# SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 8, 2019 • 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. • Ascension Lutheran Church El Paso, Texas

### As We Gather

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. The kingdom of heaven is at hand. As the darkness increases we turn toward the light of Christ's coming. For Christians He is the root of Jesse, the promised Messiah, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's altar, we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near. Advent is a time to recognize God's grace in forgiving our sins and to look forward and up in hope!

# + WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME +

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

### Choral Prelude

"Come Now O Prince of Peace"

"Christ Be Our Light" | Bernadette Farrell

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" | Roy Hopp

### Words of Welcome

# **Opening Sentences**

- P As we continue in this season of Advent, we begin this time of worship and recall our baptismal grace. In the name of the Father and of the 

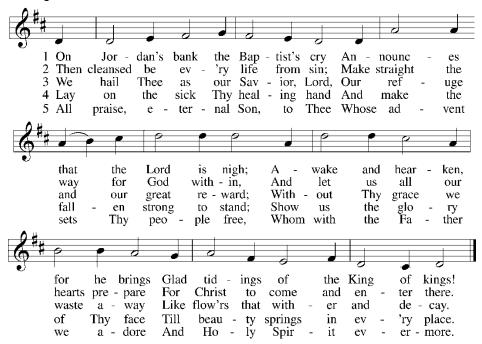
  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P John the Baptist came crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord;

- make His paths straight; bear fruit in keeping with repentance." (Matthew 3:3)
- P He called all people to be baptized and to wash away their sins.
- We were baptized into Christ and have put on Christ. (Galatians 3:27)
- P The Lord delivers the needy when they call.
- From oppression and violence He redeems their life. (Psalm 72:12, 14)

# Opening Hymn

LSB 344 | "On Jordan's Bank the

Baptist's Cry"

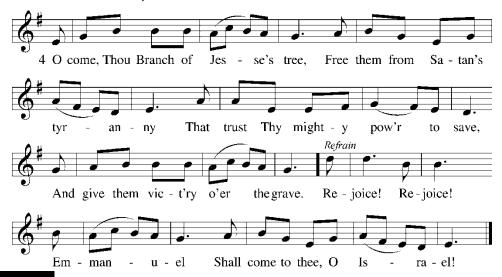


# Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P Beloved in the Lord, many ignore and reject the Lord now, but the day is coming when His majestic voice will fill His enemies with terror. You shall be delivered from your enemies. All who receive the King as He comes to His Zion in word and Sacrament, all who remain faithful until the end shall then have gladness of heart. On the four Sundays in Advent, we light a new candle each week. We mark the four candles with these four words: hope, peace, joy, and love.

Jesus Christ is the hope of the nations.

- We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we hope.
- P Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace.
- We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we rest.



Please stand.

# Confession and Forgiveness

- P When John the Baptist was preparing people to meet the Messiah, he preached, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
- We all should repent, for we have thought, spoken, and acted in divisive, sinful ways.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P Merciful Father,
- we have turned away from You and sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things, and have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, turn us away from sin and to You, that we may love and serve You and Your ways of righteousness, justice, and peace.
- As John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, he said, "All flesh shall see the salvation of God." God sent Jesus to bring salvation to the world through His death and resurrection. This salvation is complete, and Christ comes to you once again with forgiveness, life, and salvation. Hear these words of forgiveness, for they are from Christ Himself: As a called and ordained

servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

- Amen.
- St. Paul writes, "Now may the God of hope fill you with complete joy and peace as you continue to believe, so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" With great joy, let us now share the peace of the Lord with one another.

# Sharing of the Peace

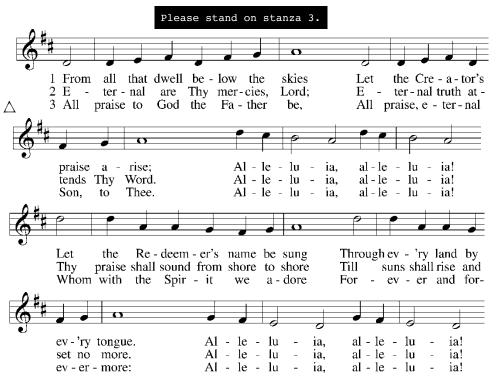
The congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," and then the response, "And also with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3).

Please be seated.

# Hymn of Praise

LSB 816 | "From All That Dwell Below

the Skies"





Please be seated.

