



# Ascension Lutheran Church

3rd Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, December 13, 2020

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (*Lynn Peterson*)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSICAL OFFERING

Prepare the Royal Highway (*v. 1, 4*)

ELW 264

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*  
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

CHILDREN'S TIME

Lighting of the Advent Wreath—JOY

Pastor Chris

**PRAYER**

P: Let us pray... Lord God, a third candle burns on our Advent wreath, first - a sign of hope, second - a sign of peace, now a message of joy. God of joy come to us again this Advent. May your joy live within us, burning as a light in our lives.

C: Amen.

**MUSICAL OFFERING****Christ, Be Our Light (v. 1)**

ELW 715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



*Refrain*  
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

**READING****Psalm 126**

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Neg-eb. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

## MUSICAL OFFERING

Christ Be Our Light (refrain)

ELW 715

*Refrain*

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the  
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
church gath - ered to - day.

## GOSPEL READING

John 1:6-8, 19-28

P: The Holy Gospel for this day comes from the book of St. John, the 1st chapter.

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

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## SERMON

Pastor Chris

## MUSICAL OFFERING

Glory (Let There Be Peace) (Stevens/Maher/Popadic)

One star burns in the darkness  
Shines with the promise, Emmanuel  
One child born in the stillness  
Living within us, Emmanuel

**We're singing glory, glory  
Let there be peace, let there be peace  
Singing glory, glory  
Let there be peace, let it start in me**

One voice speaks for the voiceless  
Hope for the hopeless, Emmanuel  
One love brings us together  
Now and forever, Emmanuel (*chorus*)

Do not be afraid His love is strong enough to save us  
Nothing stands in the way His love is strong enough to lead us  
Do not be afraid His love is strong enough to save us  
Nothing stands in the way His love is strong enough to lead us

We sing glory, glory let there be peace, let there be peace  
Singing glory, glory let there be peace, let it start in me  
Singing glory, glory let there be peace, let there be peace  
Singing glory, glory let there be peace, let it start in me  
Let there be peace, let it start in me

## APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

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

**PRAYERS & MUSIC****You Are My All in All** (Dennis Jernigan)

Please sing after each petition:

**Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name**  
**Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: 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 in 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 in remembrance of me.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

A reminder that when you receive the bread and wine you may say to yourself or others in your home: The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

**MUSICAL MEDITATION****Reckless Love** (Culver/Asbury/Jackson)

Before I spoke a word, You were singing over me  
 You have been so, so good to me  
 Before I took a breath, You breathed Your life in me  
 You have been so, so kind to me

**Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God**  
**Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine**  
**I couldn't earn it, and I don't deserve it, still, You give Yourself away**  
**Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God, yeah**

When I was Your foe, still Your love fought for me  
 You have been so, so good to me  
 When I felt no worth, You paid it all for me  
 You have been so, so kind to me (**Chorus**)

There's no shadow You won't light up  
 Mountain You won't climb up  
 Coming after me  
 There's no wall You won't kick down  
 Lie You won't tear down  
 Coming after me (sing 4 times) (**Chorus**)

**BENEDICTION**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## MUSICAL OFFERING

Hark, the Glad Sound! (v. 1, 4)

ELW 239

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

## FAITH CONNECTION

*Join us as we connect as a church in new ways.*

### Donate Today or Give By Text or Online

- Text 262-214-3681 with the amount to donate
- Online: [tinyurl.com/DonateAscension](https://tinyurl.com/DonateAscension)

### AMEN Christmas Gathering and Long Underwear

**Collection:** AMEN is asking for new men's and women's long underwear donations to support local shelters this Christmas season. Donations should be dropped off at Raised Grain Brewery 5:30-7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec 22. Join us for some Christmas cheer and fellowship. RGB has agreed to let us have a bin near the entrance, or curbside if you don't want to come inside. If you're unable to attend or can't drive, someone will be happy to pick up your donation or donations may be dropped off at church prior to Dec. 22 when the building is open. Please contact Steve Boyer.

**Kids Coats Needed:** Hawthorne Elementary School is one of our newest partners. A large number of the students are low income. The school is in need of new or gently used jackets and boots. The children are 4K through 5th grade. Place your donation in the barrels in the Donation Center. For more information see the December newsletter.

**The Blessing Box** is being filled several times a week. We are especially in need of foods to make a meal. Examples: cereal, instant oatmeal, canned pasta, canned fruits and vegetables, cleaning supplies, etc. Place your donations directly in the BB or drop off at church during office hours.

**Special Advent Devotions:** We're sending daily emails of advent devotions. Watch for them and feel the anticipation of the season. The devotions and videos are also on our website daily.

**Mt. Meru Coffee:** Email Donna Aschenbrenner, [wra@wi.rr.com](mailto:wra@wi.rr.com) to order your Christmas gifts of the new Makumira Holiday Blend (\$19/bag); a Christmas gift sampler pack of coffees; the high quality Peaberry coffee; or flavored or regular coffees. Regular/decaf coffee for a 12 oz bag is \$10. Peaberry coffee for a 12 oz. bag is \$15.

### Submit a Prayer

Submit a prayer request online [ascensionelca.org/spiritual-growth/prayers](https://ascensionelca.org/spiritual-growth/prayers)), by email to [Tamie@ascensionelca.org](mailto:Tamie@ascensionelca.org), or phone message to the church office. Please pray:

#### Comfort

- For Jackie Bosanac and family following the death of Bob Bosanac

#### Healing

- For Steve Spieker's brother Tim, undergoing testing for multiple significant health conditions including probable foot amputation
- For Kathy Hahn, further treatment following surgery
- For Becky Murray, in ICU for covid, prayers for healing so she can begin chemo
- For Sandy Sadowski after a fall while shopping - broken bones and hip displacement
- For Doug Bue's father, hospitalized with covid.

#### Thanksgiving

- For successful surgeries to remove cancer from Barb, Brenda Lytle's mother. Prayers for healing from the surgeries.

### On our website, [ascensionelca.org](https://ascensionelca.org)

- Read the monthly newsletter.
- Register online for next week's worship.
- Watch or re-watch worship and sermons.
- Read blog postings with updated information about church activities.
- Donate online to continue to help us pay the bills and support our ministries. Many of our community and international partners are hurting because of the ongoing pandemic.
- Submit a prayer request <https://ascensionelca.org/spiritual-growth/prayers>.

*Ascension*  
Lutheran Church

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