

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

First Sunday in Advent

November 27, 2022

A SERVICE of MORNING PRAYER AND MISSION

Welcome Guests and Visitors to the **Advent** Season and **our Worship** at **Ascension**. We pray that your worship with us is as spiritually enriching for you as your presence is encouraging to us. We also pray that our Friend and Comfort, the Holy Spirit, would fill your spirit with Christ's peace, power, and joy for daily life in Him. We invite you to sign a blue Fellowship card.



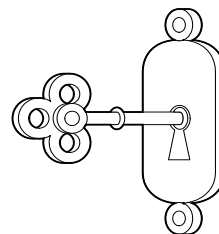
Advent

Welcome and Introduction to Worship

MISSION PRAYER: *Almighty God, Heavenly Father as Your baptized children You call us again this morning to prayer for Your Church and world. We bring before You now in our hands and our hearts both the beauty and the brokenness our suffering creation. Across this groaning planet are millions of Your creation who do not know You, and ignorant of Your gracious presence, struggle and suffer in sickness, sorrow, and meaningless living. There are in our city and our communities thousands of Your children who, mindless of Your mercies, waste their days and their dreams in pursuit of a happiness only You can give. By Your Holy Spirit breathe into us Your wisdom, Your compassion, and Your strength that we might be formed for mission and fit for ministry to Your world and this city. We pray in the precious Name of Jesus. Amen.*

Words of Welcome

The ancient song "Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel" says, "Oh come, thou **Key of David**, come!" Jesus is the Key of David. He is the Son of David who opens the door to heaven. Jesus opens heaven for us because He died and rose again for us. He promised that He would come again visibly to take us to be with Him. We wait in hope for that great day! Oh come, thou Key of David!



Opening Hymn

"Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel" LSB 357, vs 1, 4-6

1. Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, oh Israel.

4. Oh come, thou branch of Jesse's tree, Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust thy mighty power to save, And give them vict'ry over the grave.

**5. Oh come, thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.**

6. Oh come, thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by thy drawing nigh.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Invocation

Pastor: We begin in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

P Jesus is the Key of David.

C He is the Son of David who opens the door to heaven.

P Jesus opens the door to heaven because He died for us.

C He died on the cross for the forgiveness of our wrongdoing.

P Jesus opens the door to heaven because He rose from the dead.

C He lives and He promises us that we will live forever with Him.

P Jesus has promised that He will come again visibly,

C To take us to be with Him in glory.

P We eagerly await that day!

C Oh come, thou Key of David!

P Jesus will come suddenly, when we least expect it.

C Oh come, thou Key of David!

P Let us live in the light, because He is coming soon.

C Oh come, thou Key of David!

Prayer of Confession

P Our Lord Jesus Christ has said that He will come again visibly to judge the earth.
John the Baptist tells us, "Prepare the way for the Lord! Make straight paths for
Him! Repent, for the kingdom of God is near!" (Matthew 3:2-3)

Personal Confession: We take a few moments for silent prayer and reflection.

**C Almighty God, I confess to You all my sins and wrongdoing. I acknowledge
that I have offended You and deserve Your punishment. However, I trust
in You, Lord Jesus, who came into the world to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15).
Because of this, even though I have often failed, I trust in Your wonderful**

promise of forgiveness.

Sung Prayer

“Oh Little Town of Bethlehem!”

LSB 361, vs 4

Oh holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin, and enter in. Be born in us today!
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell.
Oh come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Words of Forgiveness

P Jesus Christ, in His great love, came to our world as a baby in a dirty manger in a poor stable. He came for one reason: to take away the sins of the world. Jesus died for our moral failures and rose from the dead to assure us that we too will rise. God Himself wipes away our sin! Since you trust in Jesus, I tell you that through your faith, you are forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Hymn

“Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come”

LSB 350, vs 1-2

1. Come, thou precious Ransom, come, Only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, oh Savior of the world! Open are to thee all portals.
Come, thy beauty let us see; Anxiously we wait for thee.
2. Enter now my waiting heart, Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart, Though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine When thou art my guest divine!

Prayer for This Day (Collect)

P Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Key of David. You have unlocked heaven for us because You came down to earth to save us. And we know that You are coming again in glory! Thank You for Your love and salvation! Help us to glorify Your name by the way that we live, while we wait for Your coming. In Your own name we pray.

C Amen.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

The word "Advent" means "coming." Jesus Christ came once, centuries ago, in order to save us. He will come again in glory. Are you ready?

We light the candles on the Advent Wreath – a sign of hope that the Light of the World is coming to us! Today we light just one candle, the candle of Hope. For Christ is our Light and our Hope.