# Prayer of the Day

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- Lord of life and light, as Your Word and call to repentance was spoken by John the Baptist, so speak to us now through that same Word to prepare the way and make straight the paths to receive and welcome Your only-begotten Son that we may have life and bear fruit in Your name; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

# + WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD +

# Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

In today's reading the prophet describes the ideal ruler who will come in the future as a green shoot springing from a dead stump (David's royal line) of Jesse (David's father). Gifted by the Spirit, the Messiah will seek justice for the poor, and the reign of this monarch will be experienced as paradise regained.

¹A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit. ²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. ³He will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what He sees with His eyes, nor will He render decisions based on what His ears hear, ⁴but with righteousness He will judge the poor, and He will render fair decisions in favor of the humble of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth; and with the breath of His lips He will kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness will be the belt around His waist, and faithfulness the belt around His hips. ⁶The wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, the calf, the young lion, and the fattened calf together; and a little

child will lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear will graze. Their young ones will lie down together. The lion will eat straw like the cattle. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child will play near a cobra's hole, and the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>It will happen in that day that the peoples will seek the Root of Jesse, who will be standing like a banner for the peoples, and His resting place will be glorious.

- R This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God!

Choir Anthem | 8:00 "And A Little Child Shall Lead Them" | Roy Hopp

# **Epistle Reading**

Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

4Indeed, whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that, through patient endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we would <sup>5</sup>And may God, the source of patient endurance and have hope. encouragement, grant that you agree with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus, 6so that with one mind, in one voice, you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>For this reason, accept one another as Christ also accepted you to the glory of God. 8For I am saying that Christ became a servant of those who are circumcised for the sake of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs. 9He also did this so that the Gentiles would glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: For this reason I will praise You among the Gentiles, and I will sing to Your name. <sup>10</sup>And again it says: Rejoice, you Gentiles, with His people. 11And again: Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples give Him praise. 12And again Isaiah says: There will be a Root of Jesse, and He is the One who will rise up to rule the Gentiles; on Him the Gentiles will place their hope. 13Now may the God of hope fill you with complete joy and peace as you continue to believe, so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

# Thanks be to God!

Please stand in honor of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

# Alleluia Verse



# Holy Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins His public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful One who is to come.

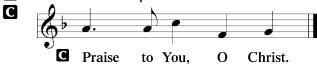
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.



¹In those days, John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, ²"Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near!" ³Yes, this is he of whom this was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: A voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord. Make His paths straight." ⁴John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem, all of Judea, and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him. ⁶They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. ¬But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁶Therefore produce fruit in keeping with repentance! ඉDo not think of saying to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ¹0Already the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹I baptize you with water for repentance. But the One who

comes after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry His sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing shovel is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor. He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

Children's Message

# Hymn of the Day

Jesus, Shine"

MJS 48 | "Shine,

1. Lord, the light of Your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth You now bring us;
Shine on me, Shine on me.
Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

- 2. Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
  From the shadows into Your radiance;
  By the blood I may enter Your brightness;
  Search me, try me, consume all my darkness;
  Shine on me, Shine on me.
  Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory.
  Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.
  Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy.
  Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.
  - 3. As we gaze on Your kingly brightness

So our faces display Your likeness. Ever changing from glory to glory: Mirrored here, may our lives tell Your story; Shine on me, Shine on me. Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory. Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire. Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy. Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

Message

"Wake Up Calls" | Text: Ephesians 4:14

"Wake up you sleeper, rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you."

Please stand.

# \* WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE \*

### Profession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

A I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated.

# Offering

A special note to our Guests: The ministries of Ascension are supported by the love, generosity and sacrificial giving of our members and friends. You are our GUEST today. Please do not feel obligated to make a contribution, but do fill out a Friendship Card and place it in the offering plate. Thank you!

Choir Anthem | 8:00 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" | Howard Helvey

# Prayer of the Church

- P Heavenly Father, through John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, You remind us to be prepared and ever ready for the coming of Your Son as Judge of the living and the dead. By Your Holy Spirit cause us truly to be repentant and to turn to You in faith, that receiving Christ's own righteousness we may joyfully prepare for His return. Lord, in Your mercy,
- hear our Advent prayer.
- P Gracious Lord, You have called each of us to our families, to this congregation, and to our daily work. We pray that You would enable us to be faithful in our various vocations and to remove those obstacles in our lives that would prevent others from seeing You in us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **G** hear our Advent prayer.
- P Almighty Lord, look upon our nation with Your favor. Grant understanding, wisdom and honesty to those who govern that we may dwell in peace and that Your Word may have free course to call all within our borders to Your mercy and grace. Lord, in Your mercy,
- hear our Advent prayer.
- Merciful Lord, grant patience to all who await the joy of Your abiding and healing presence: those afflicted with physical sickness (especially . . .), the discouraged and those who mourn (especially . . .). Remind us all of the shortness of time, and grant us courage to serve our neighbor while it is still day. Lord, in Your mercy,
- hear our Advent prayer.
- (Other petitions may be offered.) Into Your hands, Lord Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your ever-present mercy and praying together the wonderful prayer that You have taught us how to pray:
- 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Please stand.

