Welcome

We are glad that you have joined us for worship.

March 15, 2026

Worship Theme

I Need Sight

Pastor Brian Roloff

OPENING HYMN:
Christ Is the World's Light (vs.1-4)

V1. Christ is the world's light,
Christ and none other;
Born in our darkness,
he became our brother.
If we have seen him,
we have seen the Father:
Glory to God on high!

V2. Christ is the world's peace,
Christ and none other;
No one can serve him
and despise another.
Who else unites us,
one with God the Father?
Glory to God on high!

V3.

Christ is the world's life,
Christ and none other;
Sold once for silver,
murdered here, our brother.
He who redeemed us
reigns with God the Father:
Glory to God on high!

V4.

Give God the glory,
God and none other;
Give God the glory,
Spirit, Son, and Father;
Give God the glory,
God with us, my brother:
Glory to God on high!

Please stand

Call to Worship

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

Confession of Sins

P: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: **If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

P: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for self-reflection

Announcement of Forgiveness

P: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy (kyrie)

P: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: **Christ, have mercy.**

P: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, you show the light of your truth to those lost in the darkness of sin and unbelief. We praise you for opening our eyes to see Jesus Christ as the Light of the World and our Savior. Always lead us to follow his way so we may have the light of life in him who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, enthroned in light eternal.

C: Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 42:14-21

"For a long time I have kept silent,
I have been quiet and held myself back.
But now, like a woman in childbirth,
I cry out, I gasp and pant.
I will lay waste the mountains and hills
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn rivers into islands
and dry up the pools.

"I will lead the blind by ways they
have not known,
along unfamiliar paths I will guide them;
I will turn the darkness into light
before them
and make the rough places smooth.
These are the things I will do;
I will not forsake them.

"But those who trust in idols,
who say to images, 'You are our gods,'
will be turned back in utter shame.
Hear, you deaf;
look, you blind, and see!
Who is blind but my servant,
and deaf like the messenger I send?

"Who is blind like the one committed to me,
blind like the servant of the LORD?
You have seen many things, but have
paid no attention;
your ears are open, but you hear nothing."
It pleased the LORD
for the sake of his righteousness
to make his law great and glorious.

Sung Response

Ten Thousand Reasons

(Ascension Arise Band)

THE WORD

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 5:8-14

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, right-eousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said:

"Wake up, O sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

Please stand

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father,
the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

SERMON HYMN:
#576 *Amazing Grace* (vs.1-4)

V1. Amazing grace—
how sweet the sound—
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
was blind but now I see.

V2.

The Lord has promised good to me,
his Word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

V3.

Through many dangers,
toils, and snares
I have already come;
‘tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

V4.

When we've been there
ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

THE WORD

SERMON TEXT

John 9:1-7, 13-17,34-39

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

…They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.”

But others asked, “How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?” So they were divided.

Finally they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened."

The man replied, "He is a prophet."

The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"

“We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for him-self.”

His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for already the Jews had decided that anyone who acknow-ledged that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue. That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God,’” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.”

He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”

Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

He answered, “I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?”

Then they hurled insults at him and said, “You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.”

The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

“Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”

Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”

Give

Supporting Us...

2 Corinthians 9:7 *Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give… for God loves a cheerful giver.*

If you feel encouraged to support our ministry you can give electronically today. You can also set up recurring offerings automatically just scan the QR.

If you already support us place this card in the offering plate as a sign of your commitment.

Thanks for your generosity!

Please stand

Responsive Offering Prayer

P: Lord Jesus, take our hearts and fill them with your love;

C: take our lips and move them to speak of your grace;

P: take our treasures and use them to serve your church;

C: use our lives to do whatever is needed to spread the gospel here at Ascension, in our community, and around the world, for your mercy's sake. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
C: It is good and right so to do.

