



Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m., December 8, 2024

Worship Leadership

Rev. Christian Marien, *Lead Pastor*

Rev. Anthony Acompanado, *Pastor*

Rev. Edwin Aparicio, *Pastor*

Vicki Taylor, *Director of Music Ministries*

Acolyte: Eli Escobedo **Altar Guild:** Marge Schroeder

Communion: Marge Schroeder, Paul Wehmeier

Greeters: Bob and Karen Schmiechen

Media: Cheryl Werner **Reader:** Jennifer Werner

Ushers: Bill Klippel, Dennis Mohr, Jeff Rohrer

PRELUDE

Prepare the Royal Highway, setting by John Behnke

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

ELW 249

ADVENT 2—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, the second candle to lead us in the way of peace, calling us to change our living to 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 OF PRAISE

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (v. 1)

ELW 254

P: Let us pray... Holy God, a candle burns,

C: **The second marker of our Advent journey.**

P: As we continue, may we travel peacefully.

C: **As we continue, God of journeys, speak to us. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Chris

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and

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who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **Prepare the Royal Highway** (*v. 1*) **ELW 264**

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 3rd chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL READING **Luke 3:1-6**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON **Pastor Chris**

HYMN **Prepare the Royal Highway** (*v. 2 - 4*) **ELW 264**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Comfort: For the Gallo family at the death of Jay's dad, Jerry
For the Frowein family at the death of Rick's dad, Richard
For Callie Koenig's friend Ellie at the death of her father

Thanksgiving: For Linda Hansen's successful heart procedure

God's Care: With Peter Passante for Renee and Liz

Healing: For Mary Rapp, pulled muscle in leg
For Tracy, Peter Passante's friend, following surgery to remove a brain tumor

SHARING OF THE PEACE



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*

OFFERTORY

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (*v. 1 - 2*)

ELW 240

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe who brings forth bread from the earth.
Alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another: God of mercy...

C: **We confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

P: God of might...

C: **We confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have
trusted false promises.**

P: God in our midst...

C: **We confess that we have sinned. We ask you to come to us, that we may know your for-
giveness and feel your presence in us.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God for-
gives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his au-
thority, 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.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

