victory in Jesus

(Make a Joyful Sound 2)

- 1 I heard an old, old story, how a Savior came from glory,
How he gave his life on Calvary to save a wretch like me.
I heard about his groaning, of his precious blood's atoning,
Then I repented of my sins and won the victory.

Refrain: Oh victory in Jesus, my Savior, forever.

He sought me and bought me with his redeeming blood.
He loved me ere I knew him, and all my love is due him.
He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood.

- 2 I heard about his healing, of his cleansing power revealing,
How he made the lame to walk again and caused the blind to see.
And then I cried, "Dear Jesus, come and heal my broken spirit."
And somehow Jesus came and brought to me the victory. (Refrain)
- 3 I heard about a mansion he has built for me in glory,
And I heard about the streets of gold beyond the crystal sea,
About the angels singing, and the old redemption story,
And some sweet day I'll sing up there the song of victory. (Refrain)

Text: Public domain

Sermon: "Checkmate"

Stand

Apostles' Creed

- A** 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.**

Installation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
- P** An administrative assistant is someone who serves God and serves the church by facilitating coordination and communication with all the church members and groups, as well as supporting the different church leaders with anything that has to do with the office or administration. One of the biggest things that our administrative assistant does here at Ascension is put together and print out the worship bulletins and slides – something that we often take for granted but is extremely important. We are blessed to have Cheryl Canada-Karl take on this mission task.

The Scripture

Head Elder: Here is part of what the Bible says about serving in the church: "As in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. (Romans 12:4-8, ESV)

"Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:17, ESV)

The Questions

Congregation President: Cheryl Canada-Karl, you have been chosen to serve as the administrative assistant of Ascension Lutheran Church. I therefore ask you: are you willing to take on those duties?

Cheryl: Yes, with the help of God.

Congregation President: Do you believe and confess that the books of the Bible, the Old and New Testaments, are the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

Cheryl: Yes, I believe the Bible is the Word of God.

Congregation President: Are you in agreement with the teachings of the Lutheran Church as written in the Book of Concord, as a true summary of the Christian faith, based on the Bible?

Cheryl: Yes, I am in agreement with these teachings.

P (to the congregation): You have heard Cheryl's promises. Are you as a congregation willing to receive her as the administrative assistant, to support her and to pray for her and encourage her in this work?

C We will, with the help of God.

Prayer and Installation

P Heavenly Father, thank you for Cheryl, for her faith and love, for her dedication to your mission. Help her now as she begins her service as the administrative assistant in this congregation. Encourage her and strengthen her so that what she does will be a blessing to many, and a good testimony for you. In Jesus' name.

C Amen.

P Cheryl Canada-Karl, in the presence of God and of this congregation I install you as the administrative assistant of Ascension Lutheran Church, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As 1 Corinthians 15:58 says, "Be always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

Prayer of the Church

We pray for all people according to their needs, as God calls us to do in his Word.

P We pray for the church in every nation, that the Holy Spirit would strengthen us in faith and make us one. We pray together,

C Lord, have mercy.

- P** We pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ who are suffering, that Jesus would encourage them and help them overcome. We pray together,
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** We pray for Cheryl and for all the leaders, elders, teachers, and all who serve at our church, that God would strengthen them and guide them and let them see good fruit as a result of their work here. We pray together,
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** We pray for those who do not yet believe in Jesus, that the Holy Spirit would touch their hearts through our words and actions. We pray together,
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** We pray for those who serve our country, defending the peace, that God would protect them. We pray together,
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** We pray for the grieving, that God would comfort them with the hope of eternal life. We pray together,
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** We pray for those who are in need, that the Lord would give them their daily bread. We pray together,
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** We pray for the sick, that Jesus the Great Physician would bring healing according to his will. We pray together,
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** We pray for those on our prayer list, our friends and our relatives and our brothers and sisters in Christ. *(See the prayer list at the end of this order of service.)* We pray together,
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Into your hands, oh Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy. In Jesus' name.
- C Amen.**

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.**

Sit

Offering

Jesus gave everything for us. In gratitude, we give a portion of our material blessings so that others may also know his love. The Bible says, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." (2 Corinthians 8:9)

Choir Anthem during the Offering

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

- 1. I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*
- 2. In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*
- 3. When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*

Text: African American Spiritual
Music: arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland

Stand

Offering Prayer

- A** **Lord Jesus, you gave your life for us, and so we bring to you the first and best of our material blessings. Let these offerings support and extend the ministry here in this congregation and around the world. In your own name we pray. Amen.**

Offertory: Salvation Poem

(McPherson)

Jesus, you died upon the cross, and rose again to save the lost.
Forgive me now of all my sin. Come be my Savior, Lord, and friend.
Change my life and make it new, and help me, Lord, to live for you.
Change my life and make it new, and help me, Lord, to live for you.