P: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, He made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

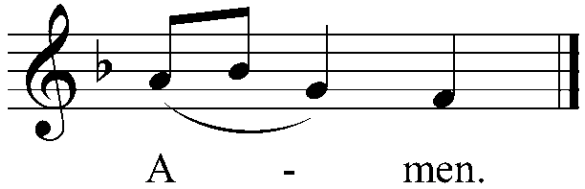
C: Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

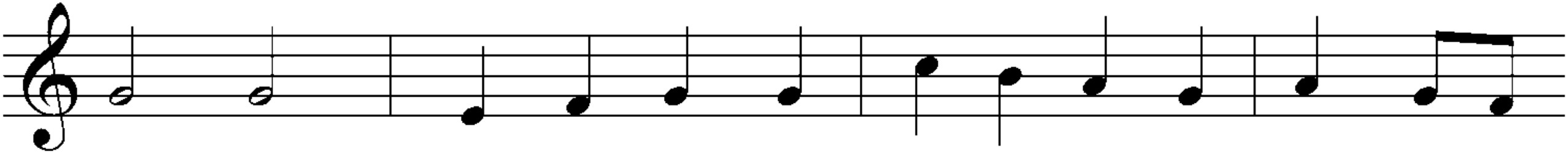
P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

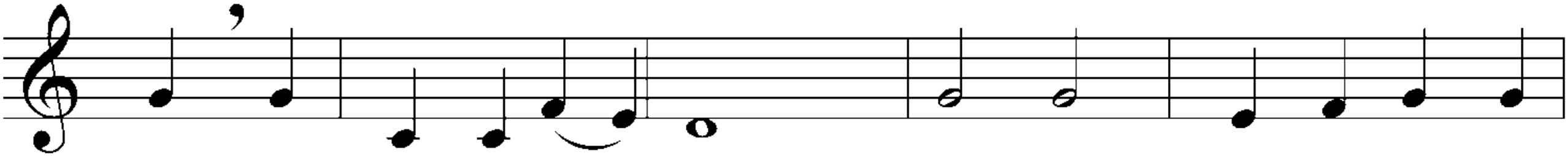
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: 

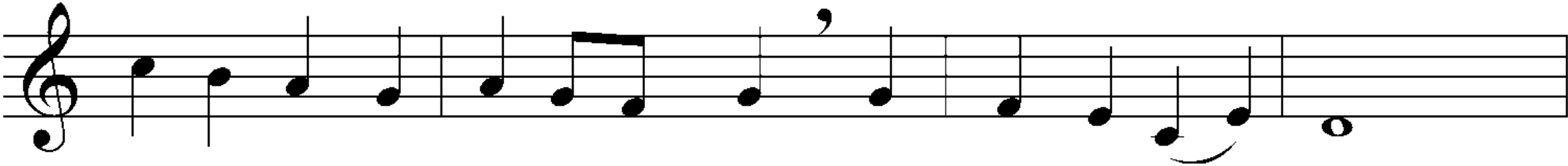
Agnus Dei: O Christ, Lamb of God



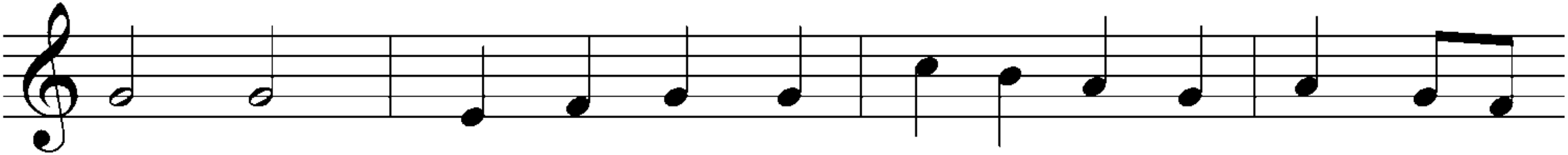
O Christ, Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the



