



ASCENSIONNEWS

March 2026

Volume 56 Issue 3

“For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ” (Rom. 5:17 ESV).

If there is one thing that humans don’t like, it is suffering. We don’t like talking about it. We don’t like looking at it. We certainly don’t want to suffer ourselves. And more than anything, we don’t want to suffer if it was caused by someone else.

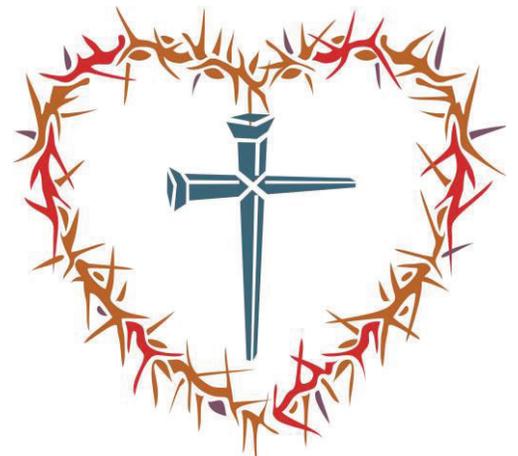
Yet, suffering is exactly what we learn from the Scriptures and experience in our daily lives. Paul tells us plainly that death reigned because of the sin of Adam. The sin of Adam became our sin, and we live it every day. We suffer because of the sin that is passed down, and we suffer even more because of our own sins that we commit every day.

Thanks be to God that Jesus comes amid our suffering and the death that reigns in the world. Paul confesses that we receive an “abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness,” all through Jesus Christ. It is the ongoing work of Jesus in our midst, through the means of grace, that we receive as we gather as God’s people. As we journey through Lent together, we get to hear again and again the work of Jesus, how He works for us and for our salvation.

The church is blessed by this reality. We know that in every generation, in every community, and in every circumstance, the church will see suffering. We witness it and experience it. Yet, we are the people who have an answer to suffering. No civic organization, no government, and no other religion can answer death with life. We proclaim Jesus who suffers, dies, and rises, a Savior who has defeated death itself. That gives us confidence as we share the good news of Jesus and His saving work.

*Glory be to Jesus,
Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood
From His sacred veins! (Glory Be to Jesus, LSB 433:1)*

In Christ,
Rev. Samuel M. Powell
Third Vice President, Missouri District





A Lenten Prayer for Daily Use

"Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that Thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of Thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen."



**Comfort from the Psalms:
God's Forgiveness**

God's Forgiveness

In the Word- *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!* (Psalm 51:1–2).

Of the Word- The great King David of the Old Testament wrote Psalm 51 after he had committed adultery with the beautiful, married Bathsheba. She became pregnant and David gave orders Uriah, her husband, was to be killed in battle (2 Samuel 11–12).

When we read David's story we see that people caught in the grasp of sin are able to do deplorable things.

But wait! That's not the end of the story. Was David punished? Yes. The sin he tried to cover up was made known to the nation, and the baby died. But David admitted his sin to God, asked for God's forgiveness, and received it.

Did God forgive David because He loved him more than He loves us? No! Is our sin so gross that Jesus will turn away from us? No! Does Jesus even want us to bring our sin to Him? Yes! Will the Spirit forgive us and make us clean? Yes! How can this be? *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness* (1 John 1:9).

Walking with my Lord- Father, I thank You for allowing me to lay my sins before You. I ask for Your forgiveness. Help me to be what You would have me be. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Dorcas Circle is collecting snack packs with tuna, chicken, or ham salad and crackers to include in the sack lunches LUMA-Auxiliary will be packing at the March meeting. The sack lunches will be given to the food pantries LUMA supports. If you would like to donate to this project, place the items in the LUMA basket on the table in the narthex.



The **Lutheran Urban Mission Agency Auxiliary** will meet on Wednesday, March 18 at Messiah Lutheran Church, 613 S. Main St, Independence, MO. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. with the opening service at 9:30 a.m. The program will be a speaker from Mother's Refuge in Independence. The Mission of the Month collection is non-perishable food pantry items and monetary donations. Lunch will be served. Please RSVP by March 15 to Jane Clark, 816-616-3383, jclark2100@att.net. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend and all donations for the Mission of the Month collection are appreciated. Thank you! "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Matthew 25:35.



“CROSSWORDS FROM CHRIST”



2026 Lenten Midweek Service Schedule

Wednesday Schedule:

4:00p.m.	1 st Worship Service
5:00-6:00 p.m.	Meal
6:30p.m.	2 nd Worship Service

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
▶ February 18 - Ash Wednesday	St. Paul
▶ February 25	Ascension
▶ March 4	Messiah
▶ March 11	St. Paul
▶ March 18	Ascension
▶ March 25	Messiah



Sunday Worship Schedule:
 Bible Study 8:15am,
 Sunday School 8:30am
 Worship Service 9:30am

Ascension Lutheran Church
 4900 Blue Ridge Blvd.
 KC MO 64133

816-358-1919
 secretary@ascensionlckc.org
Walkers M-F, 7-10am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Dimensions of Praise Fellowship Hall 10am Bd of Elders following worship	2	3	4 Mid-week Lenten Service @ Messiah 4pm 1 st Service 5pm Meal 6:30pm 2 nd Service	5	4	7 Basketball 10am-12pm
8 New Dimensions of Praise Fellowship Hall 10am	9	10 Church Council 6:30pm	11 Mid-week Lenten Service @ St. Paul 4pm 1 st Service 5pm Meal 6:30pm 2 nd Service	12	13 Bible Study 10am	14 Basketball 10am-12pm
15 New Dimensions of Praise Fellowship Hall 10am	16	17	18 LUMA Auxiliary 9am at Messiah Mid-week Lenten Service @ Ascension 4pm 1 st Service 5pm Meal 6:30pm 2 nd Service	19	20 Bible Study 10am Basketball 7-9pm	21 Craft Day 9am-6:30pm
22 New Dimensions of Praise 10am Mite Box Sunday	23 Dorcas Circle 6pm	24	25 Mid-week Lenten Service @ Messiah 4pm 1 st Service 5pm Meal 6:30pm 2 nd Service	26	27 Bible Study 10am	28 No Men's Group Basketball 10am-12pm
29 Palm Sunday New Dimensions of Praise 10am	30	31				