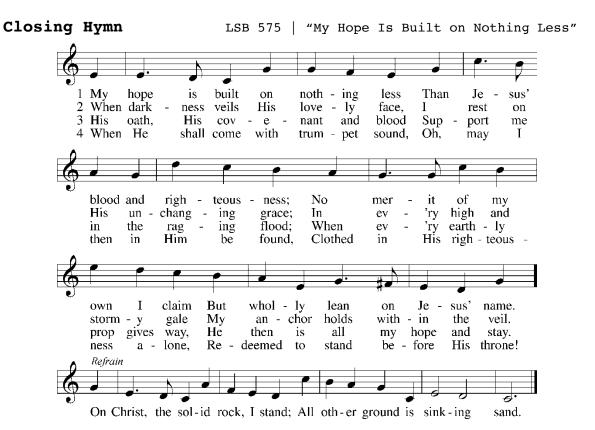
# + WE DEPART WITH GOD'S BI ESSING +

# Benediction

The blessing of God Almighty—the Father who promised, the 

→ Son who came to save, and the Spirit who sends us out in love—bless you now and always.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus, come! (Rev 22:20)



# Sending

- P Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness!
- Thanks be to God!

### Postlude

# + WE EXIT TO WITNESS +

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book. Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible*, *English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

# This Week at Ascension



December 8

### Flowers

The flowers in the altar area are given by the DeMartelaere family to the glory of God! *Thank you!* 

### Advent Meals

Volunteers are needed to provide sandwiches or soup prior to the Advent service. December 11 and 18 are available for you to serve our congregation for great fellowship! Look for the sign-up sheet to volunteer.

# Advent Youth Project

All youth are encouraged to help tie fleece blankets for Ascension's homebound members on Advent Wednesdays. Meet in the library at 5:30 p.m. every Wednesday.

# Sunday Worship Services for

December

Please note: we will have only ONE worship service on Sundays, December 15, 22 and 29 starting at 10:00 a.m. Family Bible Hour will begin at 8:45 a.m. with Fellowship Time beginning at 8:30 a.m. Please check the back of your bulletin for the rest of the holiday schedule!

# Christmas Party

Ascension's Christmas Party will take place at the Behl home on Friday, December 20 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to share. The address is 1034 Calle Flor and the Behl's phone number is 276-3494.



### LWML Ouilt Winner!

And the winner is ... Congratulations Cathy Calley! Cathy, who is a friend of Mary Rosenbaum, won the Ascension Lutheran Women's handmade quilt donated by the late Kay McLeod. Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraiser to support the mission work of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML).

Free Advent Devotional
Make sure to pick up your copy of the free
Advent devotional, "Call His Name Jesus." It is
located on the Welcome Center by the front
entrance.

Lutheran Hour Sunday Broadcast You can find the Lutheran Hour Sunday Broadcast at KAWZ 90.3 FM at 9:00 a.m. and at KPAS 103.1 FM at 10:00 a.m. If you are unable to attend church, you can hear sermons on these radio stations and even through the new "The Lutheran Hour" mobile app.

## Thank you!

Thank you to Pastor Howard Patten for serving Ascension today while Pastor Bestian is away for his son's graduation.

# **Prayer Ministry**

If you have a prayer request for the prayer chain, please call Olga Sullivan at 581-1450 or e-mail Jan Schlak at <a href="mailto:oveja6925@aol.com">oveja6925@aol.com</a>.

Please call the church office @ 833-1009 to include a prayer request for the bulletin.

Missions: Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute & Upbring

Immediate Concerns: Joey Mecham (C.J. Moore's friend), Judi Eifert (recovery from surgery - Barb Spott's sister), John Witty (surgery), Katherine Corona (head injuries), John

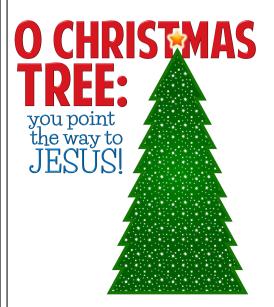
One Service Next Sunday
Next Sunday is our **Family Christmas Worship Service** with ONE SERVICE
beginning at 10:00 am! Family Bible Study
fellowship begins at 8:30 a.m. See you then
for a wonderful time to worship the King!

And remember, if you are participating, rehearsal is at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 14.