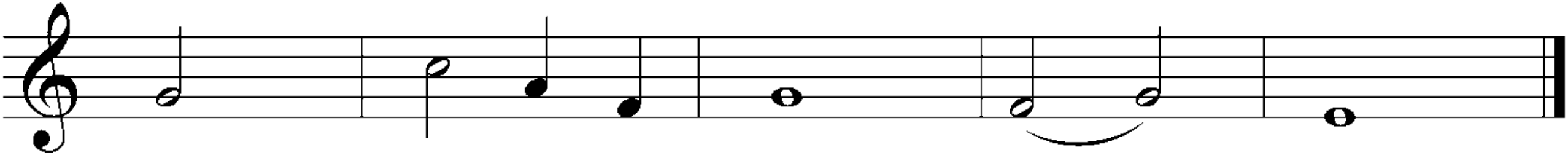
world; have mer-cy on__ us. O Christ, Lamb of God, You



take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on__ us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us Your peace. A - men.

Distribution

Communicant members of Ascension Lutheran and other churches in fellowship in the WELS or ELS are invited to receive the Lord's Supper. If you have never communed with us before, we ask that you first speak with our pastor to learn how you can establish a communing fellowship with us. We are eager to help anyone to take this step.

Please Note: The center cups of the individual trays contain white grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are labeled on a separate center tray.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: #517

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness (vs.1-3)

V1.Praise the one who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light;
praise the one who frees the pris'ners,
turning blindness into sight.
Praise the one who preached the gospel,
healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands
with the Father's word of peace.

V2.

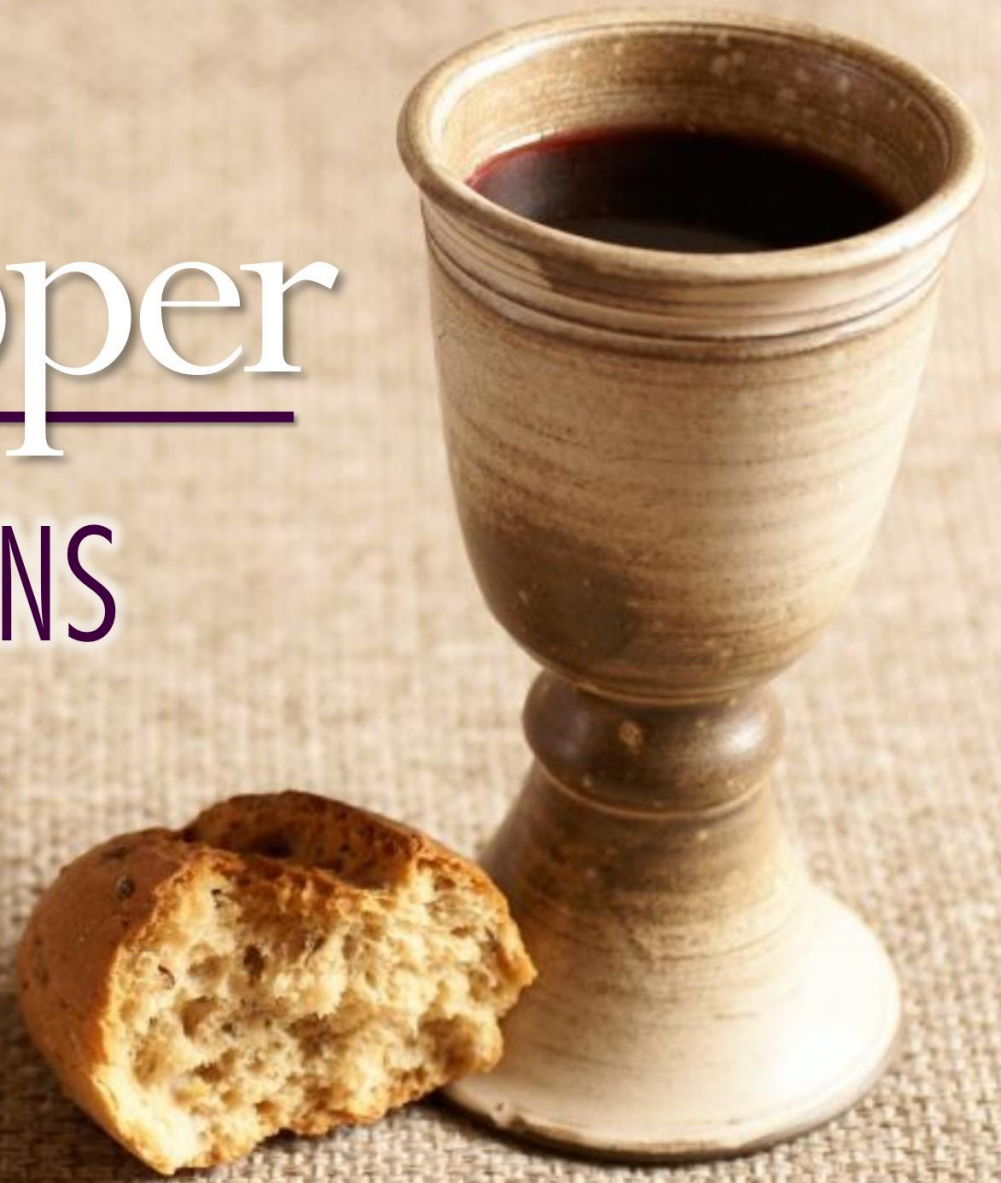
Praise the one who blessed the children
with a strong, yet gentle, word;
praise the one who drove out demons
with the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the one who brings cool water
to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water,
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

