

# Second Sunday After Epiphany

## A Very Special Wedding

January 19, 2025 • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

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### **As We Gather:**

The very first miracle that Jesus did was at a wedding party. Have you ever wondered why Jesus would pick that place and that time for something so important? God wants to be part of our lives and part of our relationships. He wants to be part of our marriages and our families. He wants to be part of our church family. Jesus wants to work a miracle in our relationships: the miracle of forgiveness, reconciliation, love, and acceptance. When our “wine” runs out, that is, when our human efforts are inadequate and sin rears its ugly head, Jesus is here to forgive us and help us to forgive each other. We all have different gifts and different ways of looking at things; but in Jesus a miracle happens: we become one.

### **The Season of Epiphany**

“Epiphany” means the “revelation” or “manifestation” of God. Jesus Christ is God, who came to our world as one of us. Jesus showed himself to be our God and Savior, not only to the Jews but also to people of every nation and culture. These people “had an epiphany”, that is, they saw Jesus and came to realize who Jesus really is, and they believed in him. The light went on!

We also have “had an epiphany” because we have come to see that Jesus is our God and Savior too! And God wants the people around us also to come to understand and believe in Jesus. During January and February (the season of Epiphany this year), we are going to hear from the Bible how many different people saw the light of Jesus and came to believe in him. And God’s Word will also show us how we can shine the light of Jesus to the people around us, by what we say and do.

### **Prelude**

### **Words of Welcome**

Stand

### **Sharing God’s Peace with One Another**

We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying “Peace be with you” as a sign of our unity and reconciliation in the Holy Spirit. As we are forgiven by God, so we forgive each other. (Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3)

## Opening Hymn Songs of Thankfulness and Praise LSB 394, verses 1, 2, and 5



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,  
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Proph - et, Priest, and King su - preme;  
5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres - ent in Thy ho - ly Word—



Man - i - fest - ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far,  
And at Ca - na wed - ding guest In Thy God - head man - i - fest;  
Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;



Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem:  
Man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, Chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
That we might be - come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny



An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Prayer of Confession

**P** Heavenly Father, we live in a dark world. All around us we see selfishness, corruption, evil, sickness, strife, and problems. Other people have hurt us with their words and actions. We also have sinned in many ways. We have not always obeyed you nor have we loved others as you wish. Forgive us, Lord.

**C** **Thank you, Father, for sending Jesus Christ, the light, to our dark world. In the name of Jesus, cleanse me and forgive me. Take away my dark thoughts and feelings, my harsh words, and the things I have done that were not right. Take away everything that is bad in me and help me to live in the light! Amen.**

## Words of Forgiveness

- P** Jesus Christ is the light that drives out the darkness! He came to save us, to forgive us, and to give us a new life. The Bible says, "God is light... If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.**" (1 John 1:5 and 7) Because we trust in Jesus as our Savior, I can tell you with certainty from the Word of God that our sins and wrongdoing are forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!
- C Amen.**

## Service of the Word

### Psalm 128 (God blesses the faithful family)

- P** Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord,  
**C Who walks in his ways!**  
**P** You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands.  
**C You shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you.**  
**P** Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house;  
**C Your children will be like olive shoots around your table.**  
**P** Behold, thus shall the man be blessed,  
**C Who fears the Lord.**  
**P** The Lord bless you from Zion!  
**C May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life!**  
**P** May you see your children's children!  
**C Peace be upon Israel.**
- A** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

### Kyrie ("Lord, Have Mercy") LSB 204



- C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## Gloria in Excelsis ("Glory in the Highest") LSB 204



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And also with you.**  
**P** Let us pray together:  
**C** **Lord God, you love us more than a newly married couple loves each other. Help us to love you above all things and to use our gifts and talents in your service, under your direction. Help us to trust you and obey you as the servants did at the wedding at Cana. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Sit

## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 62:1-5

*(God gives us a new name and promises to "marry" his people.)*

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. <sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give.

<sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. <sup>4</sup>You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. <sup>5</sup>For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

*(We have different gifts but they come from the same Spirit who makes us one in Christ.)*

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. <sup>2</sup>You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. <sup>3</sup>Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

## Alleluia and Verse



☐ Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



☐ These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



☐ Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to John, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

☐ **Glory to You, O Lord.**

## Holy Gospel

John 2:1-11

*(Jesus does his first miracle to bring joy to a wedding party.)*

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup>Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. <sup>3</sup>When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." <sup>4</sup>And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." <sup>5</sup>His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

<sup>6</sup>Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup>And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. <sup>9</sup>When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup>and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." <sup>11</sup>This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

**Song while Children Come to the Front:** This Little Gospel Light of Mine (LOSP 103)

1. This little Gospel light of mine, I'm going to let it shine!  
This little Gospel light of mine, I'm going to let it shine!  
This little Gospel light of mine, I'm going to let it shine!  
Let it shine all the time, let it shine!

