



“A New Commandment:
Love One Another”

Ascension Lutheran Church
Landover Hills, Maryland
Church Phone: 301-577-0500
www.alutheranchurch.com



Fifth Sunday Of Easter

April 28, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome and Notices

Prelude

“Erhalt uns, Herr”
arr. Anne Krentz Organ

(Stand) Invocation and Confession

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

(Kneel Sit)

L: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

L: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,

C: and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

L: Most Merciful God,

C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.

L: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given his only Son to die for us and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in his name he gives power to become children of God and has promised them his Holy Spirit. They who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all.

C: Amen.

(Stand) Greeting

L: He is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Gathering Hymn

ELW 359

“Where Charity and Love Prevail”

Text: Latin hymn, 9th. cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.
Text © 1960 World Library Publications.

1. **Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love,
by love we thus are bound.**
2. **With grateful joy and holy fear,
God's charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and soul
now love God in return.**
3. **Let us recall that in our midst
dwells Christ, God's holy Son;
as members of each body joined,
in him we are made one.**
4. **Let strife among us be unknown;
let all contentions cease.
Be God's the glory that we seek;
be his our only peace.**

- 5. Let us forgive each other's faults
as we our own confess,
that we may love each other well
in Christian gentleness.**

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you!

L: Let us pray.

C: O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Sit) The First Lesson

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. ²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

The Second Lesson

1 John 4:1-21

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of

truth and the spirit of error.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

(Stand) Verse “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!”
ELW385 v.1 Cyril Argentine Alington | Melchior Vulpius.
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**Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

The Holy Gospel

John 15:1-8

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

R: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Sit) Message

(Stand) Hymn of the Day “We Know That Christ Is Raised”
ELW449

Text: John B. Beyer, b. 1932, alt.

Tune: Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924

- 1. We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,
And our despair he turned to blazing joy.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**
- 2. We share by water in his saving death.
Reborn, we share with him an Easter life,
As living members of our Savior Christ.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**
- 3. The Father’s splendor clothes the Son with life.
The Spirit’s fission shakes the Church of God.
Baptized, we live with God the Three in One.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**
- 4. A new creation comes to life and grows.
As Christ’s new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe restored and whole will sing:
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from
the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**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.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He 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.**

(Kneel/Sit) Prayers



We come to you god- with op -en heartspray ing To ask for your heal ing and
7
bless -ing a bound. We pray to you knee ling with heads bowed in -
12
wit ness the glo - ry of your pow - er and un bound less love.
Text: Ben Harris
Music: KREMSER, A Valerius, Nederianatsch Gedanckelarck, 1626

L: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs:

(After each portion of the prayers:)

C: Hear our prayer.

(The prayers conclude:)

L: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

(Stand) Sharing of the Peace

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

All may greet one another with a word of peace.

(Sit) The Gathering of Gifts

Any tithes or offerings may be placed into the offering plate by the entrance to the Sanctuary at the beginning or the end of service. For those who are worshipping with us via live-stream, please consider mailing your offering to the Church office or giving online through our website

Anthem
Senior Choir

“I Will Rise”
Craig Courney/Lynda Hasseler

(Stand) Presentation of Gifts

ELW 881

“Let All Things Now Living”
Text: Katherine K. Davis; Tune: Welsh folk tune

- 1. Let all things now living A song of thanksgiving
To God the creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, Protected and stayed us,
Who still guides us on the end of our days.
God’s banners are o’er us, His light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
Till shadows have vanished And darkness is banished,
As forward we travel from light into light.**

Offering Prayer

L: Let us pray. Gracious God,

C: In the abundance of your steadfast love, you call us from death to life, from silence to speech, from idleness to action. With these gifts we offer ourselves to you, and with the Church through all the ages we give thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**C: 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;
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Benediction

L: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

L: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

ELW 452

“Awake, O Sleeper”

Text: F. Bland Tucker; Music: Carl G. Glaser

- 1. Awake, O sleeper, rise from death
and Christ shall give you light;
so learn his love, its length and breadth,
it’s fullness, depth, and height.**
- 2. To us on earth he came to bring
from sin and fear release,
to give the Spirit’s unity,
the very bond of peace.**

3. **Then walk in love as Christ has loved,
who died that he might save;
with kind and gentle hearts forgive
as God in Christ forgave.**

4. **For us Christ lived, for us he died,
and conquered in the strife.
Awake, arise, go forth in faith,
and Christ shall give you life.**

Sending

L: Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing”

arr. J. Wayne Kerr

SERVING US IN WORSHIP

Assistant	Morris Hymes, Jr.
Musician:	Ben Harris, Parish Musician
Reader	Mike Walker
Message	Stephany Sims
Greeters	Melanie Demones
Altar Guild	Gloria Malachi, Kathy Garrett, Roberta White, Barbara Thom
Ushers	John Corkill, Calvin Lee, Ekanem Ekanem
Counters	Dianne Yohe, Harry Sessums

Adult Bible Study

We are happy to announce that Ascension will be offering a new in- person adult Bible Study class. Jenny DeMaio will be teaching and Annette Singletary has graciously agreed to be the substitute if needed. The class will be focused on the book of Matthew. Our text will be Life Lessons from Matthew by Max Lucado. Themes in the study include: 1. The Birth and Preparation of the Messiah 2. Jesus' Ministry in Galilee 3. Jesus' Last Days on Earth. The series is divided into twelve lessons. Ascension will be purchasing books for those interested in joining us.

