

6th Sunday after Epiphany

February 16, 2020

11:00 a.m.



In today's reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We too are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.

**Ascension Lutheran Church
827 Wildwood Ave
Columbia, SC 29203
(803) 786-6429**

**Ascension.elca@gmail.com
The Rev. Jackie Utley, Pastor**

WELCOME VISITORS

The Lutheran Liturgical Service is meant to be interactive. You will be able to follow & participate in today's Order of Service using this Bulletin. There are helpful instructions italicized throughout but please ask a neighbor or one of the Ushers if you have any questions. We invite you to partake in the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion.) Please fill out the attendance slip located in the bulletin and place in the Offering Plate. We welcome and encourage children in the Sanctuary. However, there is a Nursery located at the very end of the main hallway. The Women's Restroom is located through the left door, continuing through The Choir Room, then to the left. A gender-neutral Handicap Restroom is located through the right door and is immediately to the left. Another gender-neutral restroom is located at the very end of the hall, beside the Nursery.

SERVING ASCENSION TODAY

Parish Pastor: *Rev. Jackie Utley*

Parish Musician: *Gregory Stone*

Ushers: *Billy Browder & Congregant*

Crucifer: *Billy Browder*

Assistant Minister & Lector: *Minister LaVone Griffin*

Communion Assistants: *Minister LaVone Griffin & Congregant*

NOTICES

TODAY

Sunday, February 16th – Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

- 10:00 AM Coffee Break Fellowship Hour
- 10:30 AM Chancel Choir Warm-up
- 11:00 AM Holy Communion Service

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of Pastor Jackie by the Leisure Time Group.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, February 18th

- 4:00 PM M.O.R.E. Justice Network Member Meeting

Wednesday, February 19th

- 5:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 6:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

NEXT SUNDAY

Sunday, February 23rd – Transfiguration of Our Lord

- 10:00 AM Adult Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Chancel Choir Warm-up
- 11:00 AM Holy Communion Service

Music Ministry Notes



Would you like to sing on the Chancel Choir or give the Handbells a try? Did you know you don't have to be experienced in reading music or playing an instrument to be a successful choir member?

Join us!

All (*meaning visitors too*) are welcome to participate!

The Handbell & Chancel Choirs rehearse on Wednesday evenings & Sunday mornings.

Sunday Mornings:

Every Sunday - Chancel Choir @ 10:30 AM
Anthem Sundays Only – Handbells @ 9:30 AM

Wednesday Evenings:

February 5th – Chancel @ 5:15 PM, Handbells @ 6:15 PM
February 12th – Chancel @ 5:15 PM, Handbells @ 6:15 PM
February 19th – Chancel @ 5:15 PM, Handbells @ 6:15 PM
February 26th – Chancel @ 5:15 PM, Handbells @ 6:15 PM

If you would like to learn more about The Music Ministry at Ascension, contact our Parish Musician, Greg Stone, at 803-609-5124 or gstone@sc.rr.com

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Pr Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the eternal voice from heaven,
the anointed and beloved one,
the Spirit moving over the waters.

All Amen.

Pr As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession,
trusting the love of Christ crucified and risen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pr God who searches us and knows us,
**All you have shown us what is good,
but we have looked to other lights to find our way.
We have not been just in our dealings with others.
We have chosen revenge over mercy.
We have promoted ourselves instead of walking humbly with you.
With what shall we come before you?
Forgive us our sin, and show us your salvation
in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

Pr Beloved of God,
you have not received the spirit of the world,
but the Spirit that is from God,
poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ.
Receive the promise of baptism:
You are God's child; ☩ your sins are forgiven.
Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the reign of heaven.

All Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN ELW 524 *What Is This Place*

APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pr The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pr Let us pray.

O God, the strength of all who hope in you,
because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you.

**All Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do,
and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

We sit.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

[Moses said to the people:] ¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

L The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 119:1-8

Ken Butler and Crystal Freie, cantors

The Psalm will be canted antiphonally by the cantors.