p. 144

PROPER PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

p. 144

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

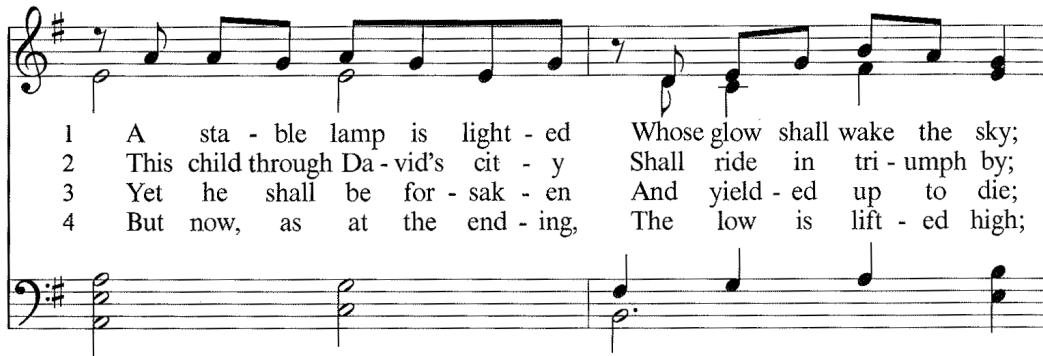
p. 146

HYMNS

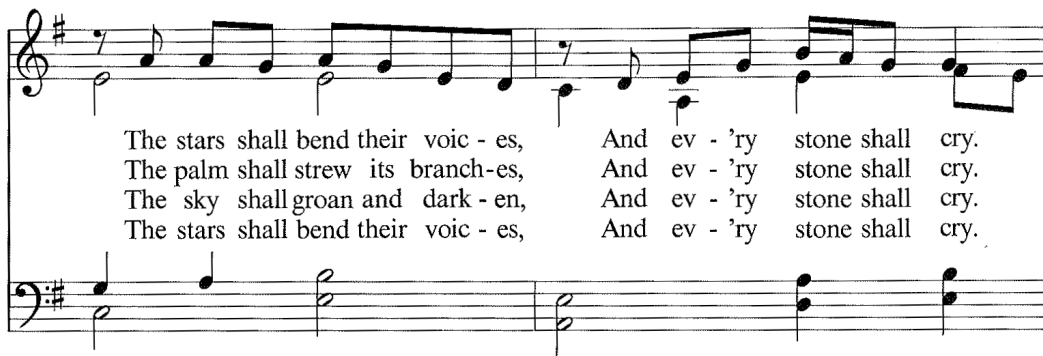
Comfort, Comfort Now My People

ELW 256

A Stable Lamp Is Lighted



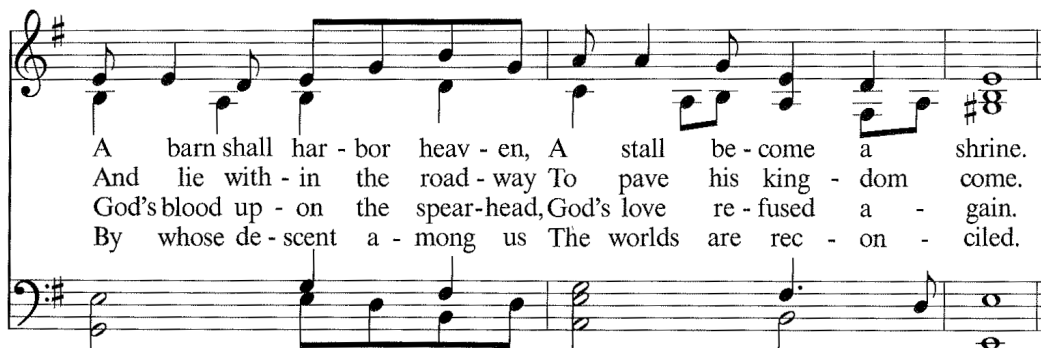
1 A sta - ble lamp is light - ed Whose glow shall wake the sky;
2 This child through Da - vid's cit - y Shall ride in tri - umph by;
3 Yet he shall be for - sak - en And yield - ed up to die;
4 But now, as at the end - ing, The low is lift - ed high;



The stars shall bend their voic - es, And ev - 'ry stone shall cry.
The palm shall strew its branch - es, And ev - 'ry stone shall cry.
The sky shall groan and dark - en, And ev - 'ry stone shall cry.
The stars shall bend their voic - es, And ev - 'ry stone shall cry.



And ev - 'ry stone shall cry, And straw like gold shall shine;
And ev - 'ry stone shall cry, Though heav - y, dull, and dumb,
And ev - 'ry stone shall cry For ston - y hearts of men:
And ev - 'ry stone shall cry In prais - es of the child



A barn shall har - bor heav - en, A stall be - come a shrine.
 And lie with - in the road - way To pave his king - dom come.
 God's blood up - on the spear - head, God's love re - fused a - gain.
 By whose de - scent a - mong us The worlds are rec - on - ciled.

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, *setting by Lynn Petersen*

| Worship Support https://tinyurl.com/worshipsupport | | |
|--|---|--|
| | 6 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 14 | 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 15 |
| Acolyte | Hadley Marien | Grace Paczesny, Kaiana Nichols-Schroeder |
| Altar Guild | <i>Volunteers needed</i> | Chris and Jimmy Loos |
| Communion | Jennifer Werner, <i>2 volunteers needed</i> | Mary Ellen Comp, Jim Hahn, Becky Pepper |
| Greeters | Ileen Marien, Jan Zastrow | Steve and Cara Boyer |
| Media | Anna Marien | Buck Houston |
| Ushers | <i>3 volunteers needed</i> | Bill Klippel, Dennis Mohr, Mike Rapp |



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 if needed. There are also Busy Bags available in the lobby.

Pew Pads: Please fill-out the blue pew pad and pass it to your neighbor. You might make a new friend!

Baptized: We welcome Camila Alessandra Salvatierra Martinez and Fabio Morales Martinez in baptism today at the Spanish service. Parents are Francisco Morales and Valeria Martinez. Sponsors are Gustavo Martinez and Olisbeth Ascanio.

Poinsettia Donations: If you would like to donate a poinsettia for our sanctuary this Christmas season (\$12 each), please fill-out the form on the next page. You may also fill out the form online at <https://tinyurl.com/PoinsettiaALC> and pay online.

Journey to Bethlehem & Winter Item Donations: This special event is today between services.

Kringle Pick-Up: Stop by the Conference Room this morning starting at 9:45 a.m. to pick-up your kringles. If you didn't get a chance to order, there are some extras available for purchase.

Annunciation Worship & Breakfast: On Thursday, Dec. 12, join your pastors and members of Ascension as we celebrate the visit of the angel Gabriel to Mary with a 6 a.m. Spanish-language worship led by a mariachi band, followed by a potluck breakfast.

Advent Concert Worship *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers*: Choirs, handbells, praise band, and instrumentalists will present *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers* on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 6 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 15, at 9:30 a.m. followed by a potluck brunch.