## Children's Message

Hymn

Come, Join in Cana's Feast

LSB 408



1 Come, join in Ca - na's feast Where  
2 The old wine now is gone From  
3 But Christ, the Word made flesh, Bids  
4 Come, friends, and share the feast; Here  
△ 5 For now He lives and reigns Through



Christ is hon - ored guest. He wel - comes all who  
jars that stand a - part. No long - er can it  
wa - ter turn to wine. He fills our emp - ty  
drink the wine sup - plied By Him who is both  
all e - ter - ni - ty With Fa - ther, Spir - it,



come to taste The wine His hands have blessed.  
sat - is - fy The yearn - ing, thirst - ing heart.  
cups a - gain With grace and truth di - vine.  
guest and host— For us, the cru - ci - fied.  
Three in One, The glo - rious Trin - i - ty.

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Tune: Public domain

## Sermon "Jesus Gives the Best!"

Stand

## Nicene Creed

**A** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and  
the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.**

## Prayers and Petitions

We bring all our needs to God in Jesus' name, because Jesus is the one who brings light to the darkness all around us.

**P** Heavenly Father, as you have promised, provide what we and our families need each day. Help those among us who are unemployed or do not have the material resources they need. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer!**



**P** Lord Jesus, shine your light upon those among us who walk in the shadows of sickness, loneliness, hurt or grief. *(See our prayer list at the back of the bulletin.)* Heal us and help us. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer!**

**P** Holy Spirit, help us to reflect the light of Jesus to all the people around us. Help us to show Jesus' love to everyone and to tell about Jesus' love at every opportunity. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer!**

**P** Lord God, let our church and school – and every church and church school – be bright with your light. Guide our pastors and teachers and leaders and help us to love each other as you have loved us. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer!**

**P** Heavenly King, shine the light of your peace in our country and around the world. Guide our leaders and protect everyone who serves and defends our nation. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer!**

**P** Christ our Savior, let your love shine in our families and in our hearts. Help us to forgive each other and live together in harmony. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **Hear our prayer!**

**P** Lord, we know that no darkness can stand before your light, and so we put all of our needs in your hands, trusting that you will help us at the right time and in the right way. In Jesus' name.

**C** **Amen.**

Sit

## **Offering**

The Bible says that wise men from the east worshipped Jesus after his birth. They "opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh." (Matthew 2:10, NIV) In the same way, our offerings are part of our worship, part of our response to God's love. What we give is used to support the work of our church and missions throughout the world.

## **Special Music during the Offering** (Ensemble)

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.*

*Refrain: 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. (Refrain)*
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. (Refrain)*

## **Offering Prayer of Dedication**

**A** Oh Lord Jesus, as the wise men from the East gave you gifts from their treasures, we too give you a part of the material things that you have blessed us with. Accept and bless these offerings, Lord. Let them be used so that your light may shine among all nations. In your own name we pray. Amen.

## **Offertory: Jesus Christ, My God, my Savior** (tune: The Lutheran Hymnal 357)

1. Jesus Christ, my God, my Savior,  
Sovereign King, my Lord most high!  
I am small, yet here I give you  
All my heart, my hands, my life.
2. All I have is yours forever.  
Let me serve you faithfully!  
With the Father and the Spirit,  
Praise be yours eternally!

# ✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion is one of the precious gifts that God gives to His people, as we receive the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus, who died on the cross to forgive all of our sins. To prepare for this sacrament, we follow the instruction found in 1 Corinthians 11:28: "*Let each man examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks the cup.*" Therefore, we ask that you review and affirm the following questions:

1. Do I believe I am a sinner without hope of eternal life, except for God's mercy offered through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?
2. Do I repent of my sins and turn to Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior?
3. Do I believe that the bread and wine I receive is the true body and blood of Jesus, and not just a symbol of it?
4. Do I intend, with the help of God, to live a life that is pleasing to God?

We believe that your "yes" to these questions indicates a common faith with our Christian congregation and, therefore, we invite you to receive Holy Communion with us.

