



Lutheran Church

First Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m., Sunday, December 3, 2023

Worship Leadership

Rev. Christian Marien, *Lead Pastor*

Rev. Anthony Acompanado, *Pastor*

Rev. Edwin Aparicio, *Pastor*

Vicki Taylor, *Director of Music Ministries*

Acolyte: Simon Williams

Altar Guild: Gary Bauer

Choir Accompanist: Kathy Johnson

Communion: Carol and Steve Spieker

Greeters: Dianne and Rick Frowein

Media: Buck Houston

Ushers: Bill Klippel, Dennis Mohr,

Scot Werner

PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on “Wachet Auf” (Wake, Awake), *J. S. Bach*

WELCOME

ADVENT 1—LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us with hope, as we light this candle to keep watch for your arrival.

C: **The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them.**

HYMN

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (*v. 1*)

ELW 240

P: Let us pray... A candle burns, the first marker of our Advent journey. As we set out, may we travel hopefully. As we set out, God of journeys, travel with us.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (*v. 1, 2, 3, 5*)

ELW 257

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

p. 147

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God in the Highest

p. 148

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Chris

FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 13th chapter.

C:



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

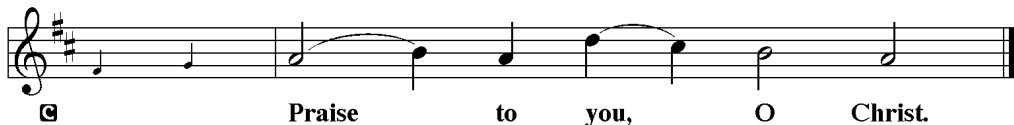
GOSPEL READING

Mark 13:24-37

[Jesus said:] “In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C:



SERMON

Pastor Chris

HYMN

On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry (v. 1-4)

ELW 249

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE


Healing: Phyllis Petarius, hospitalized after a fall
With Karen Schmiechen for Rachel, return of kidney function after heart transplant
For Steve, Carol Nelson's best friend, open heart surgery

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

Lost in the Night, Kyle Haugen

Ascension Choir

	Many Ways to Give Electronically
	• QR code
	• VancoMobile Giving app on your smartphone
	• Online at tinyurl.com/SupportALC
	• Via text to 262-214-3681 with the amount

OFFERTORY

On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry (v. 5)

ELW 249

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Let us pray... 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.**

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

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 both bread and wine for holy communion. Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.

LAMB OF GOD

p. 154

HYMNS

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW 715

Savior of the Nations, Come

ELW 263

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

ELW 247

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.

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

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW 244

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers, *setting by David Lasky*



ASCENSION

Children Are God's Gift: We are a noisy church. We are happy to celebrate the sounds of children during worship. You are welcome to step into the lobby with your child for a break.

Pew Pads: Please fill-out the blue pew pad and pass it to your neighbor. You might make a new friend!

Journey to Bethlehem: This special activity between services today celebrates Advent and the Christmas story for BLAST students and parents in grades 4k - 5th grade.

Waukesha Christmas Parade Today: You are needed to help share the Christmas story in a special way at the Waukesha Christmas parade. See the Sign-up Genius to volunteer <https://tinyurl.com/ALCparade2023>. If you are walking in the parade, line-up instructions can be found on our website, <https://ascensionelca.org/parade-instructions>.

Christmas Angel Tree: Please choose an angel from the Angel Tree to help provide Christmas gifts to Waukesha County children and teens in need through the Christmas Clearing Council. The Christmas Clearing Council is requesting Target and Walmart gift cards of \$25. Gift cards (along with the ornament) should be placed in the marked box in the office by Dec. 7.

Advent Concert Worship *Rejoice and Sing!* Choirs, handbells, praise band, and instrumentalists will present *Rejoice and Sing!* on Sat., Dec. 9, 6 p.m., and Sun., Dec. 10, 9:30 a.m. followed by a potluck brunch. Invite a friend and join us in concert worship!

CRASH Progressive Dinner: The special event will be Sunday, Dec. 10, meeting at church at 4:45 p.m. RSVP to Pastor Edwin, Edwin@ascensionelca.org. Don't forget to bring a \$10 creative gift for the gift exchange.

Annunciation Worship and Breakfast: Celebrate the visit of the angel Gabriel to Mary on Tuesday, Dec. 12, with a 5:30 a.m. Spanish-language worship led by mariachis, followed by a potluck breakfast.

Las Posadas: Las Posadas reenacts the journey of the holy family through the streets of Bethlehem looking for a place to stay. It begins at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16. Children of all ages are welcome to be in costume. This event, hosted by our Spanish-speaking members, includes food, music and a piñata.