Class will be held on Sunday mornings following church service the weeks that choir is not rehearsing. That will allow those who participate in choir to join. Based upon the current choir schedule, Bible Study will meet on the following weeks in 2024:

April 28;

May 12 and 26; June 9 and 30

Ascension has purchased the texts for Bible class. Donations of \$10.00 to cover the costs of books would be appreciated. Please earmark checks for Bible study materials payable to Ascension.

Acknowledgments

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Prayer List

*In order to keep the prayer list current the **Board of Elders** will edit the list once a month. If you have the name of a loved one that you would like to keep on the prayer list permanently, please contact Marj Nilsson @ 301-442-6253 marjorienilsson@hotmail.com.*



Sunday @6

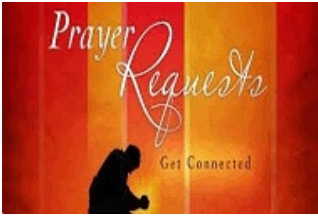
To the Homebound and Sick, we invite you to participate in Sunday @ 6, a weekly worship call. We have prayer, Scripture, a devotion and music. We invite, welcome and encourage you to join us in Christian fellowship every Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

The call is toll-free:(267) 807-9601

Sunday @ 6

Enter this code:773-431-475 #

For further information, call Alice Gaither at (301) 459-4194!



Ascension Lutheran Church Prayer Request

Please put your prayer requests in the Prayer Diary at the rear of the Sanctuary so we can add your need to our prayers.

Darrell Prather, nephew of Alice Gaither, prayers for healing.

Ginny Lee and Family upon the recent passing of her brother-in-law, Maynard Honesty.

Gloria Malachi and Family upon the recent passing of Sam Malachi

Bette Carpio, Prayers for healing and comfort

Jenny DeMaio, Prayers for healing.

Amy Scully and Family, Upon the recent passing of Bill Kley

Family of Robin Sands, Upon her recent passing

Marj Nilsson, Prayers for healing.

Calvin Lee, Prayers for healing.

Lewis Powell, Prayers for healing

Agnes Brown, Prayers for healing and recovery.

Herman McNeil, Prayers for comfort and healing.

Maria Doakes, Prayers for continued healing.

Lois Fulford, Prayers for continued healing.

Zachary Plue, Prayers for continued healing.

Susie Nilsson, Prayers for continued healing.

Joyce Bailey, Prayers for continued healing.

Helen Bell, Prayers for healing

Alice Gaither, Prayers for healing.

Kent & Walt Nilsson, Prayers for improved vision.

Ascension Shut-Ins:

John DellaGatta; Lois Flemming;

Olivia Powell; Arthur & Mildred Smith, Helen Riley.

Ascension Weekly

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Information & Notices

April 28, 2024

Services

Divine Worship

Sunday at 9:00 am

Holy Communion is celebrated in most services.

Holy Baptism

Arrangements for Baptism can be made with the Church Office.

Weddings

Weddings for active Ascension members are arranged with the Church Office

Please Note

Adult Bible Study: Bible study meets on Sundays after worship, at 10:30 am.

Staff:

Gwen Neal Office Mgr.
Ben Harris Parish Musician

Office open Mon-Fri., 8-4:30
Closed Holidays.

Send your **email address** to the Church Office at ascenluth@aol.com.

Sunday, April 28

9:00 am
10:30 am
6:00 pm

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Worship
Bible Study
Sunday @ 6

Sunday, May 5

9:00 am
6:00 pm

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Worship
Sunday @ 6



Altar Flowers Presented By

Please Note that flowers will only be provided when they are sponsored by members. Sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board in the Church Office Wing.



Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers **\$50.00**
Sanctuary Lights **\$ 5.00**

**Ascension Lutheran Church: Becoming Caring
Servants who Extend Life in Christ to Diverse people**

Call Committee Prayer Vigil:

Our designated prayer time for the Call process is 7 pm. Please remember to set some kind of an alarm for this time daily for the remainder of the call process. I know many of us are already praying, so let's have this one time daily when we do it all together.

For the Call Committee and Pastoral Candidates, please pray for...

- *The Lord's Guidance
- *The Lord's Discernment

This is not an exhaustive list so please add any other prayer that comes to mind

Thank you!
Ascension Board of Elders

Birthdays & Anniversaries This Week



**Kevin Gonsales, Charles Hiller, Leola Motley
aChao Bush, Mfon Ekanem**



SERVING US IN WORSHIP, Next Sunday, May 5

Assistant	Adam Kampia
Musician	Ben Harris
Reader	Mike Walker
Message	Dawn Doakes
Greeters	Harry & Kathy Sessums
Altar Guild	Wells Family, Ernestine Bivins, Vivian Licorish, Dianne McGill
Ushers	Dan Fulford, Jr., Carl Wilhoit, Darrell Dockery
Counters	Vivian Licorish, Morris Hymes, Jr.