



# Worship the Lord your God

Matthew 4:10

## Complete Worship Folder

February 22, 2026 - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

### ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Julie Bailey, Pastor

Sunday Worship 8:00am & 10:30am

Wednesday Worship 7:00pm

## **First Sunday in Lent**

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### Welcome and Announcements

#### Confession and Forgiveness (LBW, Setting 1, pg. 56)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Most merciful God, . . . 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**

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

Hymn: "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days" (ELW 319)

O Lord, throughout these forty days  
you prayed and kept the fast;  
inspire repentance for our sin,  
and free us from our past.

You strove with Satan, and you won;  
your faithfulness endured;  
lend us your nerve, your skill, and trust  
in God's eternal word.

Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed  
and fixed your mind above;  
so teach us to deny ourselves  
that we may know God's love.

Be with us through this season, Lord,  
and all our earthly days,  
that when the final Easter dawns,  
we join in heaven's praise.

#### Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

Kyrie (sung) (LBW, Setting 1, pg. 57-58)

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

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 mercy.**

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

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C: Amen**

Prayer of the Day (LBW, Setting 1, pg. 62)

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray... **Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.. Amen.**

*Children's Message (10:30 a.m.) & Dismiss to Children's Church*

First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

<sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." <sup>3:1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

<sup>12</sup> Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned <sup>13</sup> for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come. <sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup> And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup> If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness

leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation: "Return to the Lord" (LBW, Setting 1, pg. 63)

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and abounding in steadfast love.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the fourth chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup> But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" <sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P: This is the gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "When We Are Tested" (ACS 922)

When we are tested and wrestle alone,  
famished for bread when the world offers stone,  
nourish us, God, by your word and your way,  
food that sustains us by night and by day.

When in the desert we cry for relief,  
pleading for paths marked by certain belief,  
lift us to love you beyond sign and test,  
trusting your presence, our only true rest.

When we are tempted to barter our souls,  
trading the truth for the pow'r to control,  
teach us to worship and praise only you,  
seeking your will in the work that we do.

When we have struggled and searched through the night,  
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,  
Savior, surround us with circles of care,  
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.

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.**

The Prayers of the Children of God

Each petition ends...Hear us, O God,

**Congregation responds...your mercy is great.**

Sharing of the Peace

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

Offering

Offering Song: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (ELW 803, *verse 4*)

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.

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Offering Prayer (LBW, Setting 1, pg. 67)

A: Let us pray. Merciful Father, . . . **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Dialogue (*sung*) (LBW, Setting 1, pg. 68-71)

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also 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 indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

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.**

Distribution of Holy Communion

Lamb of God (*sung*) (LBW, Setting 1, pg. 72)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace.**

Communion Songs: “Thy Holy Wings” (ELW 613)

Thy holy wings, O Savior,  
spread gently over me,  
and let me rest securely  
through good and ill in thee.  
Oh, be my strength and portion,  
my rock and hiding place,  
and let my ev'ry moment  
be lived within thy grace.

Oh, let me nestle near thee,  
within thy downy breast  
where I will find sweet comfort  
and peace within thy nest.  
Oh, close thy wings around me  
and keep me safely there,  
for I am but a newborn  
and need thy tender care.

Oh, wash me in the waters  
of Noah's cleansing flood.  
Give me a willing spirit,  
a heart both clean and good.  
Oh, take into thy keeping  
thy children great and small,  
and while we sweetly slumber,  
enfold us one and all.

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me” (ELW 599)

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
and purge away my sin;  
from selfish passions set me free  
and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
by anxious thoughts oppressed;  
let me your loving servant be  
and taste your promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
nor let me go astray;  
through darkness and perplexity  
point out your chosen way.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
that, when the flood is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see  
and share your joy at last.

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Post-Communion Blessing

P: And now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

*(sung)* (LBW, Setting 1, pg. 73)

**Lord, now you let your servant go in peace;  
your word has been fulfilled.**

**My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:**

**A light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel.**

**Glory 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**

Post Communion Prayer (LBW, Setting 1, pg. 74)

A: Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

Blessing *(sung)* (LBW, Setting 1, pg. 74)

P: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Song: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (ELW 504)

A mighty fortress is our God,  
a sword and shield victorious;  
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod  
and wins salvation glorious.  
The old satanic foe  
has sworn to work us woe!  
With craft and dreadful might  
he arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might!  
We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight,  
whom God himself elected.  
You ask who this may be?  
The Lord of hosts is he!  
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,  
God's only Son, adored.  
He holds the field victorious.

Though hordes of devils fill the land  
all threat'ning to devour us,  
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;  
they cannot overpower us.  
Let this world's tyrant rage;  
in battle we'll engage!  
His might is doomed to fail;  
God's judgment must prevail!  
One little word subdues him.

God's Word forever shall abide,  
no thanks to foes, who fear it;  
for God himself fights by our side  
with weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house,  
goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
though life be wrenched away,  
they cannot win the day.  
The kingdom's ours forever!

### Dismissal

**C: We work together to spread Christ's love with our community, through Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Lives, and an Open Table.**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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