¹Happy are they whose | way is blameless,
who follow the teaching | of the LORD!

²Happy are they who observe | your decrees
and seek you with | all their hearts,

³who never do | any wrong,
but always walk | in your ways.

⁴You laid down | your commandments,
that we should | fully keep them.

⁵Oh, that my ways were made | so direct
that I might | keep your statutes!

⁶Then I should not be | put to shame,
when I regard all | your commandments.

⁷I will thank you with | a true heart,
when I have learned your | righteous judgments.

⁸I will | keep your statutes;
do not utter- | ly forsake me.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

¹Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

L The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Stand as you are able.

³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,
³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great
King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or
black. ³⁷Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes
from the evil one.”

Pr The Gospel of the Lord
All Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit.

SERMON

A brief silence for reflection.

Stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 815 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

APOSTLES’ CREED

AM As the called people of God,
we profess our faith in the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

**All I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

SONG OF PETITION

The following will be sung before the Prayers of Intercession



Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole; peace to all people,
hope for each soul. God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

ELW 178, text and music: Paul Andress, b. 1956.
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition: Pr/L: Hear us, O God. All: Your mercy is great.

(L = Lay member/visitor/child; Pr = Pastor)

Pr Trusting that God hears us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

L Shepherding God, you protect and guide us with your word. Lead your church into ever closer relationship with you, that we might better know your commands, hold fast to your decrees, and live in your law. Hear us, O God.

All Your mercy is great.

L God of the cosmos, heaven and earth bear witness to the splendor of all you have created. Bless the ground, trees, waterways, and skies with abundant life. Restore synergy between humankind and the natural world, that we may live in harmony with the world you have made. Hear us, O God.

All Your mercy is great.

L God of peace, you show solidarity with all who suffer. Bring an end to violence, war, discrimination, and all other forms of deadly hate, that we may experience your love through the power of justice. Hear us, O God.

All Your mercy is great.

L God of growth, you nurture this community. Cultivate in us a spirit of service to one another, and bless us in the ministry we share. Hear us, O God.

All Your mercy is great.

(Prayers continue next page)

Pr God of hope, you provide bountifully for all people. Use our lives to alleviate global injustice and eliminate poverty, that all benefit from the abundant gifts you pour out for your people. Bring wholeness to all who live with illness and strengthen the sick. We pray especially for these members of our Church Family and loved ones who are at home or in care centers. Comfort their hearts and ours with your powerful presence:

All	Theresa “Beth” Frick	Margarie Lever	Charlene Van Patten
	Carolyn Harwell	Lisa Mosely	Dorothy Van Patten
	Ava Hudson	Delores Richardson	
	David Lever	Gene Roof	

Pr And for those others we name aloud now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... Hear us, O God.

All Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Pr God of our ancestors, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Leah and Rachel, we give you thanks for our forebears in the faith who now rest in your eternal grace and love. Hear us, O God.

All Your mercy is great.

Pr Confident that you are able to accomplish more than we even dare to ask, we bring these prayers before you, believing in your saving grace revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

PEACE

Pr The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All And also with you.

The people may greet one another with “Peace be with you” or similar words.

We Sit.

OFFERING

Morning Has Broken
Crystal Freie and Ken Butler

arr. Cat Stevens

Stand as you are able.

OFFERING SONG *(All sing with clapping)*

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. *(Repeat all and add: Amen!)*

OFFERING PRAYER

AM Let us pray.

God of wonder,

you formed us in our mother's womb,

and from mother earth you bring forth this bread and wine.

All **We place them on your table,**

together with our lives and all that you have made.

Open the heavens to us and pour out your Spirit.

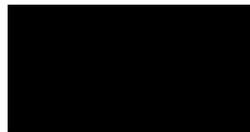
We wait for your mercy; we long for your peace;

we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ,

our banquet of life.

