



ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

First Sunday of Christmas

10:00 a.m., Sunday, January 1, 2023

Worship Leadership Today

The Rev. Christian Marien, *Lead Pastor*
Ben Janzow, *Praise Band Leader*

Gary Bauer, *Altar Guild*
Rick and Diane Dowling, *communion*

Jim Hahn, *communion*
Bill Klippel, Dennis Mohr, *ushers*

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son \dagger , 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.

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Most merciful God,

C: **we confess that we are captive 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: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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.**

OPENING HYMN

Joy to the World (*v. 1, 2, 4*)

ELW 267

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.**

SONG OF PRAISE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Chris

DUET

O Holy Night

FIRST READING

Isaiah 63:7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We Have a Savior

A child has been given
The King of our freedom
Sing for the light has come
This is Christmas

Come and adore Him
And bring gifts before Him
Joy to the world
Worship the Son
This is Christmas

**This is Jesus Emmanuel
Here with us tell all the world
We have a Savior we have a Savior
We are no longer lost
'Cause He has come down for us
We have a Savior we have a Savior**

Sing with the angels
And lift up your voices
Join in the song of hope
This is Christmas *(Chorus)*

His love will reign forever
His love will reign forever
His love will reign forever
(Chorus)

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

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

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:13-23

Now after [the wise men] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Pastor Chris

SONG

How Many Kings

Follow the star to a place unexpected
Would you believe after all we've projected
A child in a manger
Lowly and small the weakest of all
Unlikeliest hero wrapped in His mother's shawl, just a child
Is this who we've waited for?

**'Cause how many kings stepped down from their thrones
How many lords have abandoned their homes
How many greats have become the least for me
And how many gods have poured out their hearts
To romance a world that is torn all apart
How many fathers gave up their sons for me**

Bringing our gifts for the newborn Savior
All that we have whether costly or meek
Because we believe
Gold for His honor and frankincense for His pleasure
And myrrh for the cross He'll suffer
Do you believe, is this who we've waited for? (*Chorus*)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

Christmas Offering

Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star
While angels sang to lowly shepherds
Three wise men seeking truth traveled from afar
Hoping to find the child from Heaven
Falling on their knees
They bowed before the humble Prince of Peace

**I bring an offering of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing
Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due
Oh Lord I bring an offering to You
I bring an offering to You**

The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love
There is no shadow in Your presence
No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne
Before the Holy One of Heaven
It's only by Your blood it's only through Your mercy
Lord I come (*Chorus*)



OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray ... Merciful Father,

C: **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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE 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

All those believing in the saving power of Jesus Christ through the gift of his life, death, and resurrection are welcome to receive communion at this table of grace. We offer bread and wine, gluten-free wafers and grape juice for holy communion.

SOLOS

Noel

All Is Well

SONG

Adore

You stepped down from heaven
Humbly You came
God of all creation
Here with us
In a starlit manger Emmanuel
Light of the world here to save

Wise men bring their treasures
Shepherds bow low
Angel voices sing
Of peace on earth
What have I to offer to heaven's King
I will bring my life my love my all
(Chorus)

**Adore, Come let us adore
O come let us adore Him
The Lord
Worship Christ the Lord
Let all that is within us adore**

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Lord God, you call your servants into the world to follow where you lead. Give us faith to go out with courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us. Day by day, guide us and give us what is needed, friends to cheer our way, and a clear vision to which you call us. By your Holy Spirit, be present in our journeys, that we may travel with the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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.