Healing Hearts Meal: Ascension will provide a homemade meal of mac and cheese for Healing Hearts on Monday, Dec. 9. We need help with recipe supplies, rolls, veggies, fruit and cookies to make the meal complete. Visit the sign-up if you can help, <https://tinyurl.com/HH12-2024>.

El Salvador: Our annual gifts for our partners in El Salvador is to send money for backpacks (\$20), shoes (\$40) and a simple food basket (\$50). You can donate online at <https://tinyurl.com/ALCSJES>, with a check to Ascension with a memo for El Salvador, or at the table on Sunday morning. See the December newsletter for more details.

Mt. Meru Coffee: Consider purchasing coffee for your holiday gatherings from Ascension's Mt. Meru Coffee Project. If what you'd like isn't available in the cabinet, please fill-out the order form. Your order will be ready for pick-up at church just a few days later.

Christmas Light Recycling: We will again collect broken or burned out tree lights for proper recycling. Place them in the marked bin in the Donation Center. Creation Care will recycle them.

Jubilate Chorale: Jubilate Chorale's Christmas concert, *Joy and Wonder*, will be this afternoon at 3 p.m. at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa. Tickets are available online at jubilate-chorale.org or from Vicki Taylor, Director of Music Ministries.

Advent & Christmas at Ascension



Activities

BLAST Journey to Bethlehem, today, 9:45a

Advent Book Study, Mondays, 10a & 6p,
through Dec. 23

Healing Hearts Meal, Dec. 9

Advent Brunch, Sunday, Dec. 15, 10:30a

CRASH Progressive Dinner, Dec. 15, 4:30p

Young at Heart Christmas, Wed., Dec. 18, 12p

Children's Program Rehearsal, Sat. Dec. 21, 9a

Las Posadas (*en español*), Sábado, Dec. 21, 4p

Church Office Closed, Dec. 24-27

Worship

Annunciation Worship (*en español*), 6a, Thurs-
day, Dec. 12

Advent Concert Worship, Saturday 6p & Sunday
9:30a, Dec. 14 & 15

Misa (*en español*), Sunday, Dec. 15, 10:45a

4th Sunday of Advent Worship, Dec. 22, 8:30a

Worship with Children's Program (*bilingual*),
Sunday, Dec. 22, 10:45a

Misa (*en español*), Dec. 22, 10:45a

Christmas Eve worship, 3p, 5p & 9:30p, Tues-
day, Dec. 24

Nochebuena (*en español*), 6p, Tuesday, Dec. 24

Christmas Day Worship, 10a, Dec. 25

1st Sunday of Christmas, Sunday, Dec. 29, 8:30a
& 10:45a

Misa (*en español*), Dec. 29, 10:45a



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 (membership)

Please place in the offering plate.

CALENDAR

Sun Dec 8

8:30am Worship S

9:45am Journey to
Bethlehem

9:45am Kringle pick-up

10:45am Misa EH

10:45am Worship S

7pm AA WH

Mon Dec 9

10am Advent Book
Study HR, S

*5pm Healing Hearts
Dinner*

6pm AMEN CR

6pm Advent Book
Study HR, S

6:30pm AA Sm Group
WH

Tue Dec 10

7am AMEN zoom

9:30am Women's Bible
CR

Wed Dec 11

6pm Handbells S

7pm AA WH

7:15pm Adult Choir S

Thu Dec 12

6am Annunciation

Worship EH

10am Al Anon CR

5pm Children's Choir
MR

5:45pm Youth Choir
MR

Sat Dec 14

**6pm Advent Concert
Worship S**

Sun Dec 15

**9:30am Advent Con-
cert Worship S**

10:30am Brunch WH,
K

10:45am Misa EH

4:30pm CRASH Pro-
gressive Dinner

7pm AA WH

Mon Dec 16

10am Advent Book
Study HR

6pm AMEN CR

6pm Advent Book
Study HR

6:30pm AA Sm Group
WH

Tue Dec 17

7am AMEN zoom

9:30am Women's Bible
CR

Wed Dec 18

12pm Young at Heart

6pm Handbells S

7pm AA WH

7:15pm Adult Choir S

Key

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| CR | Conference rm |
| EH | East Hall |
| HR | Hearth Rm |
| MG | Memorial Garden |
| N | Narthex (Lobby) |
| PR | Prayer Room |
| S | Sanctuary |
| WH | West Hall (Kit) |
| <i>Italics</i> | <i>Virtual or offsite</i> |



Ascension Lutheran Church
1415 Dopp St., Waukesha, WI
262-547-8518 ascensionelca.org