- The light-colored beverage in the center communion cups is non-alcoholic.
- Gluten free wafers are available. Just ask Pastor during distribution.
- Children and those not communing are welcomed to come forward for a blessing, but are not given communion until they have completed basic instruction classes on the Christian faith.

If you are unable to go to the altar, please let an usher know and the Pastor will bring the Lord's Supper to your pew. Please sit close to any of the three aisles in the church. Our Savior's wish is that all Christians receive His body and blood often. Ascension offers gluten free communion wafers for those who are protein/gluten intolerant or may have a wheat allergy. Simply notify the Pastor during communion if you desire a gluten-free wafer.

Please see the Pastor following service if you have any questions.

## Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts!
- C** **We lift them to the Lord!**

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** Lord Jesus, it is truly good and right that we give you thanks and praise every moment and in every place. For Christ our Lord came to our world and by faith we have seen that he is the light which scatters all the shadows and darkness. For this reason, with the whole church here on earth and with all the choirs of heaven, we praise your name and sing in your honor:

## Sanctus

LSB 208



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## Lord's Prayer

**C** **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.**

## The Words of Jesus

**P** I encourage you now in Christ to pay special attention to the words of Jesus. He has given his body and blood **for you, for forgiveness.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

LSB 209

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

LSB 210



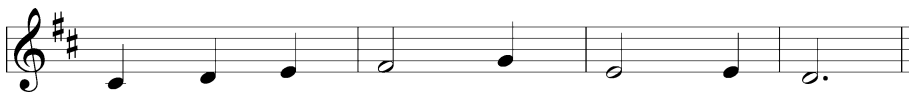
**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## Communion Hymns

### **Special Music:** We Stand (Bryan Perdue)

1. *Here we stand united! We are never alone!  
Our Lord, steadfast, beside us, Leads us on the path He's shown.*
2. *In His love we are together, A light in darkness shining,  
A guide to bring them homeward, To His table, there to dine.*
3. *At His table there are many, All the people of the land,  
No more colors that are blinding, Together hand in hand.*
4. *Love is here forever. My neighbor is my friend.  
No nations come between us. We are brothers to the end.*
5. *As we wait for His returning, At our table is the sharing.  
We hold to love and kindness Until He brings us home.*

*(Instrumental Interlude)*

6. *Stay with me, my brother! Together we do stand!  
We hold tomorrow's promise In our children and this land.*
7. *Our love shows our compassion! And it's plain for all to see.  
In the loving, we stand stronger! In our sharing we are free!*
8. *At His table there are many, All the people of the land,  
No more colors that are blinding, Together hand in hand,  
We stand.*

## How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds (LSB 524)



1 How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds In  
2 It makes the wound - ed spir - it whole And  
3 Dear name! The rock on which I build, My  
4 O Je - sus, shep - herd, guard - ian, friend, My



a be - liev - er's ear! It soothes our sor - rows,  
calms the heart's un - rest; 'Tis man - na to the  
shield and hid - ing place; My nev - er - fail - ing  
Proph - et, Priest, and King, My Lord, my life, my



heals our wounds, And drives a - way our fear.  
hun - gry soul And to the wea - ry, rest.  
treasure filled With bound - less stores of grace.  
way, my end, Ac - cept the praise I bring.

- 5 How weak the effort of my heart,  
How cold my warmest thought!  
But when I see Thee as Thou art,  
I'll praise Thee as I ought.
- 6 Till then I would Thy love proclaim With ev'ry fleeting breath;  
And may the music of Thy name Refresh my soul in death!

Text and tune: Public domain



**Hail to the Lord's Anointed** (LSB 398, melody from LSB 893)

- 1 Hail to the Lord's anointed, Great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression, To set the captive free,  
To take away transgression And rule in equity.
- 2 He comes with rescue speedy To those who suffer wrong,  
To help the poor and needy And bid the weak be strong;  
To give them songs for sighing, Their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying, Were precious in His sight.
- 3 He shall come down like showers Upon the fruitful earth;  
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, Spring in His path to birth.  
Before Him on the mountains Shall peace, the herald, go;  
And righteousness in fountains From hill to valley flow.
- 4 Kings shall fall down before Him And gold and incense bring;  
All nations shall adore Him, His praise all people sing.  
To Him shall prayer unceasing And daily vows ascend;  
His kingdom still increasing, A kingdom without end.
- 5 O'er ev'ry foe victorious, He on His throne shall rest,  
From age to age more glorious, All blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never His covenant remove;  
His name shall stand forever— That name to us is Love.

