In View of God’s Mercy Offer Your Bodies as Living Sacrifices.

ROMANS 12:1
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!

RESTROOM – 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.
ORDER OF SERVICE

SERVICE OF THE WORD
The “Service of the Word” can trace its roots to the historic Christian Church. 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 HYMN
God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending
Let All the People Praise You Songbook 96

PLEASE STAND

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
C: And also with you.

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: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.
PRAYER AND PRAISE
After hearing the announcement of forgiveness, there is every reason for relief, joy, and thanksgiving. With that in mind, we sing this song with words taken from Psalm 34:8 and Psalm 119:89.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.

Blessed are they who take refuge in him.
PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever.

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

Jeremiah 15:15-21

The prophet Jeremiah experiences the great internal battle that every believer faces.

You understand, O LORD; remember me and care for me. Avenge me on my persecutors. You are long-suffering—do not take me away; think of how I suffer reproach for your sake. 16 When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart’s delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty. 17 I never sat in the company of revelers, never made merry with them; I sat alone because your hand was on me and you had filled me with indignation. 18 Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable? Will you be to me like a deceptive brook, like a spring that fails? 19 Therefore this is what the LORD says: “If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman. Let this people turn to you, but you must not turn to them. 20 I will make you a wall to this people, a fortified wall of bronze: they will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you to rescue and save you,” declares the LORD. 21 “I will save you from the hands of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the cruel.” (NIV)
SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON
Romans 12:1-8
Our bodies are living sacrifices as we live in view of God’s mercy shown through Jesus.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. 3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7 If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; 8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. (NIV)
VERSE OF THE DAY

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-26

Those who follow Jesus must deny self, and be ready to lose all things, even life itself.

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. 22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” 23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.” 24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. 26 What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!


**SERMON HYMN**

Savior, Thy Dying Love
Christian Worship 488

**SERMON:**

Romans 12:1-8

Live In View of God’s Mercy!

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

The Creed is a summary and profession of the Christian faith. This is a confession of the whole Christian Church on earth concerning the teachings of Scripture and especially about the person of Jesus Christ.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

**OFFERING**

Our thank-offering to the Lord flows out of the thankful hearts that have received the forgiveness of sins though 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 to give online.
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.

HYMN
Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us
Christian Worship 486 verses 1-3

PRAYER AND BLESSING
Having seen and heard all that the Lord has done, we are prepared to go from here in peace, to live in harmony with each other, and serve our God with gladness.

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.
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.
CLOSING HYMN

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us
Christian Worship 486 verses 4-5

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.

Thank You for Worshipping with Us!
ASCENSION
NEWS & NOTES

Our Week with the Lord: September 3—September 10, 2017

Today:                Worship...............................................................9:00 AM
                     Family Bible Hour..................................................10:20 AM

Tuesday:              Mornings with Mommy........................................10:00 AM

Wednesday:            Starting Point: Bible 101.................................6:30 PM

Thursday:             Elders Meeting..................................................5:30 PM
                     Church Council.............................................................6:30 PM

Sunday:               Worship w/Lord’s Supper.....................................9:00 AM
                     Family Bible Hour..................................................10:20 AM

Sunday School

Today’s Lesson:  God Saves Adam and Eve

Next Week:  Moses’ Birth

Memory Treasure: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16
It's already time for the next session! Are you registered for At the Farm on Tuesday? Even though all sessions for the first semester are at capacity, you can sign up for the waitlist for this, or any other session, at www.welsalc.com. We would love to have you join us for a morning of fun!

**Confirmation**

The word “confirmation” means “strengthening.” Confirmation classes comprise a two-year period of instruction in the Christian faith for our young people. Jesus commanded his Church to “teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.” The purpose of confirmation class is to strengthen the faith of the students through instruction in the Word of God, and to prepare them to receive the Lord’s Supper.

Confirmation class for 2017-2018 begins for all children in 6th—8th grade on next Sunday at 11:30 a.m. If you have any questions or want to register your child, please speak to Pastor Lange.
Building Committee Meeting
September 5 @ 6 PM

On Thursday, September 21 at 6:30 pm the women of Ascension will re-start their monthly gatherings around the Word of God. The plan is to get back into the book about the Fruits of the Spirit. You are encouraged to bring your favorite drink or snack, as well as a friend. Come and join your sisters and grow together in Jesus. If you have any questions, please speak with Angela Mckay.
WE THANK THOSE WHO SERVE!

**Music**
This Sunday: Mary Kollmeyer

**Ushers**
This Sunday: Next Sunday: Craig Lokensgard

**Last Week Attendance**
Worship: 82 Bible Class: 29 Sunday School: 27
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) or our synod’s website (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.