February 25, 2018
9:00 AM

Just like Us
Our Guilt
WELCOME – to all who have gathered to hear the Good News of Jesus!

VISITORS – We are so glad you chose to join us today! We understand that visiting a church can be an intimidating experience. We pray that Jesus blesses and nourishes your faith through the gospel proclaimed this day. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to ask. God bless your worship!

RESTROOMS – It is located in the back room.

SMALL CHILDREN – Small children are always welcome in our service no matter how fussy they may get or how much noise they make. It is a wonderful opportunity for them to learn about worship, observe their parents listening to God’s Word and, most importantly, hear about their Savior! If you should need to take your child out for any reason you can go in the back room and still watch the service on closed-circuit TV. Thanks for bringing your kids to hear about Jesus.

CONNECT WITH US – Please fill out the connection card you received when you came in today with as much info as you are comfortable. This helps us better serve you whether you are a guest, visitor or member. Thank you for worshipping with us.

Today—Our Guilt
Guilt can be a very powerful force in our lives. Our sins and their consequences can cause all kinds of oppressive guilt.
This morning we will see Jesus share a message of love and grace with a woman who felt the oppressive guilt of her own sins. It is a message of grace that Jesus shares with us, too, because he carried the guilt of this woman, as well as our own guilt over sin to the cross.
ORDER OF SERVICE

DIVINE SERVICE II

Divine Service II is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church. All are welcome to participate in the service as indicated. The parts of the service marked M are spoken by the minister, and the parts marked C are spoken by everyone in the congregation.

OPENING SONG

Today Your Mercy Calls Us
Christian Worship 339

PLEASE STAND

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

In the confession we acknowledge our sins and ask God to forgive them. The absolution stresses the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ for our sins and the sins of the world. In the absolution we are assured that Christ has forgiven us of all our sins.

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

The congregation may kneel.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
For sins of habit and sins of choice,
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
You should cast me away from your presence forever.
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus’ sake.

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

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**
The expression “Lord, have mercy” is one of the oldest worship responses in the Christian church. After each prayer we ask for God’s mercy on us and others.

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
   For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: Amen.

**SONG OF PRAISE**

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds
Christian Worship 358 verses 1-4

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us, both outwardly and inwardly, from the temptations and lies of the world, the devil and our own sinful flesh. Defend us from all evil that may assault and hurt our souls; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.
THE WORD
This section is the heart and high point of our service. What follows is not the uncertain word of untrustworthy human beings. It is the Word of God that has called us to faith and strengthens our faith in Jesus as our Savior.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON
Genesis 12:1-8
Abram didn’t deserve God’s promises, but God’s grace sought him out.

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. 2 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." 4 So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. 5 He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. 6 Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. 7 The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him. 8 From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. (NIV)

CHILDREN'S LESSON
The children are invited up front for a message from God’s Word.
So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. 7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." 11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?" 13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." 16 He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." 17 "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." 19 "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." 21 Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." 25 The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." 26 Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he." (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise be to you, O Christ.
SONG OF THE DAY

God Loved the World So that He Gave
Christian Worship 391

SERMON:

John 4:5-26
NICENE CREED
The Creed is a summary and profession of the Christian 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 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.

Thank Offering

Our thank-offering to the Lord flows out of the thankful hearts that have received the forgiveness of sins through a crucified and risen Savior. Please take a moment and fill out the connection card and place it in the offering plate as it goes by.

For your convenience, scan this QR code or give online @ welsalc.com and click on the online giving tab.
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH
The Lord invites our prayers and promises to listen and respond according to his will.

LORD’S PRAYER
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.

LORD’S SUPPER
Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, bear witness to the fellowship we share, and proclaim his death until he returns.

M: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
M: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them up to the Lord.
M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is good and right so to do.
M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who will soon come again in glory to deliver us forever from this present evil age. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:
HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Christ destroyed death and destroyed the power of Satan. We join the saints and angels in a song of praise to our God.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**M:** 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, and 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.”

**M:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** Amen
O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

The words we sing are taken from John 1:29. Believers come as spiritual beggars and cry out to Christ, the Lamb of God.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION
On the basis of what God’s Word says, we kindly ask that only confirmed members of Ascension Lutheran partake of Holy Communion this morning. We encourage those who would like to receive Holy Communion with us in the future to speak with the Pastor before doing so.
SONG OF SIMEON

This song is from Luke chapter 2 where we are told the Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon that he would not die until he saw the Savior. When he saw Jesus, Simeon sang this song thanking God for allowing him to see his Savior. We sing these words to express our thanks for the gift of forgiveness we just received in his holy Supper.

