

The word of the cross
is the power of God



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

22130 Ottawa Rd. Apple Valley, CA. 92308

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1645, Apple Valley, CA 92307

Phone: (760) 247-7392, FAX: (760) 247-9014

Pastor@ascensionav.org; office@ascensionav.org

Website: www.ascensionav.org

Rev. James Harris, Pastor

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

9:00 a.m. February 1, 2026

DIVINE SERVICE SETTING ONE: Page 151

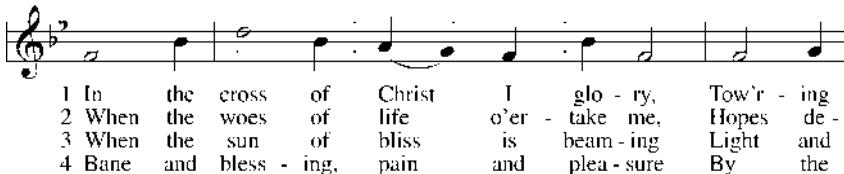
Thoughts as we gather:

God Manifests His Glory in the Humility and Weakness of Christ Crucified

The Lord tells His people, “*I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery*” (Micah 6:4). By the sacrifice of His beloved Son, He has redeemed us from our slavery of sin and death; He has forgiven our transgressions by the shedding of His blood. His great mercy and salvation lead us “*to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly*” with our God (Micah 6:8). We boast only in the incarnate and crucified Lord Jesus. He is “*the power of God and the wisdom of God*” (1 Cor. 1:24). He is our life and salvation, our “*wisdom*” and “*righteousness and sanctification and redemption*” (1 Cor. 1:30). Now He opens His mouth and teaches us His wisdom. By His cross and Passion, the kingdom of heaven is ours. We receive mercy and are satisfied; we see God and are called sons of God in Christ. “*Blessed are you,*” therefore, “*when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely*” on account of Christ (Matt. 5:11).

CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTION

427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing.
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de - .
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing, Light and.
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the.

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sacred
 ceive, and fears annoy. Never shall the cross for
 love up-on my way, From the cross the ra-diance
 cross are sane - ti-fied; Peace is there that knows no

 sto-ry Gath-ers round its head sub-lime.
 sake me: Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 stream-ing Adds more lus-ter to the day.
 mea-sure, Joys that through all time a-bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872
 Tune: Ithamar Conkey, 1815–67
 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 1:1–5; antiphon: v. 6

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

**Blessèd is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;**
but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on His law he meditates day and night.

**He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit
in its season, and its leaf does not wither.**

In all that he does, he prospers.

The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

**Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

KYRIE

LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

THIS IS THE FEAST

LSB 155

Refrain

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

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain

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

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 6:1-8

¹Hear what the LORD says:

Arise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has an indictment against His people,
and He will contend with Israel.

³“O My people, what have I done to you?
How have I wearied you? Answer Me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O My people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised,
and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,

with calves a year old?
⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
⁸He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 15; antiphon: Psalm 16:1

¹O LORD, who shall sojourn in Your tent?
Who shall dwell on Your holy hill?
**2He who walks blamelessly and does what is right
and speaks truth in his heart;**
³who does not slander with his tongue
and does no evil to his neighbor,
nor takes up a reproach against his friend;
⁴**in whose eyes a vile person is despised,
but who honors those who fear the LORD;
who swears to his own hurt and does not change;**
⁵who does not put out his money at interest
and does not take a bribe against the innocent.
He who does these things shall never be moved.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

¹⁸The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,
“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

A 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

Matthew 5:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when He sat down, His disciples came to Him.

²And He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

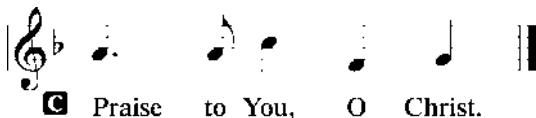
⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

842 Son of God, Eternal Savior

Musical notation for the hymn 'Son of God, Eternal Savior' in common time, treble clef. The hymn consists of four stanzas, each with a different melody. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and
2 As You, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and

truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us
oth - ers live. Free - ly have Your gifts been grant - ed:
Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion,
truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us

Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in
Free - ly may Your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and Yours the
Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease. By Your pa - tient years of
Hal - lows all our hu - man race: By Your pray - ing, by Your

glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your
sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stew - ards
toil - ing, By Your si - lent hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered
will - ing That Your peo - ple should be one, Grant, O grant our

love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
of Your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.
thirst of plea - sure, Stem our self - ish greed of gain.
hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth Your will be done.

Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855–1932, alt.

Tune: Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse . . . Contredansen, c. 1710, Amsterdam

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

Stand

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and
the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
 me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
 call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
 va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
 vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord, You have called us to good work in our various vocations. Give us courage that we might never be ashamed of Christ and Him crucified, but be free to boast in the Lord within our callings. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of all wisdom, You tell us plainly that the Word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but it is Your power to all who are being saved. Strengthen the faith of pastors and congregations, that they would not turn to man-made wisdom but boldly proclaim Christ and Him crucified. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son as the Savior of the world, that all the families of the nations might worship before You. Bless the families of this congregation with Your grace and protection, that they might remember You in both joy and trouble and worship before You forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord of lords, You rescued Your people from Egypt and confounded Balak, king of Moab, for their protection. Guide the decisions and actions of all earthly authorities, that Your people may live in peace and quietness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, when Christ returns in His glory You promise to wipe away every tear from every eye. Comfort those who mourn. Heal and deliver, according to Your good and gracious will, those troubled by sickness and affliction *[including _____]*. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of all righteousness, You command us to be holy as You are holy, and You sanctify us with Your Son's body and blood. Prepare the hearts of all who partake of the Sacrament today, that they might repent of their sin, trust in Your promises and find their righteousness in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Holy Father, You know the way of the righteous. Preserve Your people from walking in the counsel of the wicked, from standing in the way of sinners and from sitting in the seat of scoffers. By Your grace, cause them to delight in Your Holy Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

C **Amen.**

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).

Sit

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Communion Statement

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor or an Elder.

PREFACE

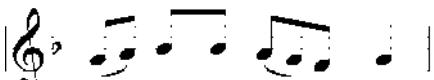
LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.



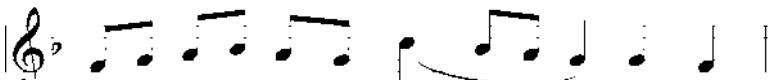
C And al - so with you.

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, right, and salutary 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 what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

C Holy, holy, holy 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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.

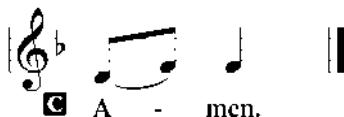
THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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 \ddagger 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 \ddagger blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



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
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION

618 I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and
 2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners
 3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I
 4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my
 5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
 may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in
 have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt
 soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -
 bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
 faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.
 ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:
 ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
 heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.

Refrain



Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677-1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.

Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, 1756, Leipzig

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000276

Tune: Public domain

628 Your Table I Approach



1 Your ta - ble I ap - proach; Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer.
2 Lord, I con-fess my sins And mourn their wretch-ed bands;
3 Your bod - y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
4 Search not how this takes place, This won - drous mys - ter - y;



Let not an un - re - pen-tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there.
A con - trite heart is sure to find For - give - ness at Your hands.
Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty.
God can ac - com - plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be.

5 O grant, most blessed Lord,
That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament
Raise doubt within my mind.

6 Oh, may I never fail
To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood,
O God, my peace and light.

Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633-1722; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828-1915, alt.
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and pre-serve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.
C Amen.

THANK THE LORD

LSB 164



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



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



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

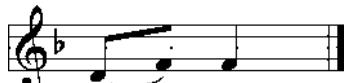


with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray.

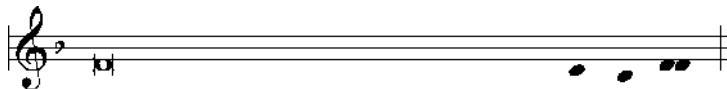
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

BENEDICTION

LSB 166



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



C A - men.

Sit

824 May God Bestow on Us His Grace

1 May God be - stow on us His grace, With bless - ings rich pro -
 2 Thine o - ver all shall be the praise And thanks of ev - 'ry
 △ 3 O let the peo - ple praise Thy worth, In all good works in -

vide us; And may the bright - ness of His face
 na - tion; And all the world with joy shall raise
 creas - ing; The land shall plen - teous fruit bring forth,

To life e - ter - nal guide us. That we His sav - ing
 The voice of ex - ul - ta - tion. For Thou shalt judge the
 Thy Word is rich in bless - ing. May God the Fa - ther,

health may know, His gra - cious will and plea - sure.
 earth, O Lord, Nor suf - fer sin to flour - ish;
 God the Son, And God the Spir - it bless us!