Closing Prayer

- P** Let us pray.

C Lord Jesus, you shed your blood for us! Help us to always trust in your great love and forgiveness, and not in our own strength. Let your Holy Spirit work in us, so that we may walk in your ways and not heedlessly go our own way. In your name we pray. Amen.

Benediction

- P** Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered!
(Psalm 32:1) Rejoice in the Lord and go in peace!
- C Amen.**

Closing Hymn Oh Jesus I Have Promised (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 810)

1. Oh Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end.
Remain forever near me, my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.
2. Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near.
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within.
But, Jesus, then draw nearer to shield my soul from sin.
3. Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still
Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.
Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control.
Now speak and make me listen, oh Guardian of my soul.
4. Oh Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you
That where you are in glory, your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end.
Oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Worship Leaders

Pastor:	Rev. Richard Schlak
Organist:	Ruth Ann Ostergren
Elder:	David DeMartelaere
Acolyte:	Rudy Valdes
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.

Illness and Recovery:

Deb Sullivan & her brother, Anthony (guidance & strength in handling parents' estate as they mourn), **Billie Meitler's friend, Carolyn Long** (effective treatment for ovarian cancer); **Marjy Brady, for her niece's mother-in-law Rosemary Sweeney** (for acceptance and peaceful transition in hospice); **Gilbert Provencio and Mary Lou Provencio** (for peace and patience for both Gilbert and Mary Lou as they wait yet another month for Gilbert's procedure); **Diana and sister Dayna students where Mari teaches, orphaned and living with Aunt** (for protection and comfort in their loss); **Maddy, student where Mari teaches** (for safety from gang violence); **Ascension's housekeeping Lorena's daughter Alexa** (for Alexa's continued concussion recovery); **Andy Barber** (for pain relief radiating from neck to hands); **Bob Gallagher** (Praise God endoscopy revealed no cancer, for confirmation in pending biopsy); **Ruthy Pople** (for the closing on her house as she continues in the process of moving); **Kirstin Hervin, daughter of Mike & Christy Mielke**, (for treatment to keep Lupus under control); **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); **Pastor Patten and Marilyn, who fell and broke her leg. She is at White Acres (Good Samaritan) moved into assisted living.** (For healing for Marilyn and for strength and patience for both Pastor & Marilyn); **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** (for cancer recovery); **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); **Elizabeth Hinson**, (for recovery from intestinal bug);

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); **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:

Steve Wilmeth (Continued recovery from cataract surgery)

Gretchen Schmalz's nephew's son (Thanksgiving for Toronto plane crash safe survival)

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



9-Mar Michael Radach

10-Mar Jan Schlak

13-Mar Russ DeWitt



10-Mar Gilbert and Mary Lou Provencio

Attention thrivent members who may have available "thrivent choice" from 2024! March 31st is the deadline to designate 2024 thrivent choice dollars to a church or charity of your choosing. You can designate by contacting Susan Hernandez at the local thrivent office at 915-565-1010, online at [thrivent.com](https://www.thrivent.com) (generosity tab, thrivent choice), or by phone during business hours at 1-800-847-4836 (say "thrivent choice" to get to a person to help you).