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.
How Deep The Father’s Love
Words and Music by Stuart Townsend

How deep the Father’s love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.

How great the pain of searing loss -
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.

It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life -
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart -
His wounds have paid my ransom.

A FEW MOMENTS FOR PERSONAL PRAYER AND REFLECTION
Take a moment to reflect on today’s message, or a hymn during the service. Following
the announcements, feel free to stick around and join us for a time of fellowship.
Our Week with the Lord: February 25—March 4, 2018

Today:  
Worship w/Lord’s Supper .................................................................9:00 AM  
Family Bible Hour .................................................................10:20 AM  
Confirmation Class ............................................................11:30 AM

Wednesday:  
Lent Worship Service .................................................................6:30 PM

Thursday:  
Starting Point Class .................................................................6:30 PM

Sunday:  
Worship ..................................................................................9:00 AM  
Family Bible Hour ..................................................................10:20 AM  
Confirmation Class ............................................................11:30 AM

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Today's Lesson: Trivia Sunday  
Next Week: Jesus Heals a Captains Servant

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What does it mean to be a Lutheran Christian? To be a Lutheran Christian means to base all our teachings on the Bible. This morning we will continue looking at 12 important biblical teachings that are still just as true and relevant for us today. Join us as we explore these timeless truths.
During the season of Lent we are confronted with the harsh realities of our sins. Sin is what brings so many awful consequences into our lives. Sin is what enslaves us and brings pain and eventual death to all people. In order to free us from the power of sin, Jesus became just like us. He did that to rescue us and make us his very own.

In this new series, we will get a closer look at everything Jesus endured to save us.

Today—Our Guilt
Next Week—Our Weakness
March 11—Our Suffering
March 18—Our Sorrow

Sundays @ 9:00 AM
During that first Holy Week, Jesus’ disciples were under siege. They were tempted and often failed by sinning against Jesus in various ways. Like those disciples, we, too, are under siege and tempted by so many things. All too often we have failed and sinned against our Jesus, too. Thankfully, Jesus forgives those sins and helps us overcome all things.

**Join us this Wednesday at 6:30 pm.**

**This Wednesday**—Pastor Phil Kiecker—Thomas is Confused

3.7.18—Pastor Doug—Judas Betrays

3.14.18—Pastor Tom Glende—John Remains Silent

3.21.18—Pastor Phil Kiecker—Peter Denies
Just as a reminder for all of the women who want to participate in the 2018 Women’s Bible Study. Please make sure that you have the new study book “Living a Chocolate Life” by Deb Burma by March 1st. The first Bible Study will be taught by Colleen Kemp on March 9th at 7 pm. Please, RSVP to Colleen by March 4 so she can plan accordingly.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

As we transition from a small church to a medium size church, we understand the importance of reviewing our constitution and bylaws to ensure we are good stewards of God's blessings. The council is looking for members (male and female) to provide input on this endeavor. Our first meeting will be on March 3 at 10:00 am. here at church. Please, prayerfully consider assisting and let Zach Hare know if you would like to participate so he can keep you updated on the progress.
Mornings with Mommy is halfway done with its second semester already. We have been blessed with a large core group of children that we get to see regularly and have still been able to welcome many new families into the program since December. If you would like the opportunity to attend a session with your little one(s), you can sign up for the waitlist at www.welsalc.com. Or if you would like to volunteer an hour of your time at an upcoming session, please speak to Yuliya Lange or Michelle Greuel to find out more about how you can help.

WE THANK THOSE WHO SERVE!

**Music**
This Sunday: Mary Kollmeyer

**Ushers**
This Sunday: Zach Hare                        Next Sunday: Adam Kemp

**Sunday School Teachers**
This Sunday: Trivia Sunday—All Teachers
PreK—K—Jackie Duff
1st-4th—Leanne Couillard
5th-8th—Joe Koffman

**Last Week Attendance**
Worship: 69    Bible Class: 25    Sunday School: 20
MISSION STATEMENT
As a family of believers in our Savior Jesus Christ, we proclaim the Gospel in Word and sacrament to *gather* souls, *nurture* believers, and *encourage* Christian living within our community and throughout the world.

Ascension is a congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. We invite you to visit our congregation’s website ([www.welsalc.com](http://www.welsalc.com)) or our synod’s website ([www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net)) for more information about our locations, beliefs, and practices.

**Our Regular Sunday Morning Schedule:**
Sunday Morning Worship — 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School — 10:20 a.m.
Bible Class — 10:20 a.m.

[Ascension.WELS](http://www.ascension.wels.net)

[Email](mailto:pastor@welsalc.com)

[Visit Website](http://www.welsalc.com)