Amen.

+ DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION +



*This meal is the Lord's Supper of grace and is open to ALL Christians of any background or denomination. As Lutheran Christians, we believe in Christ's true presence in, with, and under the elements. When giving the bread and the cup, the Pastor says, "The body of Christ, given for you." & the Communion Assistant says, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." Each person may respond with "Amen." If you require a **gluten-free wafer** or prefer **alcohol-free grape juice**, please let the Pastor or Communion Assistants know. If at the altar, you may remain at the altar in prayer and meditation until the Pastor dismisses your section after receiving the elements. Children who have not received communion instruction are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts! We lift them to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

The musical score consists of four staves of music in a single system. Each staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are simple, mostly quarter and half notes, with some slurs and ties. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with lines of music corresponding to the words.

PREFACE FOR TIME AFTER EPIPHANY

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY HOLY HOLY

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 musical score consists of four staves of music in a single system. Each staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are simple, mostly quarter and half notes, with some slurs and ties. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with lines of music corresponding to the words.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pr Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

*Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

*This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

All Amen.



LORD'S PRAYER

Pr Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**All 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pr Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table of mercy and joy.

We sit.

LAMB OF GOD

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.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 659 *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond: Amen.

Stand as you are able.

COMMUNION BLESSING

Pr The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

All Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

AM Let us pray.

Faithful God,

you have kept your promise to us in this meal,
nourishing us with the gift of salvation.

**All Now send your servants forth in peace,
that we may testify to your goodness
and share the hope that is ours
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

BLESSING

Pr May Christ, the wisdom and power of God,
and the source of our life together,
keep you united in mind and purpose.

And the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you always.

All Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW 713 *O God of Every Nation*

DISMISSAL

Pr Go in peace. Let your light shine.

All Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Baroque Suite: IV. Allegretto*

David N. Johnson

PRAYER LIST – Our members, family, and friends with current needs:

Do you have a loved one that has an immediate & current need for prayer? Would you like that person to be added to the “Current Needs” section? Let us know by using the back of the Attendance Slip found in the Narthex or by contacting the office. The “Current Needs” section of the Prayer List can be found in the weekly Bulletin. The full Prayer List can be found in The REACH Newsletter.

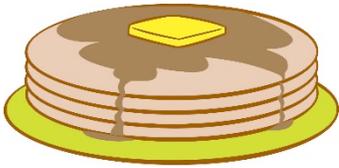
Stewardship/Receipts for Sunday, February 9th :		Attendance: 21
Program	\$1197.00	Maintenance \$ 10.00
Service	\$ 30.00	Hispanic Outreach \$ 564.00
Loose	\$ 40.00	Music Ministry \$ 5.00
Total		\$1846.00

“Coffee Break” Fellowship

*Join us for a “Coffee Break” fellowship hour
Sunday, February 16th at 10:00 a.m.
Every 3rd Sunday of the month, we are going
take a “coffee break” and enjoy some time for
simply being in fellowship with one another.
Coffee, juice, and donuts provided.*



Lent



**SHROVE
TUESDAY**

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

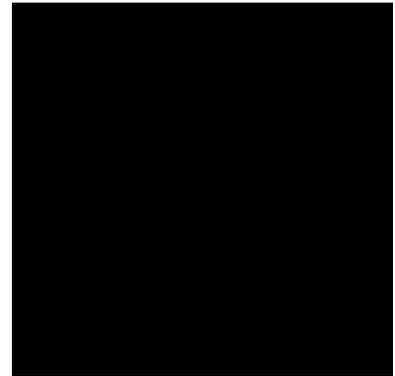
Tuesday, February 25th

6:00 PM

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, February 26th

at 12:00 Noon



LENTEN LUNCHES

Wednesdays March 4th – April 1st

Weekly Bible Study and a light lunch will be held at 12:00 Noon in the Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to sponsor a light lunch, please contact the office.