V3.

Let us praise the Word incarnate,
Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose victorious
that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done;
let us praise the true Redeemer,
praise the one who makes us one.

The Blessings of
The Lord's Supper

RECEIVE FORGIVENESS OF SINS
LIFE AND SALVATION



Prayer

P: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

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: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:

#319 On My Heart Imprint Your Image (v.1)

V1. On my heart imprint your image,
blessed Jesus, King of grace,
that life's riches, cares, and pleasures
have no pow'r to hide your face.
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
is my life, my hope's foundation,
and my glory and salvation.

Announcements

exactly
what i need

Connection Card

Please take a moment and fill out the info on the connection card, located under the Worship Today button on our app or on our website. There is a tablet in entryway or scan the QR code. Please fill out and submit.

Lent Worship

Pastor Josh Olson

"The Truth, the Whole Truth, and Nothing but the Truth"

3.18.26 | 7:00pm

It Is Finished

The Holy Week Prophecies of Zechariah

CELEBRATE EASTER

Flower Sign-Up Available

Pricing & Sign-up sheets are available on the Group Life Board

Contact Beth Svendsen if you have questions.

The Giving Tree

Helping to update preschool classroom materials

- Items available at a variety of prices
- Order gift cards on site
- Donate cash or check (at base of tree)

ASCENSION
LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

Lakeshore®

A/V VOLUNTEER NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to help with streaming services and bible studies.

Talk to Stu Gilbert or Christy Roloff for more information.

GOD IS OUR
REFUGE & STRENGTH
SACRED
CONCERT
SUNDAY, MARCH 15TH, 2026 • 2 PM
FEATURING LENT AND EASTER MUSIC
WEST LUTHERAN
3350 Harbor Lane North, Plymouth, MN

ONE SOUND.

ONE SAVIOR.

Faith from every nation.

2026 WELS REGIONAL

Band Fest

Sunday, March 22nd • 2 PM

All are welcome to attend the concert at West Lutheran or watch via live stream (link to come).

WEST LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

3350 Harbor Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55442

763-509-9378 • WLHS.NET

Thanks for Serving

- Pianist/Organist: Marcia Michalik
- Ascension Arise Band
- AV Team
- Serving: Flock #5 – Randy Hebb

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