



Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m., December 7, 2025

Worship Leadership

Rev. Christian Marien, *Lead Pastor*

Rev. Anthony Acompanado, *Pastor*

Rev. Edwin Aparicio, *Pastor*

Vicki Taylor, *Director of Music Ministries*

Acolytes: Howie Leatherwood, Joey Leatherwood

Altar Guild: Gary Bauer

Choir Accompanist: Kathy Johnson

Communion: Carol and Steve Spieker

Greeters: Susan Koefler, Becky Pepper

Media: Buck Houston **Reader:** Beth Hoffmann

Ushers: Jim Hahn, Dennis Mohr, Jeff Rohrer

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, *Paul Manz*
Hark, the Glad Sound! *Michael Burkhardt*

WELCOME

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.**

READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They

will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

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

ELW 240

PRAYER

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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS / WELCOME TO THE REV. LARRY HARPSTER

OPENING HYMN

Hark, the Glad Sound!

ELW 239

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

p. 148

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

ANTHEM

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, *arr. Timothy Kile*

Ascension Choir

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Chris

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

ELW 264



I Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

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

C:



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C:



Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Comfort: For Jimmy Maruska and family at the death of his brother Greg
For the Kinunen family following the death of Jill Rea

Healing: For Jessie Miller, recovering from surgery
For Carol Peters' granddaughter and premature twin great-grandbabies
For Ruth Dewitz, following a hospitalization
For Jay Steinke, back surgery
For Linda Foss, beginning chemo

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING **Comfort Ye and Ev'ry Valley Shall Be Exalted** (from *Messiah*) **Jeff Britton**
G. F. Handel

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. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises. We ask you to come to us, that we may know your forgiveness 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 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 \dagger , and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

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.

PRAYER STATION

If you desire private prayers of healing for yourself or someone you know, please receive communion and then make your way to the kneeler at the altar where one of the pastors or pastoral assistants will listen to your request and then offer a moment of prayer.

LAMB OF GOD

p. 154

HYMNS

Wait for the Lord

ELW 262

All Earth Is Hopeful

ELW 266

Light Dawns on a Weary World

ELW 726

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

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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



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!

Today at Ascension!

- **8:30 & 10:45 worship**
- **Journey to Bethlehem:** Games and activities in the narthex between services. JAM will begin in the sanctuary.
- **Kringle Pick-Up:** If you ordered kringles, please visit the Conference Room after worship to pick-up your kringles.
- **MKE Wild Church** meets at 2 p.m. in the Memorial Gardens (or West Hall, weather dependent). Everyone is welcome. Please invite friends and neighbors of all ages who are not attracted to traditional church services. Led by Pastor Larry Harpster, Wild Church is interactive and lets nature contribute to the worship experience.

Midweek Advent Worship: During Advent, we will gather in the sanctuary on Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. for a half hour worship with music, prayer, scripture, devotion, and communion.

Advent Book Study: Join Pastor Chris for an Advent book study of *Voices of Advent* by Matthew L. Skinner, Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m., or Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. On Tuesday nights, we will light the Advent wreath with a brief devotion before discussion. On Wednesday mornings, you are invited to stay for worship after the book study. We still have a few copies of the book available for \$13 but can also be purchased online.

Annunciation Worship & Breakfast: On Friday, Dec. 12, join us 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.

Go Tell It on the Mountain: Join us for a special weekend of worship with our Advent Concert Worship services. On Saturday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 14, at 9:30 a.m., the musical ensembles of Ascension will share the music of the season in the context of worship with holy communion. We will celebrate with a potluck brunch at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday. Please sign-up in the narthex with what you're bringing.

Youth Choir Rehearsal: The Youth choir will rehearse on Thursday, Dec. 11, at 5:45 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 13, at 10 a.m.

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

Jubilate Chorale Christmas Concerts: Jubilate Chorale presents *The News the Angels Bring* today, Sunday, Dec. 7, at 3 p.m., St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa. Tickets are available from Scott Greger, Liz Jacobson, Annemarie Wucker, and Vicki Taylor, or at the door.

Supporting Families in El Salvador: We're collecting funds for end-of-the-year food baskets, backpacks, and shoes for families in El Salvador. This year, food scarcity is a bigger issue since most of the families lost their bean crop due to flooding. A food basket is \$50, shoes are \$40, and backpacks are \$20. You can donate online <https://tinyurl.com/ALCSJES> or with a check to Ascension that states El Salvador in the memo.



Meijer's Simply Give Program: Meijer will double match any cards purchased to support the Food Pantry of Waukesha County on Saturday, Dec. 13. When you shop at Meijer in Waukesha and grab a Simply Give donation card (next to the soda machines at check-out), every dollar goes directly to helping local families. During this time of food instability, this is a wonderful way to make your donations so farther.

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.

Young at Heart: Join the Young at Heart group (for people over 55) on Wednesday, Dec. 17, for a Christmas potluck lunch and music. Bring a dish to pass if you are able. Please note that there will be no bunco this month.

AMEN Christmas Gathering Dec. 15: Please remember to drop your long underwear donations in the bin at church or bring the night of the event. Please also remember to pay Steve for your reservation. Contact Steve directly 262-366-4078 (text msg) or sboyer@HealthMarkets.com.

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. You may place orders by email to Amy Gilgenbach, admin@ascensionelca.org.