The first candle of the Advent wreath is lit.

The Advent wreath, like the colors and candles on the altar, is a symbol. It reminds us that Christ will come again visibly, and that we need to be prepared. The Advent wreath is in the shape of a circle, because just as a circle has no end, Christ came to give us life without end. The wreath has four colored candles, one for each Sunday before Christmas. The center candle is called the Christ candle, and is lit on Christmas itself. Just as we prepare to celebrate Christmas – Christ’s first coming – the Advent candles remind us that we need to prepare for Christ’s second coming in glory. We need to acknowledge our failures to do God’s will, ask God’s forgiveness, and live for Him.

Advent Wreath Song “It’s Christmas Coming Again” LCC 282

Refrain: It’s coming, it’s coming, it’s Christmas coming again.
It’s coming, it’s coming, it’s Christmas coming again.

1. Light a candle for hope, a candlelight for hope.
Light a candle for hope, a candlelight for hope.
And light up the world with the hope of the Lord.
And light up the world with the hope of the Lord.

Refrain: It’s coming, it’s coming, it’s Christmas coming again.
It’s coming, it’s coming, it’s Christmas coming again.

The Scripture Readings

The Psalm for the Day

Psalm 122

- ¹I rejoiced with those who said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”
- ²Our feet are standing
in your gates, Jerusalem.
- ³Jerusalem is built like a city
that is closely compacted together.
- ⁴That is where the tribes go up—
the tribes of the LORD—
to praise the name of the LORD
according to the statute given to Israel.
- ⁵There stand the thrones for judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.
- ⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May those who love you be secure.

⁷May there be peace within your walls
and security within your citadels."

⁸For the sake of my family and friends,
I will say, "Peace be within you."

⁹For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek your prosperity.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

The day is coming when the Lord will bring peace and all nations will seek him.

¹This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: ²In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. ³Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us His ways, so that we may walk in His paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. ⁵Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Epistle

Romans 13:11-14

The night is ending; live in the light of Christ!

¹¹And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Preparation for the Gospel

L Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

C **Lord, I love the beauty of Your Temple and the place where Your glory dwells.**

L Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C **Lord, I love the glory of Your Temple and the place where Your glory dwells.**

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

P **Lord, I love the promise of Your Temple and the place where Your glory dwells.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

We need to be ready, because when we least expect it, Jesus will return.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

³⁶But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴²Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day Your Lord is coming. ⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

The Sermon Hymn

"At the Name of Jesus"

LSB 512, vs 1, 5- 7

1. At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
Every tongue confess him King of glory now.
'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,
Who from the beginning was the mighty Word.
5. In your hearts enthrone him. There let him subdue
All that is not holy, all that is not true.
Crown him as your captain in temptation's hour.

Let his will enfold you in its light and power.

6. Christians, this Lord Jesus shall return again
In his Father's glory, with his angel train.
For all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow,
And our hearts confess him King of glory now.
7. Glory then to Jesus, who, the Prince of light,
To a world in darkness brought the gift of sight.
Praise to God the Father. In the Spirit's love
Praise we all together him who reigns above.

Sermon

Response to the Word

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" LSB 341 vs 1, 4, 5

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He does bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.
4. Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sovereign enter in And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!
5. Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
Oh enter with thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame We offer to thy name.

The 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.*

The Offering

The Bible says that the wise men from the east worshipped Jesus and “opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.” (Matthew 2:10, NIV). Our offerings are part of our worship, part of our response to God’s love.

Choral Anthem | “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” | Charles Wesley

Sung Prayer

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, Come, peasant, king, to own Him!
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the Son of Mary!

Spoken Prayer

A *Oh Lord, you left behind all the glory of heaven to be born in a poor manger, in order to save us. In gratitude, we offer You these gifts. As You dedicated Yourself totally to us, so help us dedicate to You, all that we are and all that we have. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.*

Prayers of the Church

P While we wait for Jesus to come in glory, we pray and put before Him all our needs, because He has promised to answer us and help us.

P Lord God, prepare our hearts for when Jesus comes again. Help us to resist the temptation to get swept up in the Christmas fever for things; instead, help us to show Your love in everything we do. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, provide for our daily needs, as You have promised. Give work to those who are unemployed; give Your help to those who are hungry or in need. Help us to follow Your example and be generous. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Jesus, our Savior, help those among us who are sick or hurt or lonely, or sad because they are missing someone who has passed away. Heal our hurts and give us Your comfort, so that we can serve You this Christmas with joy. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Holy Spirit, use us to touch the hearts of those who do not yet believe in Jesus. Raise up faithful leaders in the church, and prepare all of us so that we can share Your Word with others. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, bring peace to our country and to the nations of the world. Bless and protect our leaders and all who protect and defend our freedom and our well-being. Guide all of us so that we do Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

[Additional petitions may be made here.]