Children's Christmas Program will take place on Sunday, Dec. 17, during the 10:45 a.m. worship service. Please sign up using the Sign-Up Genius, <https://tinyurl.com/ChildrensProgram23>, for your child's part in the nativity. Dress Rehearsal for the Children's Christmas Program is Saturday, Dec. 16, from 9 to 11 a.m.

December Newsletter: Read all about Advent and Christmas at Ascension on our website, <https://ascensionelca.org/events/newsletter/>.

You're Invited! Ascension men are invited to Amen's annual Christmas gathering scheduled for Monday, Dec 18, at 5:30 p.m. (buffet dinner at 6:30 p.m.), Tally's Tap, Sunset Dr. in Waukesha. Please bring a donation of mens/women's long underwear tops/bottoms for Waukesha shelters. If you cannot attend, please put donations in the marked bin in Ascension's Donation Center. Any questions, please contact Steve Boyer, 262-366-4078 (text is best).

Double Match Day for Waukesha Food Pantry: Shop at Meijer, 801 E. Sunset Dr., on Saturday, Dec. 16, and benefit the Waukesha Food Pantry. For every \$10 Simply Give donation card purchased, Meijer will provide an additional \$20 donation to the food pantry.

Meru Holiday Coffee: The Mt. Meru Coffee Project is once again offering their special holiday blend and gift packs for your family gatherings this month. See the display in the cabinet or the Meru Coffee Ambassador to purchase or order.

The Jubilate Chorale Presents *Song in the Night — Christmas with Jubilate and Friends:* Tickets available online at jubilatechorale.org or from Ascension members Scott Greger and Vicki Taylor. Performances are Saturday, Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, Brookfield, and Sunday, Dec. 3, 3 p.m. at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa.

Food Pantry and Blessing Box: Food donations are down, and the need is up. When you are shopping, please consider picking up a few things to help those in the community who are in need. Place directly in the Blessing Box or in the Donation Bins. Hunger has no season.



Poinsettia Donations

If you would like to donate a poinsettia for our sanctuary this Christmas season (\$12 each), please fill-out this form and place in the offering plate along with your donation or return the form with your donation to the church office.

Thank you for helping make the sanctuary beautiful as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!

In celebration of Jesus' birth

To the glory of God

Donated in honor of

Donated in memory of

Donor:

Donation amount \$ _____

Please return the completed form along with your payment to the church office or place in the offering plate. You may also pay on our website and mark it "Poinsettia."

Are You Visiting?

Date of Visit: _____

Time of Worship: _____

Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

How did God invite you here?

***How can we share the life of
Ascension with you?***

- Newsletter: e-mail or U.S. Mail
- BLAST (ages 3-5th gr.)
- JOLT (confirmation, 6-8th gr.)
- CRASH (high school)
- Bible study (small groups)
- Choirs or other music ministries
- Serving others (local/global options)
- Starting Point class (membership)

Please place in the offering plate.

Calendar

Sun Dec 3 Advent 1

8:30am Worship S

9:45am Journey to
Bethlehem

10:45am Misa EH

10:45am Worship S

3pm Christmas parade

3pm Jubilate Concert

7pm AA WH

Mon Dec 4

6:30pm AA Sm Group
WH

6:30pm Amen CR

Tue Dec 5

7am Amen zoom

9:30am Women's Bible
CR

6pm GriefShare CR

Wed Dec 6

6pm Handbells S

7pm AA WH

7:15pm Adult Choir S

Thu Dec 7

9:30am TGIT HR

10am Al Anon CR

*12pm Staff Spanish
class*

1pm Hansen Group HR

5pm Children's Choir
MR

Sat Dec 9

*10am Gingerbread
Build*

**6pm Advent Concert
Worship S**

Sun Dec 10 Advent 2

**9:30am Advent Con-
cert Worship S**

10:30am Brunch K

10:45am Misa EH

4:45pm CRASH Pro-
gressive Dinner K,
WH

7pm AA WH

Mon Dec 11

6:30pm AA Sm Group
WH

6:30pm Amen CR

Tue Dec 12

**5:30am Anunciation/
Anunciación EH
WH**

7am Amen zoom

9:30am Women's Bible
CR

6pm GriefShare CR

7pm Holloway group
HR

Wed Dec 13

11:30am Staff Meeting

7pm AA WH

Thu Dec 14

10am Al Anon CR

Sat Dec 16

9am Children's Rehears-
al S

**6pm Las Posadas EH,
WH**



ASCENSION
Lutheran Church

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