



Lutheran Church

Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m., Sunday, December 17, 2023

Worship Leadership

Rev. Christian Marien, *Lead Pastor*
Rev. Anthony Acompanado, *Pastor*

Rev. Edwin Aparicio, *Pastor*
Vicki Taylor, *Director of Music Ministries*

Acolyte: Zach Jahner

Altar Guild: Joan Birner

Communion: Sharon Coralline, Steve Spieker

Communion: Al Wollschlager

Greeters: Dave and Liz Carleton

Media: Adam Boales

Reader: Bonnie Thiesenhusen

Ushers: Bill Klippel, Dennis Mohr

Usher: Paul Wehmeier

PRELUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come, *settings by J.S. Bach, Paul Manz*

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT 3—LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son ☩, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God. One candle to remind us of hope, one candle to lead us in the way of peace, the third candle to call us to joy as we prepare for the coming of Christ.

C: **The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.**

HYMN

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (*v. 1-3*)

ELW 240

P: Let us pray... Holy God, a candle burns, the third marker of our Advent journey. As we continue, may we travel joyfully. As we continue, God of journeys, guide our footsteps.

C: **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264

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

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray...Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; 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 Tony

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

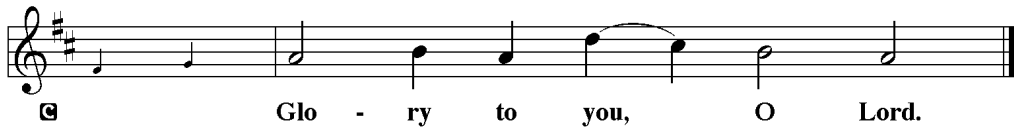


You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

C:



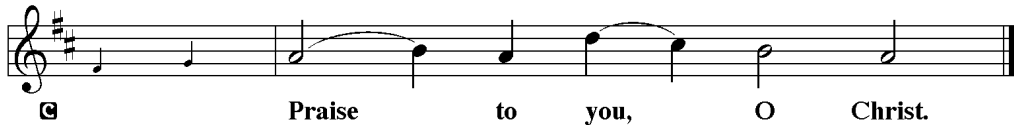
GOSPEL READING

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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:



SERMON

Pastor Tony

HYMN

Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory

ELW 561

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Thanksgiving: For the birth of Liliana Rose to Cole and Emily Vandermause
Healing: For Dorene Rudd, Chris Holloway's mother, hospitalized with pneumonia

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING


The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came
arr. Cathy Moklebust

Amy James,
bell tree solo

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.**

	<p style="text-align: center;">Many Ways to Give Electronically</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>QR code</i> • <i>VancoMobile Giving app on your smartphone</i> • <i>Online at tinyurl.com/SupportALC</i> • <i>Via text to 262-214-3681 with the amount</i>
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GREAT THANKSGIVING

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PROPER PREFACE**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

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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**What Feast of Love**

ELW 487

Wait for the Lord

ELW 262

Light Dawns on a Weary World

ELW 726

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

Hark, the Glad Sound!

ELW 239

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel, *setting by John Behnke*



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!

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, Waukesha. Please bring a donation of mens/women's long underwear tops/bottoms for Waukesha shelters.

Young at Heart 55+: Join us for a Christmas potluck followed by Christmas music on Wednesday, Dec. 20, at noon. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy some fellowship. There will be no Bunco on Dec. 27.

Mt. Meru Gifts: There are a variety of flavors available as well as gift sets for Christmas. If your item isn't available, you can order on the form. Payment envelopes are in the Meru cabinet.

Offering Envelopes: 2024 offering envelopes are available for pick-up. If you use envelopes, please check the table in the narthex for yours. If there isn't a box for you and you would like one, please contact the church office, admin@ascensionelca.org.

The Good Samaritan Fund: For more than 30 years this fund has assisted families with the challenges of life -- rent, electric bills, food, gas, clothing, Christmas gifts. The pastors have been made aware of a few families who could use some additional assistance as Christmas approaches. If you would like to donate to help these families, please mark your donation "Good Sam".

Supporting Children in El Salvador: Ascension is collecting funds this month to send to San Jorge Church to purchase backpacks and shoes for the children. \$30 will provide a backpack and \$25 will provide a pair of shoes. You can donate online at <https://tinyurl.com/ALCSJES> or with a check that states El Salvador in the memo line.

End of Year Offerings: We give thanks for the continued support of the ministries of Ascension, both locally and globally. This is your reminder to help Ascension finish strong as we look to the end of 2023 and the beginning of 2024. We expect to travel to El Salvador in 2024 as well as consider renovation to the courtyard and the addition of a staff member. Your offerings, to the glory of God, make all of this possible and so much more. Thanks be to God!

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

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.



Worship Schedule

4th Sunday of Advent: 8:30a, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve Worship (*English*)
3p, 5p & 9p, Sunday, Dec. 24
(All with communion & candlelight)

Misa de Navidad (*en Español*)
1p, Sunday, Dec. 24

Christmas Day (*English*)
10a, Monday, Dec. 25



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 17

8:30am Worship S
10:45am Worship w/
Children's Program
S
7pm AA WH

Mon Dec 18

5:30pm *Amen Christmas*
6:30pm AA Sm Group
WH

Tue Dec 19

7am *AMEN zoom*
9:30am Women's Bible
CR

Wed Dec 20

12pm Young at Heart
WH
7pm AA WH
7:pm Adult Choir S

Thu Dec 21

10am AI Anon CR

Fri Dec 22

10am Cloverleaf EH

Sun Dec 24

8:30am 4th Sunday of
Advent Worship S
1pm Misa de Navidad
EH
3pm Worship S
5pm Worship S
7pm AA WH
9pm Worship S

Mon Dec 25

Office closed
10am Worship S

Tue Dec 26

Office closed
7am *AMEN zoom*

Wed Dec 27

7pm AA WH

Thu Dec 28

10am AI Anon CR

Sun Dec 31

8:30am Worship S
10:45am Misa EH
10:45am Worship S
7pm AA WH

Mon Jan 1

Office closed
6:30pm AA Sm Group



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