



ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

Epiphany of Our Lord

10:45 a.m., Sunday, January 7, 2024

Worship Leadership

Rev. Christian Marien, *Lead Pastor*

Rev. Anthony Acompañado, *Pastor*

Ben Janzow, *Praise Band Leader*

Altar Guild: Cindy Finn, Kris Wells

Communion: Lynn Cleppe, Mary Ellen Comp

Greeters: Bryn Kirk, Iva Richards

Media: Andrew Marien

Usher: Mark Pichler

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: 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.**

HYMN

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are
bearing gifts we traverse afar
field and fountain, moor and mountain
following yonder star

**Oh, star of wonder, star of night
star with royal beauty bright
westward leading, still proceeding
guide us to thy perfect light**

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain
gold I bring to crown him again
king forever, ceasing never
over us all to reign *(Refrain)*

Frankincense to offer have I
incense owns a deity nigh
prayer and praising, gladly raising
worshiping God Most High *(Refrain)*

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

PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Tony

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SONG

Sing to the King

Sing to the King who is coming to reign
Glory to Jesus, the Lamb that was slain
Life and salvation His empire shall bring
Joy to the nations when Jesus is King

For His returning, we watch and we pray
We will be ready the dawn of that day
We'll join in singing with all the redeemed
Satan is vanquished and Jesus is King
(Chorus)

**Come let us sing a song
A song declaring that we belong to Jesus
He is all we need
Lift up a heart of praise
Sing now with voices raised to Jesus
Sing to the King**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Pastor Tony

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SONG

Here I Am to Worship

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

King of all days, so highly exalted
Glorious in Heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor
(*Chorus*)

Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

PRAYERS

Please say, "Hear our prayer" and sing the above refrain after each petition.

Healing: Marie Renn, surgery
Ruth Dewitz, pneumonia
Michelle Shulfer, knee injury after a fall
Cynthia Carlson's sister, MaryAnn, back surgery
Comfort: For Garnet Wolff at the death of her sister, Daisy

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

Our God

Water you turned into wine
Opened the eyes of the blind
There's no one like You
None like you

Into the darkness You shine
Out of the ashes we rise
There's no one like You
None like You

Our God is greater, our God is stronger
God, You are higher than any other
Our God is healer, awesome in power
Our God, our God

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.

Many Ways to Give



- 1) *QR code*
- 2) *Vanco Giving app*
- 3) *Online at ti-nyurl.com/SupportALC*
- 4) *Via text to 262-214-3681 with the amount*

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.

SOLO

How Many Kings

SONGS

The Saving One

When mercy was revealed what selflessness and peace
My fate was surely sealed until He rescued me
His pardon for my sin; His bounty for my need
From slavery and shame, I am redeemed

**And Heaven can't contain the glory of the Son
Jesus is the Christ, the saving One
His love has made a way the grave is overcome
Jesus is the Christ, the saving One**

No fear can hold me down, nor darkness steal my joy
For blood has been poured out; the enemy destroyed
Death could not hold Him down; the cross was not enough
To steal away His throne, for He is God (*Chorus*)

Hosanna

I see the King of glory coming on the clouds with fire
The whole earth shakes, the whole earth shakes
I see His love and mercy washing over all our sin
The people sing, the people sing

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest**

I see a generation rising up to take their place
With selfless faith, with selfless faith
I see a new revival stirring as we pray and seek
We're on our knees, we're on our knees (*Chorus*)

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Lord God, you call your servants into the world to follow where you lead. Give us faith to go out with courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us. Day by day, guide us and give us what is needed, friends to cheer our way, and a clear vision to which you call us. By your Spirit, be present in our journeys, that we may travel with the One who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our 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.