Text: Public domain

## Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (LSB 803)



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,  
△ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.  
Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.  
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean - depth of hap-py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash-ing sea,  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di-vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.  
Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - jice in Thee.  
Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy-ful, we by grace are Thine!

Text and tune: Public domain

## Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning (LSB 400)



1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
2 Cold on His cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;  
3 Shall we not yield Him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,  
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,  
5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;  
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;  
Fra - grance of E - dom and of - f'rings di - vine,  
Vain - ly with gifts would His fa - vor se - cure.  
Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;



Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,  
An - gels a - dore Him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,  
Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,  
Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion;  
Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.  
Mak - er and Mon - arch and Sav - ior of all.  
Myrrh from the for - est and gold from the mine?  
Dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.  
Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

Text and tune: Public domain

## After Communion:

### Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

**C** 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

### Closing Prayer

- P** Let us pray.
- C** **Holy Spirit, thank you for strengthening my faith in this time of worship. Help me now to live according to your Word. Be with me wherever I go and help me to share Jesus' love. In Jesus' own name. Amen.**

## Benediction (2 Corinthians 13:14)

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all.

**G** Amen.

## Closing Hymn

## Arise and Shine in Splendor

LSB 396



1 A - rise and shine in splen - dor; Let night to day sur -  
2 See earth in dark - ness ly - ing, The hea - then na - tions



ren - der. Your light is draw - ing near. A - bove, the  
dy - ing In hope - less gloom and night. To you the



day is beam - ing, In match - less beau - ty  
Lord of heav - en— Your life, your hope— has



gleam - ing; The glo - ry of the Lord is here.  
giv - en Great glo - ry, hon - or, and de - light.

4 Lift up your eyes in wonder—See, nations gather yonder  
From sin to be set free.

The world has heard Christ's story; Her sons come to His glory;  
Her daughters haste His light to see.

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Tune: Public domain

## **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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### **Worship Leaders**

Pastor: Rev. Richard Schlak

Organist: Eileen Olmsted

Elder: Ron Seiders, Dave DeMartelaere

Acolyte: Aden Morales

Reader: Joe Karl

Ushers: Team 1

## **Prayer Ministry      Philippians 4:6-7**

Please call the church office @ 915-833-1009 to include a prayer request or update for the bulletin. If you have a prayer request or update for the prayer chain, please e-mail Jan Schlak at [oveja6925@aol.com](mailto:oveja6925@aol.com).

The passing of **Delores Behl-Strassburg** (Steve Behl's mother) **and Maria Sotero** (Leticia Behl's mother), pray for peace and comfort for the Behl family.

### **Illness and Recovery:**

**Melissa Reddick** (friend of Barbara Lewis diagnosed with inoperable cancer, pray for a miracle, peace and comfort for her and her family); **Turner Allen** (Praises for successful knee surgery and for recovery); **Marcy La Framboise** (friend of Connie Swinney, for prayers of strength, support and comfort for Marcy and her husband as she unexpectedly considers entering hospice); **Skipper Balgemann** (Brother of Maxx Balgemann, for reduction in pain, strength, surgery recovery and good upper endoscopy test results); **Pastor Patten and Marilyn** (Marilyn fell and broke her leg. She is at White Acres (Good Samaritan) in rehab. Pray for healing for Marilyn and for strength and patience for both Pastor & Marily); **BJ Schwab** (Praise the Lord! Her recent thyroid biopsy came back benign); (**Helen Weesner** (friend of Maritza Schlak recovery from mini stroke), **Gloria Voge** (for successful therapy and strengthening of her legs with resulting better mobility); **Sophia**, Lorena's mother, Concepcion Arellanes's, caregiver, has cancer (prayers for recovery). **Margaret Yeager** (complete recovery with no complications); **Aubrey McDermott** (15-year-old with MS in hospital due to stroke); **Ken McLennan** (pray for upcoming heart procedure and peace, patience, and strength for his wife); **Barb Spott** (for no further medical issues and for relief from vertigo); **Richard Neal** (husband of Martha Neal recovery from stroke and for peace and strength for Richard and Martha); **Abigail Kailukatis** (friend of Jan Schlak's daughter Elizabeth for effective treatment); **Lupita Burke**(Ascension Preschool Teacher recovery from fracture); **Merle DeMartelaere** (father of David DeMartelaere correct diagnosis and treatment for Edema and AFib); **Marcy LaFramboise** (friend of Connie Swinney recovery from Multiple Myeloma); **David Kwiatkowski** (friend of Connie Swinney recovery and treatment for brain cancer); **Gilbert Provencio** (for lumbar puncture good results Leading to walking improvement); **Mary Lou Provencio** (pray for strength, peace and guidance); **Elizabeth Hinson**, (for recovery from intestinal bug); **Ruby Lugo** (sister of Jessica Acosta and co-worker of Sally Benitez and Kristal Wade for recovery from heart issues); **Jim Werner** (brother of Elliott Werner successful treatment of and healing from cancer); ; **Brian Stickney** (recovery from cracked ribs); **Rebekah Livesay** (For healing and correct diagnosis; **Dick Seiders** (father of Ron Seiders healing from cancer and recovery from hip surgery); **Mary Spott** (Barb Spott's niece Keighley Spott's mother heart related issues);