And al - so to the na - tions show Christ's rich - es with - out
 Thy peo - ple's pas - ture is Thy Word Their souls to feed and
 Let all the world praise Him a - lone, Let sol - emn awe pos -

mea - sure And un - to God con - vert them.
 nour - ish, In righ - teous paths to keep them.
 sess us. Now let our hearts say, "A - men!"

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800-87, alt.

Tune: David Lee, 1956

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
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SERVING SERVICE TODAY:

ELDER	Rick Ferrell
HEAD USHER	Bruce Benson

SUNDAY READINGS

The readings for Sunday, February 8, 2026 are:

Isaiah 58:3-9a

Psalm 112:1-9 (antiphon: v.4)

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)

Matthew 5:13-20

February 1 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

1 Corinthians 1:20 – “Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?” God’s ways are certainly not the world’s ways, including the way God tells us to manage the resources He’s given to us. The world says, “hold on, hold back and gather up.” Jesus says to store up treasure in heaven where moth and rust do not destroy and where no thief breaks in to steal. Whose way do you think is best? What is wiser: the wisdom of the financial gurus or the foolishness of God?

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Sun. (02/01)	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Service Bible Study
Mon. (02/02)	4:00 p.m.	Youth Confirmation Class
Wed. (02/04)	11:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Bible Study Adult Confirmation Class
Sat. (02/07)	9:00 a.m.	Ladies Bible Study
Sun. (02/08)	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Service Bible Study

ATTENDANCE:

01/25/2026 9:00 a.m. 53

OFFERING:

Needed weekly:	\$ 4,501.00	Needed YTD	\$ 18,004.00
Rec'vd. 01/25/2026	<u>\$ 2,808.00</u>	Rec'vd YTD	<u>\$ 21,222.45</u>
Short Weekly	\$ (1,693.00)	Over YTD	\$ 3,218.45

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome you and invite you to join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall after service. Be sure to check in with Debbie in the Narthex before service. Visitors are asked to sign the guest book in the Narthex, please include your address and home church. If this is your first time attending Holy Communion at Ascension, please speak with the Pastor or an Elder prior to the service.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

YOUTH—Confirmation Class will be held on Monday, February 9, at 4:00 p.m.

ADULT— Confirmation Class will be held on Wednesday, February 11, at 6:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY POTLUCK

A fun-filled potluck and dessert auction is scheduled for February 15th at 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board for homemade goodies to be auctioned off during the potluck. All proceeds will be going to our Pacific Southwest District Missions. For the potluck we are dividing up what food to bring by last name: **A-E** Main Dish; **F-M** Salad or Finger Foods; and **N-Z** Dessert to share (not for the Auction).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Lent by Candlelight service is scheduled for February 22, 2026 @ 10:30 a.m. The theme for the service is Ashes to Stone: Symbols of Lent. Please bring your favorite finger foods to be served after the service which will start at 10:30 a.m. instead of the normal Bible Study. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kathy Valvo at (760) 887-7125. Thank you.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

We're having Ladies Bible Study with a video series called Unshakeable by Donna Snow. I hope you can make it this Saturday, February 7 at 9:00 a.m. All women are welcome! Lynn Fairgrief is bringing an egg casserole!

SUNDAY READERS

We are looking for volunteers to be readers on Sunday mornings for the balance of the year. If you are willing, please see Ralph Hollins or Ken Porter. Thank you.

UPCOMING Events

Sunday, February 15th - Potluck and Dessert Auction at 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, February 22nd - Lent by Candlelight – “Ashes to Stone: Symbols of Lent”- immediately after service at approximately 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday, February 28th - Parish Nurse event “BP, Healthy Eating and Walking

Sunday, April 5th – Easter Pancake Breakfast – immediately after service in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday, May 9th – Ladies Gathering “Garden of Friends”

Saturday, June 13th – Men’s Gathering “Bicycling Along”

Sunday, June 28th – Annual Summer BBQ at 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday, September 5th - Parish Nurse event “Fall into Cleanliness”

Sunday, October 18th – Oktoberfest Potluck at 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, November 29th – Advent by Candlelight - immediately after service at approximately 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall

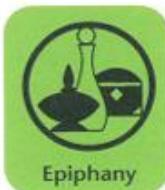
Sunday, December 13th – Congregational Christmas Party- at 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

Prayer and Praises" is your personal invitation to join with the Prayer Ministry of our church in daily prayer. If you would like someone to stay on the prayer list, please call the church office at 760-247-7392, put your request on the prayer cards in the church, or go on-line at www.ascensionav.org. Otherwise, names will be removed after two months.

