

# Ascension Lutheran Church

**“O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever”**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter ..... May 3, 2020**

**Welcome, All, In the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord!**

*Birthdays in May: Matthew Lilly, Gordon Johnson, Daryl Cook, Betty Blanton, Fred DeBell, Eva McCombs, Caleb Richards, Jenny White, Chase Buchanan, Lynette Hoffman, Luis Vasquez, Ronnie Blanton, Gary Hart, and Jacob Smolzer*

## **PRELUDE**

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the + Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.  
To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**HYMN #778 ..... "The Lord's My Shepherd"**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Psalm 30**

<sup>1</sup>I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up,  
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.  
<sup>2</sup>O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.  
<sup>3</sup>O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol,  
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.  
<sup>4</sup>Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.  
<sup>5</sup>For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime.  
Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.  
<sup>6</sup>As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."  
<sup>7</sup>By your favor, O LORD, you had established me as a strong mountain;  
you hid your face; I was dismayed.  
<sup>8</sup>To you, O LORD, I cried, and to the LORD I made supplication:  
<sup>9</sup>"What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit?  
Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?  
<sup>10</sup>Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me! O LORD, be my helper!"  
<sup>11</sup>You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth  
and clothed me with joy,  
<sup>12</sup>so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.  
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 15:32-38**

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the fifteenth chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>32</sup>Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way." <sup>33</sup>The disciples said to him, "Where are we to get enough bread in the desert to feed so great a crowd?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus asked them, "How many loaves have you?" They said, "Seven, and a few small fish." <sup>35</sup>Then ordering the crowd to sit down on the ground, <sup>36</sup>he took the seven loaves and the fish; and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>37</sup>And all of them ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. <sup>38</sup>Those who had eaten were four thousand men, besides women and children.

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

**SERMON** ..... The Rev. Christina Auch

**HYMN #764** ..... **"Have No Fear, Little Flock"**

**NICENE CREED**

God has gathered his people into one Church through Christ. Together with sisters and brothers throughout the world, we confess our faith.

**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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence before the petitions are prayed.*

Shepherding God, we thank you for the educational ministries of your church. Enrich the work of teachers, professors, mentors, advisors, and faculty at colleges, seminaries, and learning sites. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creating God, we praise you for those who maintain and operate farm equipment, for those who plant and harvest crops, for local farmers' markets, and for those involved in agriculture of any kind. Strengthen their hands as they feed the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guiding God, no one should be in want. Bid the nations to return to your paths of righteousness and inspire our leaders to walk in your ways, so that all may have the opportunity to live abundantly and sustainably. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Comforting God, you carry us tenderly. We pray for those who walk through dark valleys overshadowed by anxiety and overwhelmed with suffering. We pray especially for those we name aloud now or silently in our hearts...

**Mary** Allen (Karen Hubbard's friend), **Kathy** Backof (Donna Lilly's friend), **Dan** Birch (Carol Berger's brother-in-law), **Carolyn** Blitz (Bill Bridges' friend), **Kathy** Bradley (friend of Bill Bridges), **Chris** Carman (Judy Bridges' friend), **Betty** Connor (Karen Hubbard's friend), **Edna** Cooper (Bill Bridges Aunt), **Joan** Craig (Clarann Schiavo's friend), **The Davenport Family** (Dave and Priscilla Williams' friend), **Pat** Farley (Karen Hubbard's friend), **Ann** Fitzsimmons (Steve and Jenny White's friend), **Evan** Greene (Allen Philbeck friend's son), **Mike** Greene (Gail Sherman's friend), **Markye and Carl** Greenwald (DeBells' friends), **The Holidia Family** (friend of Lisa Philbeck), **Michael** Huntsinger (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Mack** Jenkins (Dave Williams' friend), **Patti** Jenkins (Priscilla Williams' friend), **Steve** Jolly (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Mark** Kent (Majorie Olsen's son), **Cathy** Kingsborough (friend of the Lacy/Smolzer family), **Becky and George** Kraft (Karen Hubbard's friends), **Jim** Lilly (Dick and Donna Lilly's son), **Kevin** Lilly (Vicky Galloway's 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin), **Anne** Lyerly (Rose Cook's sister-in-law), **Eva** McCombs (Sandra Waldrop's mother), **Jameson** McGill (Pastor Christina's friends' son), **Bernice** McDaniels (Dean Davis' daughter), **Janice** McGoven (Eleanor Hendricks' sister), **Charlotte** Morin (Priscilla Williams' friend), **Teresa** Olsen (Marjorie Olsen's daughter-in-law), **Bob** Patzer (Carol Berger's

