



Ascension Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve Worship
Thursday, December 24, 2020

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Setting by David Cherwein

OPENING WORDS

PT: Lord Jesus, we thank you that when the world was very dark you came to bring light into our darkness.
PC: You came in the night to bring light into the lives of Mary and Joseph.
PT: You came to Bethlehem bringing light to all who came to trust you.
PC: You come to us now, into our lives, and into our world, bringing light to your people.
PT: We ask you now, once again, to accept this worship that we bring as we come again to the manger.
PC: Help us to see there the light that will shine for us, not just on this Christmas night, but every day of the year.

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful (*v. 1, 3*)

ELW 283

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, in the highest: *Refrain*

PRAYER

A: Let us pray...Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of the presence of Jesus and in the last day wake up to the brightness of your glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Away in a Manger

Lexi and Grace Lytle

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Tony

MUSICAL OFFERING

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Amy James, Patti Mueller

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

P: The Holy Gospel for this day comes from the book of St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Angels We Have Heard on High (v. 1)

ELW 289

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

GOSPEL READING**Luke 2:1-14**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.****MUSICAL OFFERING****Angels We Have Heard on High** (*v. 3*)**ELW 289****SERMON****Pastor Tony****MUSICAL OFFERING****When Love Was Born** (*Herm/Schultz/Lewis*)

Starlight shines the night is still
Shepherds watching from a hill
I close my eyes to see the night
When love was born

Emmanuel Prince of Peace
Love come down for you and me
Heaven's gift the holy spark
To light the way inside our hearts

A perfect child gently waits
A mother bends to kiss God's face
I close my eyes to see the night
When love was born

Bethlehem through your small door
Came the hope we've waited for
The world was changed forevermore
When love was born

Angels fill the midnight sky and they sing
Hallelujah He is Christ our King

I close my eyes to see the night
When love was born

PRAYER**MUSICAL OFFERING****O Holy Night** (*Adolphe Adam*)**Annemarie Wucker****WORDS OF INSTITUTION****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.

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -
 king was their . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

Refrain

night that was so deep.
 tin - ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Jerry Loughlin, violin

MUSICAL MEDITATION

What Child is This

Jerry Loughlin, violin

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.

CANDLELIGHT CAROL

Silent Night

ELW 281

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

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

Christmas Worship: Christmas Eve worship will be posted at noon our website or YouTube and at 5 p.m. on Facebook. Christmas Day worship will be posted at 8 a.m. website, Facebook, and YouTube.

Coffee for Christmas: Email Donna Aschenbrenner, wra@wi.rr.com to order coffee, including of the new Makumira Holiday Blend (\$19/bag); 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.

COLLECTIONS & COMMUNITY CARE

Children's Coat Collection: Hawthorne Elementary School is one of our newest partners. A large number of the students at the school 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.

Food Pantry: Target is offering a way to vote for how they donate money to non-profits. If you are a Target Circle Member and make purchases, you receive votes for local nonprofits. Now through Dec. 31, you can vote for the Food Pantry of Waukesha County whenever you shop at Target. See the Target website for more info.

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.

Community Outreach: Please follow Ascension, Ascension Mission Outreach, and Ministerio Latino de Ascensión Waukesha on Facebook. "Like" "Love", Comment or share posts to help promote Ascension's ministries in the community. While we can't do our normal outreach, we can spread the word via electronic media and reach a broad population.

Church Office Hours

The church office will be closed on Thursday and Friday of Christmas week and next week. The church building will be open for donation drop-off next week Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Submit a Prayer

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

Healing

Edwin Aparicio, covid
Natalie Mustapich, covid
Sandy Sadowski, fractured pelvis
Steve Spieker's brother, Tim, COPD

Ascension
Lutheran Church

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