CLOSING HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW 290

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE



Poinsettia Donations



In Honor of

Kathleen Fischer by Kathy Lord
Lenore Mueller by Patti Mueller
Ascension church family by Ron Marien
Our new church family by the Miller family

In Memory of

Abe Greenman by the Greenman family
Annette Formo and Deborah Formo by Vernon Formo
Barbara J. Steinke by Don Steinke
Bryce Blaschko by Dick and Sharon Boward
Chuck Ades by the Anspach family
Eddie, Lori and Abe by Nancy Haker
Edwin and Elnor Wendorf by Bonnie Siegel
Ema, Joe, Joan and Meghan by Cathy and Mike Rapp
Family members by Arlene Davis
Gene Boelter by Verna Bauer
Gerald Fischer and John Lord by Kathy Lord
Gerald Marth by the Marth and Johnson families
Gert Ullsperger by Marsha and Rick James
Howard D. Anderson by Sara Leatherwood
Jack Rapp by Mary Rapp and Peter Passante
Jan Frowein by Dianne and Rick Frowein
Jim Comp and Jay Wendt by Mary Ellen Comp
Ma Baumann and Tita Escobedo by Stefanie Escobedo
Nancy Gallo, Rich and Joanne Wielebski by the Gallo family
Nicholas Inzeo by Nancy Inzeo
Pat Lee by the Payne family
Richard Mueller by Patti Mueller
Ron Payne by the Payne family
Sandy Eggers by Paul Eggers
Shirley A. Mohr by Dennis Mohr
Sydney and Grandma Karen by the Metzger-Reinders family
The Herber family by Ann M. Marlow
Vicki Marien by Ron Marien

In Celebration of the Birth of Jesus

Akins family
Nada Draeger
Catherine Dugdale
Celeste Gantert
Jim and Kathy Hahn
Beth and Tom Hoffmann
Sara Leatherwood
Kathy Lord
Don and Kathy Malchow
Marth and Johnson families
Becky Pepper
Jennifer Roeland
Marge and Todd Schroeder

To the Glory of God

Anspach family
Celeste Gantert
Kathy Lord
Marth and Johnson families
Gilbert and Sally Wagner
Carol Ziarniak

Acción de Gracias / Thanksgiving

Alejandra Castro
Familia Aparicio Castillo
Familia Saravia Quintanilla
Familia Hernandez
Familia Aparicio Villegas



ASCENSION

Together We Rise

Poinsettias: Please take your poinsettia home. Thank you for beautifying our sanctuary for Christmas.

Pledging & Donating: Donate easily by check during the offering, online at <http://tinyurl.com/DonateAscension>, or consider a stock gift. You may also use the QR code to the right. Don't forget to turn in your pledge card. You may also submit your pledge easily online, <https://tinyurl.com/ALCpledge>.



BLAST & CRASH resume Sunday, Jan. 8. JOLT resumes Thursday, Jan. 12.

Book Study: Beginning January 9th, Pastor Chris will be leading a study on the book, "With: Reimagining the Way You Relate to God" by Skye Jethani. RSVP to the church office which time you would like to attend - 10am or 6:30pm - and if you will need a book.

January Newsletter: Read about what's coming for 2023 on our website, <https://tinyurl.com/ALCnewsletter>.

CALENDAR

Sun Jan 1
10am Worship S
12pm Adoración en español
7pm AA WH

Mon Jan 2
6:30pm AA Sm Group WH

Tue Jan 3
7am AMEN zoom
9:30am Women's Bible CR

Wed Jan 4
7pm AA WH

Thu Jan 5
9:30am TGIT HR
10am Al Anon CR

Fri Jan 6
1pm Hansen Group HR

Sun Jan 8
8:30am Worship S
9:50am BLAST
10:45am Adoración en español EH
10:45am Worship S
12pm Los Reyes Magos lunch
6pm CRASH YR
7pm AA WH

Mon Jan 9
10am "With" Book Study HR
6:30pm "With" Book Study HR
6:30pm AA Sm Group WH
6:30pm AMEN CR

Tue Jan 10
7am AMEN zoom
9:30am Women's Bible CR
7pm Holloway Group HR

<u>Key</u>	
CR	Conf. Rm.
EH	East Hall
HR	Hearth Rm.
MG	Mem. Gardens
S	Sanctuary
WH	West Hall
<i>Italics</i>	<i>Virtual or offsite</i>

Wed Jan 11
7pm AA WH

Thu Jan 12
10am Al Anon CR
6pm JOLT

Sat Jan 14
9am Jubilate Rehearsal S
10am Tutoring

