



**First Sunday of Advent**  
10:45 a.m., Sunday, December 3, 2023

**Worship Leadership**

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

**Acolyte:** Marti Mustapich  
**Altar Guild:** Cindy Finn, Kris Wells  
**Communion:** Pat Boyer, Becky Hastings

**Communion:** Cathy Rapp  
**Greeters:** Joan and Mike Mikecz  
**Media:** Cheryl Anspach

**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**

Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.  
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

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.**

**SONG**

**You Are Holy (Prince of Peace)**

You are holy (*echo*), You are mighty (*echo*)  
You are worthy (*echo*), Worthy of praise (*echo*)  
I will follow (*echo*), I will listen (*echo*)  
I will love you (*echo*), All of my days (*echo*)

You are Lord of lords, You are King of kings  
You are mighty God, Lord of everything  
You're the living God, You're my saving grace  
You will reign forever, ancient of days  
You're my Prince of Peace  
And I will live my life for you

## Today Is The Day

I'm casting my cares aside  
I'm leaving my past behind  
I'm setting my heart and mind on You Jesus  
I'm reaching my hand to Yours  
Believing there's so much more  
Knowing that all you have  
In store for me is good, is good

**Today is the day you have made  
I will rejoice and be glad in it (2x)  
And I won't worry about tomorrow  
I'm trusting in what You say  
Today is the day**

I'm putting my fears aside  
I'm leaving my doubts behind  
I'm giving my hopes and dreams to You Jesus  
I'm reaching my hands to Yours  
Believing there's so much more  
Knowing that all You have  
In store for me is good, is good **(Chorus)**

I will stand upon Your truth (*echo*)  
And all my days I'll live for You (*echo*)  
I will stand upon Your truth (*echo*)  
And all my days I'll live for You (*echo*)  
**(Chorus)**

## PRAYER

## 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.**

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**SONG****O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
 And ransom captive Israel  
 That mourns in lonely exile here  
 Until the Son of God appear

**Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel  
 Shall come to thee, O Israel**

Oh, come, our Wisdom from on high  
 Who ordered all things mightily  
 To us the path of knowledge show  
 And teach us in her ways to go (*Chorus*)

Oh, come, our Dayspring from on high  
 And cheer us by your drawing nigh  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
 And death's dark shadows put to flight  
 (*Chorus*)

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

**SERMON****Pastor Chris****SONG****Your Grace Is Enough**

Great is Your faithfulness oh God  
 You wrestle with a sinner's heart  
 You lead us by still waters and to mercy  
 And nothing can keep us apart

**So remember Your people,  
 Remember Your children  
 Remember Your promise, oh God**

**Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough  
 Your grace is enough for me (*Repeat*)**

Great is Your love and justice God  
 You use the weak to lead the strong  
 You lead us in the song of Your salvation  
 And all Your people sing along (*Chorus*)

## PRAYERS

*Please say, "Hear our prayer" after each petition.*

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

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

### OFFERING

#### Who You Say I Am

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me  
I was lost but He brought me in, oh His love for me

Who the Son sets free oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God, yes I am

Free at last, He has ransomed me, His grace runs deep  
While I was a slave to sin, Jesus died for me  
Yes He died for me

**Who the Son sets free oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God, yes I am  
In my Father's house there's a place for me  
I'm a child of God, yes I am**

I am chosen, not forsaken, I am who You say I am  
You are for me, not against me, I am who You say I am  
I am chosen, not forsaken, I am who You say I am  
You are for me, not against me  
I am who You say I am, I am who You say I am (*Chorus*)

Many Ways to Give



- *QR code*
- *Vanco Giving app*
- *Via text to 262-214-3681 with the amount*

## 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 grape juice are available.

**DUET**

**Noel**

**Ben Janzow and  
Kristeen Morgenroth**

## SONGS

### What a Beautiful Name

You were the Word at the beginning  
One with God the Lord Most High  
Your hidden glory in creation  
Now revealed in You our Christ

**What a beautiful name it is**  
**What a beautiful name it is**  
**The name of Jesus Christ my King**  
**What a beautiful name it is**  
**Nothing compares to this**  
**What a beautiful name it is**  
**The name of Jesus**

You didn't want heaven without us  
So Jesus, You brought heaven down  
My sin was great, Your love was greater  
What could separate us now

**What a wonderful name it is**  
**What a wonderful name it is**  
**The name of Jesus Christ my King**  
**What a wonderful name it is**  
**Nothing compares to this**  
**What a wonderful name it is**  
**The name of Jesus**  
**What a wonderful name it is**  
**The name of Jesus**

Death could not hold You  
The veil tore before You  
You silenced the boast of sin and grave  
The heavens are roaring  
The praise of Your glory  
For You are raised to life again  
You have no rival, You have no equal  
Now and forever, God You reign  
Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the glory  
Yours is the name above all names

**What a powerful name it is**  
**What a powerful name it is**  
**The name of Jesus Christ my King**  
**What a powerful name it is**  
**Nothing can stand against**  
**What a powerful name it is**  
**The name of Jesus**  
**What a powerful name it is**  
**The name of Jesus**

### Sanctuary

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary  
Pure and holy, tried and true  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living  
Sanctuary for You

## COMMUNION BLESSING

## BENEDICTION

## SONG

### I Love to be in Your Presence

I love to be in Your presence  
With Your people singing praises  
I love to stand and rejoice  
Lift my hands and raise my voice  
Lift my hands and raise my voice

**You set my feet to dancing**  
**You fill my heart with song**  
**You give me reason to rejoice**  
**Rejoice!**

## SENDING



**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](mailto: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](http://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**



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262-547-8518 [ascensionelca.org](http://ascensionelca.org)