Worship Support https://tinyurl.com/worshippupport		
	Dec. 13 at 6p	Dec. 14 at 9:30a
Acolytes	Marta Aparicio, Hadley Marien	Elsa Romme, Brooklyn Stigler
Altar Guild	Marge Schroeder	Marge Schroeder
Communion	Diane Dowling, Becky Pepper, Marge and Todd Schroeder	Becky Pepper, Marge Schroeder, Jennifer Werner, <i>1 volunteer needed</i>
Greeters	<i>Always appreciated</i>	Carol McDivitt, Garnet Wolff
Media	Buck Houston	Cheryl Werner
Ushers	Brian Smith, <i>2 volunteers needed</i>	Dennis Mohr, Paul Wehmeier, Scot Werner

Sun Dec 7 Advent II

8:30am Worship S

9:45am Kringle pick-up CR
9:45am Journey to Bethlehem

10:45am Worship EH S

2pm Wild Church MG WH
7pm AA WH

Mon Dec 8

12pm Staff Mtg

6:30pm AA Sm Group WH
6:30pm AMEN CR

Tue Dec 9

7am AMEN zoom

9:30am Women's Bible CR
6:30pm Book Study HR
6:30pm SOPHIA WH

Wed Dec 10

10:30am Book Study HR
11:30am Advent Worship S
6pm Handbells S
7pm AA WH
7:15pm Adult Choir S

Thu Dec 11

10am AI Anon CR
5pm Children's Choir MR
5:45pm Youth Choir S

Fri Dec 12

6am Annunciation Worship EH

Key

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

Sat Dec 13

10am Youth Choir S
6pm Advent Concert Worship

Sun Dec 14 Advent III

9:30am Advent Concert Worship S

10:45am Brunch
4:30pm CRASH Dinner
7pm AA WH

Mon Dec 15

5pm AMEN at Tally's
6:30pm AA Sm Group WH

Tue Dec 16

7am AMEN zoom
9:30am Women's Bible CR
6:30pm Advent Book Study

Wed Dec 17

10:30am Book Study HR
11:30am Advent Worship S
12pm Young at Heart WH
7pm AA WH

Thu Dec 18

9:30am TGIT HR
10am AI Anon CR

Fri Dec 19

9am Private event S

Sat Dec 20

9am Children's Program Rehearsal S
4pm Las Posadas

Sun Dec 21 Advent IV

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

Mon Dec 22

6:30pm AA Sm Group WH
6:30pm AMEN CR

Tue Dec 23

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

Wed Dec 24

Church office closed
3pm Christmas Eve worship
5pm Christmas Eve worship
6pm Nochebuena EH
7pm AA WH
9:30pm Christmas Eve worship

Thu Dec 25

Church office closed
10am AI Anon CR
10am Christmas Day worship

Fri Dec 26

Church office closed

Sun Dec 28

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

Mon Dec 29

Church office closed
6:30pm AA Sm Group WH

Tue Dec 30

Church office closed
7am AMEN zoom
9:30am Women's Bible CR
10:30am Boyer group HR

Wed Dec 31

Church office closed
7pm AA WH

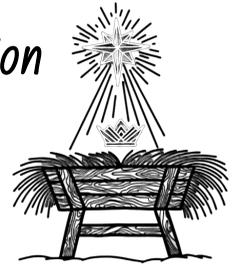
Thu Jan 1

Church office closed
10am AI Anon CR

Fri Jan 2

Church office closed

Advent & Christmas at Ascension



Activities

Journey to Bethlehem, Sunday, Dec. 7, 9:45a

Advent Book Study, Tuesdays, Dec. 2-16, 6:30p, and Wednesdays, Dec. 3-17, 10:30a

Healing Hearts Meal, Monday, Dec. 8, 4:30p

Advent Brunch, Sunday, Dec. 14, 10:30 a.m.

CRASH Progressive Dinner, Sunday, Dec. 14, 4:30p

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

Children's Program Rehearsal, Saturday, Dec. 20, 9a

Las Posadas (*en español*), Saturday, Dec. 20, 4p

Church Office Closed, Dec. 24-Jan. 2

Worship

Annunciation Worship (*en español*), Friday, Dec. 12, 6a

Advent Concert Worship, Saturday 6p & Sunday 9:30a, Dec. 13 & 14

Misa (*en español*), Sunday, Dec. 14, 10:45a

4th Sunday of Advent Worship, Sunday, Dec. 21, 8:30a

Worship with Children's Program (*bilingual*), Sunday, Dec. 21, 10:45a

Christmas Eve worship, Wednesday, Dec. 24, 3p, 5p & 9:30p

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

Christmas Day Worship, Thursday, Dec. 25, 10a

1st Sunday of Christmas, Sunday, Dec. 28, 8:30a & 10:45a



Poinsettia Donations

If you would like to donate a poinsettia for our sanctuary this Christmas season (\$12 each), 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." Thank you for helping make the sanctuary beautiful as we celebrate the birth of Jesus! Please mark how you'd like your donation to be listed below.

In celebration of Jesus' birth

To the glory of God

Donated in honor of

Donated in memory of

Donor:

Donation amount \$ _____

Payment type: _____

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?

- E-Alert
- 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)



Ascension Lutheran Church
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