ACCORDING TO THEIR NEED:

Angela Alder	Mary Beuerle	Charles Blake
Tricia Blake	Devin Coole	Judy Cutler
Durfee Family	Jennifer Millgate	Beverly Moglich
Gaylor Pastella	Mildred Sears	Kevin Smith
Gwen Strasburg	Rory Tighe	Mike Adams
Bob Albert	Gabe & Nikki Amaro	Brendan Anderson
Dave Anderson	Jeff Austin	Mark Baker
Sistic Beauchamp	Red & MaryAnn Beck	Marilyn Belka
Ilona Berecki	Vivian Bingham	Grayson Blomberg
Sue Boers	Sue Brooks	Tiffany Brown
Vanessa Brown	Karrie Burke	Kyle Burton
Gabrielle Butcher	Marcia Byron	Mari Caroland
Renee Cates	Lane Ceballos	Carolyne Chaney
David Chavez	Tracy Cole	Elizabeth Collins
Cathy Connors	Pearl Coole	Robert Coole
Larry Cramins	Scott Crawley	William Creek
John Davis	Kathy Davis	Linda Davis
Nick & Julie DeRose	Samuel & Sean Detwiler	Steve Dewiggins
Matt DeWitt	Mary Diaz	Christine Dunne
Kelley Dunne	John & Ann Duran	Marge Edwards
Egger Family	Don Eliason	Janice Estrick
Heidi Evans	Lynn Fairgrief	Rosie Fernandez
Shaunah Forrest	Christian Frash	Don Garcia
Chrissie Gates	Faigie Gawn	Grace Glass
Brielle Gondola	Government	Raquel Gudino
Roger Hall	David Hanson	Pastor Harris
Kelly Havens	Jace Haynes	Jeanne Hecksel
Hunter & Justin Hedden	Harry Heike	Karlee Henson
Mike Holtgrefe	Bill Huff	Dawn Husel
Maggie Ivy	Kareem Jacobs	Avery Jamison
Norma Jenkins	Eric Jones	Jacob Jones
John & Connie Kays	Kathy Kays	Chris Kelly
Emma Kraus	Dorothy Krentz	Steve Kuhn
Anthony Kwesie	Randy Lam	Addison Lange
Debbie Lange	Jeannette Lawler	Melody LeGray
Erin Liedtky	Anthony Lopez	Dennis Lumley
Pete Maaske	Kelly Marschieder	David McDonald
Linda Merkle	Dave Meyer	Daniel Midgely
Military	Grace Miskimen	Debbie Moore
Renee Moore	Herbert & Elaine Moran	Amanda Netzell
Lauren Newmann	Michelle Nichol	Lori O'Neil
Donna Park	Sandy Park	David Parker
Glenn & Nancy Pastella	Richard & Alice Pastella	Seunghee Pastella
Tim & Marguerite Pastella	Michelle Patterson	Esperanza Perez
Jose Perez	Heidi Perry	Kelley Pulone
Sue Purbaugh	Marilyn Quade	Mel & Mary Quicke
Michele Rawlins	Penny Reese	Christian Rhoades
Dave Riffel	Bill Robertson	Crystal Roblero
Kathy Rodere	Linda Roque	Carla Rosen
Jeffery Rout	Beth Rubio	Rick Schmidt
Josh Seau	Chris Segard	Margi Segnari
Noreen Selle	Ray Shaffer	Bea Shelby
Diane Short & Short Family	Ed Scott Smith	Shirley Smith
Manuel Sousa	Vanessa Sowders	Janet Surber
Carol Thomas	Sarah Thomas	Matthew & Tina Thorn
Diana Thornbury	Stan Thorne	Randy Tilson
Curtis & Cyndy Todd	Joshua Todd	Richard Torres
Fran Truslow	Denise Turner	Sue Twarowski
Ron & Peggy Updike	Stan Vacek	Brandon Vess
Tammy Wall	Rosa & Paul Wallace	Melanie Waters
Sharon Waters	Charlie West	Nancy Williams
Beverly Wilson	Stacy Wilson	Wilma Wilson
Curtis Wise	Cynthia Yancho	Ray Zayas

SAFE TRAVELS: Mike & Kathy Benzow



About the Cover: Looking up to a man hanging on a cross is considered foolishness to many people in this world. God's Word teaches us that, by faith, we see in Christ's work on the cross the power of God, which brings us forgiveness and salvation. Because of the powerful work of Christ on the cross, we see that "the foolishness of God is wiser than men" (1 Corinthians 1:25). Forgiveness is only found in Jesus, God's Son, who died on the cross to forgive our sins.