P We leave all of our concerns in Your hands, oh Lord, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

A *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.*

Morning Prayer

M. Luther

A *I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.*

The Blessing

P Go out into the world in Christ's peace; have courage; hold to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And Almighty God the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you.

C **Amen.**

The Closing Hymn

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

LSB 892

1. Come, ye thankful people, come. Raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in, Ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, doth provide For our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come. Raise the song of harvest home.
2. All the world is God's own field, Fruit unto his praise to yield,
Wheat and tares together sown, Unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade and then the ear, Then the full corn shall appear.

Lord of harvest grant that we Wholesome grain and pure may be.

3. For the Lord, our God, shall come And shall take his harvest home,
From his field shall in that day All offenses purge away.
Give his angels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store In his garner evermore.

4. Even so, Lord, quickly come To thy final harvest home.
Gather all thy people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin.
There, forever purified, In thy garner to abide,
Come with all thine angels, come, Raise the glorious harvest home.

Mission Challenge

P Go in Peace! Serve the Lord!

C **Thanks be to God!**

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. Richard Schlak
Organist: Ruth Ann Ostergren
Elder: Russ DeWitt
Acolyte: Jake Walker
Reader: Bella Montgomery

Acknowledgments

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Ascension Reminders



News & Notes

- Flowers are given by Anita & Elliott Werner in celebration of Elliott's birthday. Thank you!
- **Readers Needed!** — Are you looking for a way to volunteer but don't have a lot of time? Reading the lessons during the service is a wonderful way to participate! Please contact the church office if you are interested in reading on Sunday mornings.
- **Advent Meals and Services** — Midweek Advent worship services will be Wednesday, November 30th, December 7th, and December 14th. Meals start at 6:00 pm and Worship starts at 7:00 pm. Meals and Worship will be in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Advent Devotions** — Pick up a FREE copy of "A Son is Given", a daily Advent devotion booklet from Lutheran Hour Ministries. Regular, Large Print and Spanish are available in the Narthex.
- **Advent/Christmas Church Decorating** — Join us Saturday, December 3rd at 9:00 am to decorate the sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas Season.
- **Congregational Meeting** — Our next Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, December 11th immediately after Worship.

This Week @ Ascension

Sunday (November 27)

9:00 AM | Adult/Youth Bible Study

10:30 AM | Worship

Monday (November 28)

Church Office Closed

Tuesday (November 29)

6:30 PM | Women's Bible Study | Zoom

6:45 PM | Boy Scouts | Church Basement

7:00 PM | Men's Bible Study | Fellowship Hall

Wednesday (November 30)

9:00 AM | Preschool Chapel

11:00 AM | The Sewing Group | Fellowship Hall

6:00 PM | Advent Meal | Fellowship Hall

7:00 PM | Midweek Advent Worship | Fellowship Hall

Thursday (December 1)

9:45 AM | Women's Bible Study | Fellowship Hall

6:30 PM | Choir Practice

7:00 PM | Board of Elders | Fellowship Hall

Friday (December 2)

12:00 PM | Preschool Movie Time | Fellowship Hall

Saturday (December 3)

9:00 AM | Sanctuary Advent/Christmas Decorating

Prayer Ministry

Philippians 4:6-7

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

If you have a prayer request for the prayer chain, please e-mail Jan Schlak at ovejja6925@aol.com.

Grieving:

The family of **Juan Chacon** as they mourn his passing.

Guidance:

The **Reverend Thomas Albertson and his wife, Charlene**, as he prayerfully considers the call to be the Intentional Interim at Ascension.

Illness and Recovery:

June Chacon, (covid), **Rev. Richard Schlak**, (prostate cancer), **Al Diaz**, (bladder cancer), **Steve Wilmeth**, (blood clots), **Peggy Bartel**, (good test results), **Ryan Walker**, (Daren & Kelley's nephew; cancer), **John Bearman**, (Daren & Kelley Walker's brother in law; bone marrow transplant), **Mariella Kraus**, (cancer), **Richard Goldsmith**, (Heart problems, surgery), **Wanda Melendez**, (recovery from surgery), **Barbara Naumann**, (wife of Gretchen Schmalz cousin; in hospice), **Don Wiegert**, (Lymphoma), **Kathy Kiphart**, **Martha & Richard Neal**, **John Weiske**, **Bob Gallagher**, **Tony & Olga Sullivan**, **Linda Seiders**.

