

Christmas Day



Monday, December 25, 2023
10 a.m.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

We gather in celebration this morning to welcome Jesus to the world. At God's invitation, we welcome you to Ascension and invite you to worship with us as we sit beside the manger in Bethlehem. Thanks be to God!

PRELUDE Von Himmel hoch da komm ich her (From Heaven Above to Earth I Come)
Johann Pachelbel

CALL TO WORSHIP Go Tell It on the Mountain

OPENING HYMN O Come, All Ye Faithful ELW 283

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE Glory to God in the Highest p. 139



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

SALUTATION



☐ The Lord be with you.

☑ And al-so with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING

Psalm 97

The Lord reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad. Clouds and darkness surround the Lord, righteousness and justice are the foundations of God's throne. Fire goes before the Lord, burning up enemies on every side. Lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles. The mountains melt like wax before the Lord of all the earth. The heavens declare your righteousness, O Lord, and all the peoples see your glory. Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! Bow down before the Lord, all you gods. Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O Lord. For you are the Lord, most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods. You who love the Lord, hate evil! God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand of the wicked. Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart. Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and give thanks to God's holy name.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

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

C:

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

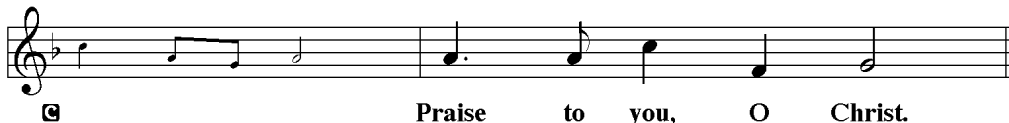
THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:8-20

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!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C:



SERMON

Pastor Chris

HYMN

Joy to the World

ELW 267

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

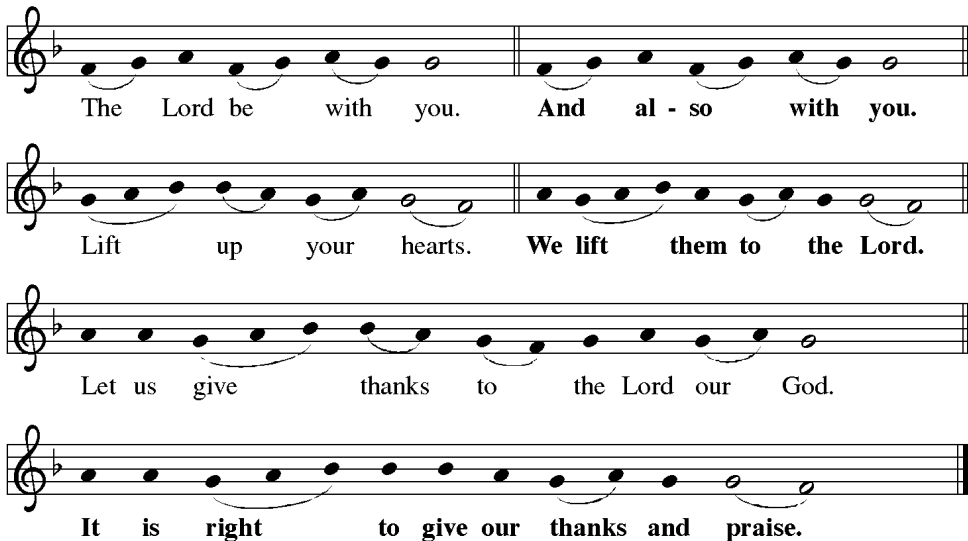
SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING **What Is This Lovely Fragrance?** *French Carol, setting by Paul Manz*

OFFERTORY **In the Bleak Midwinter** (v. 3) **ELW 294**

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man I would do my part;
Yet what I can give him—give my heart.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

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. Here at Ascension, we offer both bread and wine for holy communion.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

HYMNS	Away in a Manger	ELW 277
	The First Noel	ELW 300
	What Child Is This?	ELW 296

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

CLOSING HYMN	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	ELW 270
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SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

P: Merry Christmas!

C: **Merry Christmas!**

POSTLUDE	Chorale Prelude on “In dulci jubilo”, Johann Michael Bach
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poinsettias: If you donated a poinsettia this Christmas, you are invited to take it home to beautify your house.

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

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

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 Koefel
Jim and Sandy Koester
Kathy Lord
Lyn and Wayne Owens
Becky Pepper
Jeana and Nick Wagner