brother-in-law), **Margaret** Peruzzi (Carol Berger's mother), **Tommy** Price (Edith Kelly's nephew), **Beth** Rhyne (Ladley and Jane Burn's friend), **Harold** Rhyne (Ladley and Jane Burn's friend), **Lori** Rosamond (Pastor Christina's stepsister), **Pastor Eric** Sellers (Priscilla Williams' friend), **Zuzana** Rybnicek (The Blalock's friend), **Jan** Tucker (Ozark bank employee), **The Vonbehren Family** (Barbara Davis' cousins), **Renee** Walton, **Molly and Darryl** Waterstraat (Karen Hubbard's friends), **Alfie** Welch (Renee Buchanan's brother), **Eric** West (Bob and Vickie Jones' son-in-law), **Christopher** Willever (David Williams' grandson), **Mary Ann** Woolley (Sandra Waldrop's aunt), **Denise and Savannah** Yount (Sandra Waldrop's friends)

**Members:** **Dean** Davis, **Lin** Washburn, **Dot** Paul, **Bob** Bryant, **Jane** Sneed, **William** Coyne, **Jim** Wilson, **Steve** Eckard, **Sandy** Harman, **Bobbie** Johnson, **Bobby** Jones, **Marjorie** Olsen, **Gerald** Washburn

**In Undergraduate College:** Emma Auch, Brooke Buchanan, Parker Hart, Elizabeth Hoffman, Samantha Hoffman, Jacob Stone

**Those Awaiting Arrival of Children:** Emma and Patrick Budzinski (daughter and son-in-law of Greg and Chrystal Blalock); Jordan and Suzanne McKillop (son and daughter-in-law of Gail and Dale McKillop)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, you desire justice for the hungry. Bless advocacy work, food pantries, and feeding ministries in our community. May none of our neighbors lack for basic needs. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Everlasting God, your beloved have heard your voice; you have called them by name and guided them to your side in death. We thank you for their lives of faithful witness.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace on video or say: "Peace be with you" from wherever you are or type it in the chat or comments.*

**OFFERING**

Make a one time or recurring gift using **the website** or **the GivePlus app** on iPhone or Android. You can give using ACH (bank account), Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.

Or **text 844-906-2283** and enter the amount you wish to donate. Then click the registration link and enter your payment information. You will receive a verification text as well as an email receipt. For future giving, simply send a text to the same number with the amount you wish to give, and your donation will process automatically.

Or mail your regular tithe or offering to PO Box 266, Shelby, NC 28151.

**OFFERTORY**

**“Doxology”**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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.**

**HYMN #883**

**“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the Good News.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Coronavirus Response:** All face to face, in person gatherings at Ascension are canceled through Sunday, May 10.

**Prayer Concerns:** Please call or email the office or text Pastor Christina at 704-472-7783 to update prayer requests. You may leave a voicemail but please provide the spelling of any names, and your relationship to the person being prayed for.

**Please continue your tithes and offerings.** Make a one time or recurring gift using **the website** or **the GivePlus app** on iPhone or Android. You can give using ACH (bank account), Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.

Or **text 844-906-2283** and enter the amount you wish to donate. Then click the registration link and enter your payment information. You will receive a verification text as well as an email receipt. For future giving, simply send a text to the same number with the amount you wish to give, and your donation will process automatically.

Or **mail your regular tithe or offering** to PO Box 266, Shelby, NC 28151.

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## **Ascension Lutheran Church**

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**Steve White, Organist**

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**Daryl Cook, Council President ..... 704-418-3103**