HYMN

The First Noel

The first Noel, the angels did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel**

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far
and to the earth it gave great light
and so it continued both day and night
(Refrain)

Then entered in those wise men three
Full rev'rently upon the knee
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense
(Refrain)

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Worship Support Schedule https://tinyurl.com/worshippupport		
Jan. 14	8:30a	10:45a
Acolyte	Zach Jahner	Marti Mustapich
Altar Guild	Marge Schroeder	Mary Kolberg, Sue Mathews
Communion	Marge and Todd Schroeder	Pat Boyer
Greeters	Jim Koester, Jennifer Werner	Sandie Pfeiffer
Media	Todd Schroeder	Cheryl Anspach
Ushers	Bill Klippel, Dennis Mohr, Jeff Rohrer	Mike Rapp



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!

Los Reyes Magos: The Three Kings will be arriving at Ascension today in the Spanish-language service. We will welcome them with a potluck lunch after worship.

Children and Youth Groups: BLAST meets today at 9:45 a.m. CRASH meets tonight at 6 p.m. JOLT meets Thursday, Jan. 11, at 6 p.m. Students should bring their Advent project.

Offering Envelopes: 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 Amy Gilgenbach in the church office, admin@ascensionelca.org or 262-547-8518.

Community Outreach Meeting: The Community Outreach Committee will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 6:30 p.m. to plan outreach activities for 2024. If you have an interest in outreach, please join us. Contact Shirley Wehmeier, shwehmeier@gmail.com, with questions.

Choirs Resume! Now is a great time to join one of our choirs. Children's Choir will meet Thursday, Jan. 11, 5-5:40 p.m. in the music room. Ascension Choir and Ascension Ringers rehearsals will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 10, with bells at 6 p.m., and choir at 7:15 p.m.. New singers and ringers are always welcome! Email Vicki Taylor, vicki@ascensionelca.org, for more information or to join.

El Salvador Trip Meeting: Ascension is returning to El Salvador this summer. We will be there for about a week at the end of July / beginning of August. It will be a time of learning about the ministries of our sister parishes, exploring opportunities for future shared projects, cultural excursions, and building friendships with the members of San Jorge church. We have our first informational meeting on Sunday, Jan. 14, following late church. Questions? Contact Sarah Wehmeier Aparicio, sarah@ascensionelca.org.

No Regrets 2024: Ascension men are invited to the men's No Regrets conference livestreamed at Ascension on Feb. 3. More information and registration online, <http://tinyurl.com/NoRegretsAMEN>. Join us for this event sponsored by Ascension's men's group, Amen.

January Newsletter: Read all about it in our January newsletter online <https://ascensionelca.org/events/newsletter/>.

Many Ways to Give



- 1) QR code
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- 3) Online at tinyurl.com/SupportALC
- 4) Via text to 262-214-3681 with the amount

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

<https://ascensionelca.org/events/>

Sun Jan 7

8:30am Worship S

9:45am BLAST

10:45am Misa EH

10:45am Worship S

12pm Tres Reyes Magos
WH

6pm CRASH

7pm AA WH

Mon Jan 8

6:30pm AA Sm Group

WH

Tue Jan 9

7am AMEN zoom

9:30am Women's Bible
CR

6:30pm Comm. Out-
reach CR

7pm Holloway Group
HR

Wed Jan 10

11:30am Staff Mtg HR

6pm Handbells S

7pm AA WH

7:15pm Adult Choir S

Thu Jan 11

10am Al Anon CR

11am Staff Spanish

5pm Children's Choir
MR

6pm JOLT EH

Sun Jan 14

8:30am Worship S

9:45am BLAST

10:45am Misa EH

10:45am Worship S

12pm El Salvador Mtg
7pm AA WH

Mon Jan 15

1pm Knit Wits WH

6:30pm AA Sm Group

Tue Jan 16

7am AMEN zoom

9:30am Women's Bible

Wed Jan 17

12pm Young at Heart
WH

6pm Handbells S

7pm AA WH

7:15pm Adult Choir S

Thu Jan 18

9:30am TGIT HR

10am Al Anon CR

1pm Hansen Group CR

5pm Children's Choir
MR

Sat Jan 20

10:30am Knit Wits WH

Key

CR	Conference rm
EH	East Hall
HR	Hearth rm
S	Sanctuary
WH	West Hall
<i>Italics</i>	<i>Virtual/offsite</i>



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