



Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24, 2023
3 p.m. & 5 p.m.



Worship Leadership

The Rev. Christian Marien, *Lead Pastor*
The Rev. Anthony Acompanado, *Pastor*
The Rev. Edwin Aparicio, *Pastor*
Vicki Taylor, *Director of Music Ministries*

Acolytes: (3p) Elsa Kinunen, Linnea Kinunen; (5p) Grace Paczesny, Mikael Wagner

Altar Guild: (3p) Julie Kinunen; (5p) Joan Birner

Choir Accompanist: Kathy Johnson

Communion: (3p) Jennifer Werner; (5p) Pat Boyer, Sharon Coralline

Guest Instrumentalist: Suzanne Geoffrey, oboe

Greeters: (3p) Natalie Mustapich, Jan Zastrow
(5p) Sarah and Doug Paczesny, Bonnie Siegel

Media: (3p) Kurt Werner

Ushers: (3p) Scot Werner; (5p) Dennis Mohr

Welcome!

We pray God's blessing on your worship this day. Please introduce yourself to one of the pastors after service. Please see an usher for large-print bulletins.

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 to give your child a chance to stretch their legs.

Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve (English): 3p, 5p & 9p, Sunday, Dec. 24 (communion & candlelight)

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

Office Closed: The church office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 25 and 26, and Monday, Jan. 1.

PRELUDE **Hark! the Herald Angels Sing**, *F. Mendelssohn, setting by David Cherwein*

WELCOME

P: We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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!

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,

Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;

Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, in the highest: *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

PRAYER

P: O God, you revealed your Son to all people by the shining light of a star. We pray that you bless all who gather this night to celebrate your birth with your gracious presence. May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

ANTHEM (5p)

O Little Town of Bethlehem, *Stephen Paulus*

Ascension Choir

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Tony

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Angels We Have Heard on High (*v. 1-2*)

ELW 289

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,

and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?

What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

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

C: (*sung*) **Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

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: *(sung)*

Angels We Have Heard on High (v. 3)

ELW 289

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

SERMON

Pastor Tony

HYMN

Joy to the World

ELW 267

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

O Holy Night, *Adolphe Adam*

Annemarie Wucker (3p)
Ryan Birner (5p)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed ...

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 AND CANDLES

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, and gluten-free wafers and grape juice for holy communion.

MUSICAL OFFERING

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

Suzanne Geoffrey, oboe

Knudsen, arr. Held

HYMNS

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

ELW 282

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

To Donate



Or tinyurl.com/SupportALC

Away in a Manger

ELW 277

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

What Child Is This?

ELW 296

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

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.

CANDLELIGHT CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night!

ELW 281

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

CLOSING PRAYER

P: Holy God, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, strength, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.**

SENDING

P: O, come let us adore him!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

P: Merry Christmas!

C: **Merry Christmas!**

POSTLUDE **Break Forth into Joy (from The Christmas Oratorio), J. S. Bach**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mt. Meru Holiday Coffee Sampler: Consider Mt. Meru coffee for your last-minute gifts. Purchase directly from the self-serve coffee cabinet (leave the money in the office or pay online).

Year-End Donation: Please consider a year-end donation to help us finish strong. You can donate during the offering, on our website ascensionelca.org or with the QR code.

Offering Envelopes: 2024 offering envelopes are available. If there isn't a box for you and you would like one, please contact the church office, admin@ascensionelca.org.

No Bunco: Please note that there is no bunco on Wednesday, Dec. 27.

Save the Date: The men's No Regrets conference will be livestreamed at Ascension on Feb. 3. More information at <http://tinyurl.com/NoRegretsAMEN>.



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



Poinsettia Donations



In Honor of

Mom's 65th birthday by Lauren Birgenheir
Ascension volunteers by Ron Marien
Kathleen Fischer by Kathy Lord
Ileen Marien by Chris Marien
Family by the Miller Family

To the Glory of God

Cheryl and Don Anspach
Kathy Lord
Don and Kathy Malchow
The Werner Family

In Celebration of the Birth of Jesus

Pam and Pete Baumann
Sally Hagen
Beth and Tom Hoffmann
Barry and Chris Holloway
The Kinunen Family
Susan Koefler
Jim and Sandy Koester
Kathy Lord
Lyn and Wayne Owens
Becky Pepper
Jeana and Nick Wagner

In Memory of

Chuck Ades by Cheryl and Don Anspach
Benicio Aparicio, Fabricio Aparicio and Rosa Emilia Garay
by Familia Aparicio Castillo
Benicio Aparicio by Familia Aparicio Villegas
Craig Kurber Bauer by Gary and Pat Bauer
Gene Boelter (brother) by Verna Bauer
Jo and Lloyd Buth by Cathy and Jeff Britton
Bryce Blaschko by Richard and Sharon Boward
Paul Ecke by John P. Cable
Family members and Rose (sister) by Arlene Davis
Sandra Eggers by Paul Eggers
Annette Formo and Deborah Formo by Vernon Formo
Eddie, Lori and Abe by Nancy Haker
Teddy by Meredy and Michael Hase
Frank and Melva Johnson by Kathy Johnson
Mark Johnson and Pam Warner by Mary Johnson and Doug Warner
James Michalsky and Jo Buth by the Kinunen Family
Billy Russell and Howard Anderson by Sara Leatherwood
Gerald Fischer, John Lord and Peter Hannes by Kathy Lord
Vicki Marien by Ron Marien
Grammy Karen by the Metzger Family
Shirley Mohr by Dennis Mohr
Jonathan Klug by Lyn and Wayne Owens
Great Aunt Joan Rau by Jessica Parent
Pat Lee by Amanda Payne
Joe, Ema, Joan and Meghan by Cathy and Mike Rapp
Edwin and Elnor Wendorf by Bonnie Siegel
Lin Wollschlager by Al Wollschlager

Are You Visiting?

Date of Visit: _____

Time of Worship: _____

Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

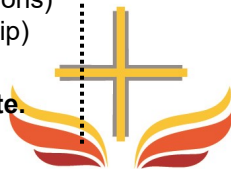
Email: _____

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.



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