Women's Bible Study Please note the following schedule changes for the Thursday morning Women's Bible Study: Thu, Dec. 12, 10:30 am is brunch at Billie Meitler's home (1652 Via Appia) and Thu, Jan. 9 they resume the regular schedule at Jan Schlak's home.

### Preschool

Ascension Lutheran Church Preschool offers a Christian-based curriculum for ages 2 to Pre-K. Visit <u>ALConnect.faith</u> for more information or contact the preschool at (915) 833-4849.



# Stewardship Corner

Many people don't make weekly worship a priority. Christmas and Easter are often the only times we see many of our friends and neighbors in church. That situation presents a challenge to us, the redeemed of Christ, for we preach sermons every day with our words and our actions. In fact, ours may be the only sermons many hear! We have been called to "declare the praises of Him Who called [us] out of darkness into His wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9). Let us pray that we might embrace our calling and "preach sermons" that will help spread the Good News of salvation for all.

Paper Products Donations
Donations of paper products for the
Opportunity Center for the homeless & Ysleta
Lutheran Mission (paper towels, paper plates,
napkins and toilet paper) may be placed in the
large plastic bin in the fellowship hall. Thank
you!

# Offering Reminder

Don't let your giving go on vacation when you go on vacation! If you utilize online bill pay through your financial institution you can also send your donations to Ascension via your online bill pay. Simply set up Ascension Lutheran Church as one of your accounts to pay; enter our address (6520 Loma de Cristo Drive, El Paso, TX 79912) and most importantly enter your envelope number as the 'account number' to ensure your donations are properly credited. Your financial institution will then mail the church a check whenever you direct them to do so.

Switzer (cancer), Scarlett Orwig (leukemia—teammate of Madison Schwitters), Jesus Gomez (Alicia Gomez's father), Pastor Daniel Salinas (heart attack), Sue Anderson, Martha Neal, Judie Pinal (successful cancer treatments), Rosie Aguirre (friend of John Witty - cancer treatment), Aaron Levenhagen (Linda Canada's nephew—correct diagnosis), Mona Chandler (Alzheimer's—Harry Clark's sister), Suzette Barber (knee injury), Cindy McGuire (motorcycle accident), Jerad Knight, Olga Sullivan (Parkinson's), Judy Freubenburg (Ordella Uhde's sister-in-law), James Goldsmith, June McClanahan (Pastor's aunt—pancreatic cancer), Brent Behrens (continued healing after stroke), Natalie Knight, Gloria Garcia (friend of Weyers—heart attack), Tony Evans (ALS diagnosis), Erin Naylor Leach (friend of Hite family—successful rehab), Herb Harper (effective treatment), Lorie Nadelborg (inoperable brain tumor).

Ongoing Prayers: Bob Gallagher, Ron Spott, Annabelle Leupp, Todd Maki, Jerry Aguilera, Helen Allen, Rick Barber, Eric Bell, Juan Chacon, Peter Chisholm, Ron Cleavenger, Micah Cohen, Josephine DeMartelaere, Julie DeRusha, Humberto Garcia, Angelika Grossnick, Tina Guerrero, Wayne Kendrick, William Peevey, Lenae Rasmussen, Cheryl Rassette, Eloisa Regalado, Gideon Rhodes, Alicia Rich, Paul Robinson, Julio Rodriguez, Gabriella Rubio, Garry Simmons, Bill Strickland, Louise Strickland, Anthony Sullivan, Tony Sullivan, Fred Svarney, Jim Swegarden, Greg Vaughan, Grace Wells, Jim Werner, Marge Jordan

**Deployed Troops:** Please pray for all deployed troops and their families as they serve our country around the world.

# Holiday Service Schedule

December 11   Wednesday	Advent Meal Midweek Advent Service 2	6:00 p.m. 6:45 p.m.
December 15   Sunday	Fellowship Time Family Bible Hour Family Christmas Worship Service	8:30 a.m. 8:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
December 18   Wednesday	Advent Meal Midweek Advent Service 3	6:00 p.m. 6:45 p.m.

December 22   Sunday	Fellowship Time Family Bible Hour Fourth Sunday in Advent	
December 24   Tuesday	Christmas Eve Candlelight Services	5:00 & 7:00 p.m.
December 25   Wednesday	Christmas Day Communion Service	10:00 a.m.
December 29   Sunday	Fellowship Time Family Bible Hour Christmas Carol Service	
December 31   Tuesday	New Year's Eve Communion Service	5:00 p.m.
January 5   Sunday	Epiphany Worship Services Family Bible Hour	8:00 & 10:30 a.m. 9:15 a.m.