Peace, Susan

**Susan E Hernandez
Associate**

**2615 Montana Ave
El Paso, TX 79903**

O 1-915-565-1010

C 1-915-223-2929

Text 1-915-223-2929

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



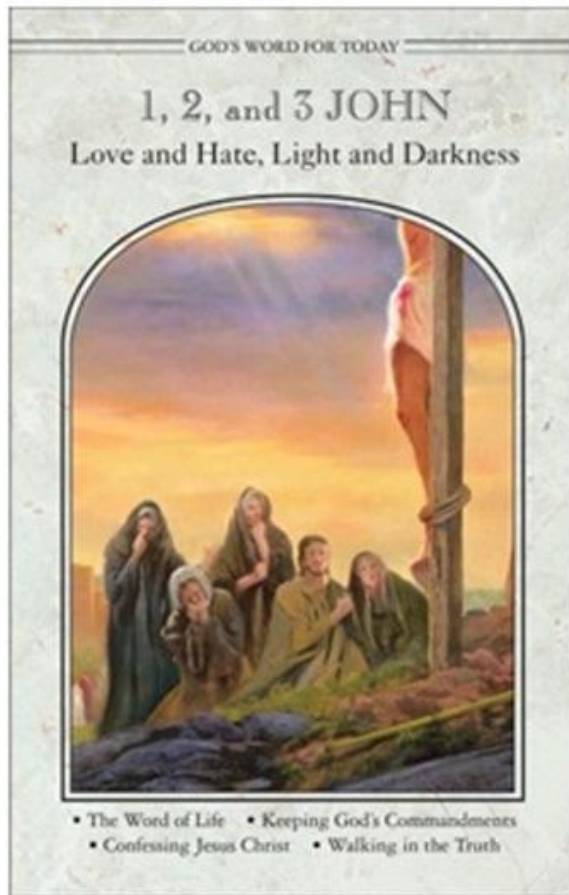
- Youth Gatherings celebrate the meaning of Christian joy in all of life's situations, including transitions and crisis.
- Youth Gatherings recognize and affirm the diversity of God's people.
- Participants **ENDURE** faithfully no matter what they encounter
- Participants cling to and share the good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

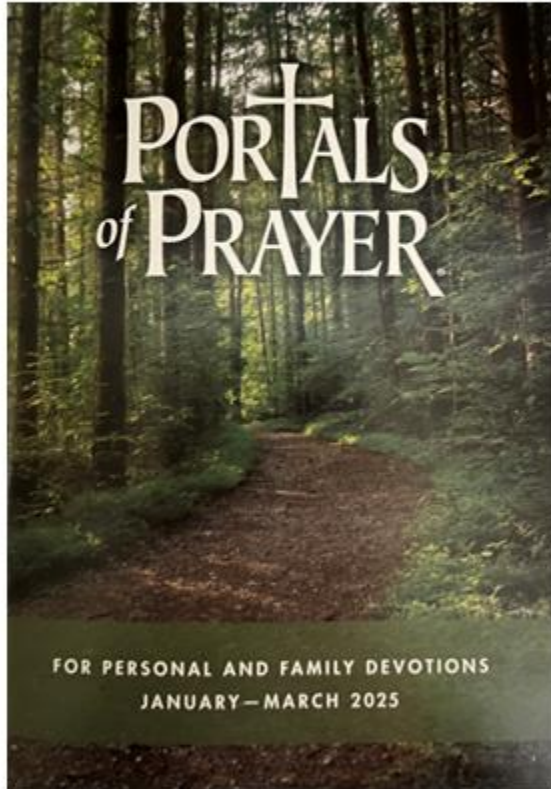
**The Thursday morning Bible study is studying 1, 2,3 John.
We meet at the church on Thursday mornings.**

We gather at 9:45 and begin the lesson at 10:00 and end at 11:00.

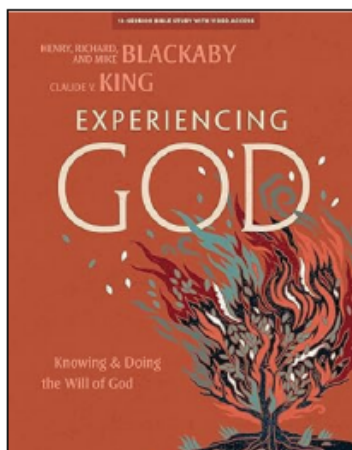
All women are welcome to join us as we study these 3 books. If you have any questions, contact Gretchen Schmalz or Jan Schlak.



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 (March 9)

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



Monday (March 10) Church Office Closed

Tuesday (March 11)

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

Wednesday (March 12)

11:00 AM Sit and Sew (FH)
6:00 PM Soup Supper
7:00 PM Lent Midweek Worship

Thursday (March 13)

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

Friday (March 14)

No Preschool Extended Care (FH)

Saturday (March 15)