**Ann Perdue** ( relief from Osteoarthritis); **Amanda Bowser** (friend of the Walker Family recovery from cancer); **Donna Welch** (sister of Candice Gebler heart issues); **Sherri Pfeifer Wilson** (niece of Vicki Pfeifer cancer); **Patty Jones**, (sister of Martha Neal-stage 4 breast cancer); **Robert and Karin Gaudet**, (restoring relationships); **Sean Sweeney**, (brain tumor); **Laurie Sterling**, (colon cancer); **Bruce Walker**, (being treated for Parkinson's); **Coby Clark and family**, continued cancer recovery); **Ryan Walker**, (cancer is in remission), **Mariella Kraus**, (cancer), **Kathy Kiphart**, **John Weiske**, **Bob Gallagher**, **Linda Seiders**.

If you have an update to the status of those on our prayer list, please contact Jan Schlak or the church office.



# Ascension News & Notes



Eleanor R. Meraz Jan 20

Gretchen M. Schmalz Jan 22



Bryan and Ann Perdue

Jan 24

## Job Opening

Ascension has an open position for an administrative assistant to our pastor and other church staff members.

The position is part time, working five to six hours per day on Tuesdays through Fridays, though some flexibility of schedule may be required.



Anyone interested in this position can contact the church office by  
alc6520@swbell.net  
eMail .

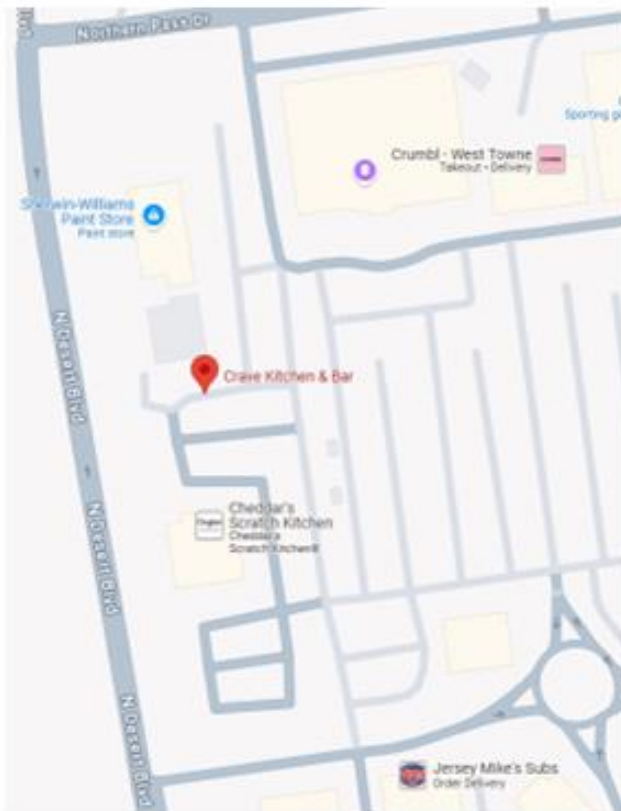
Position details are posted on church website  
<https://alconnect.faith>

# Attention!! All Ladies of Ascension

Ladies Night Out: February 2025

All ladies of Ascension are welcome.

Once a month on the 3rd Wednesday @ 6:00 PM we meet at a restaurant and enjoy food and fellowship. (Dutch treat)



February 19th we  
will be meeting at:

Crave

6470 N Desert Blvd

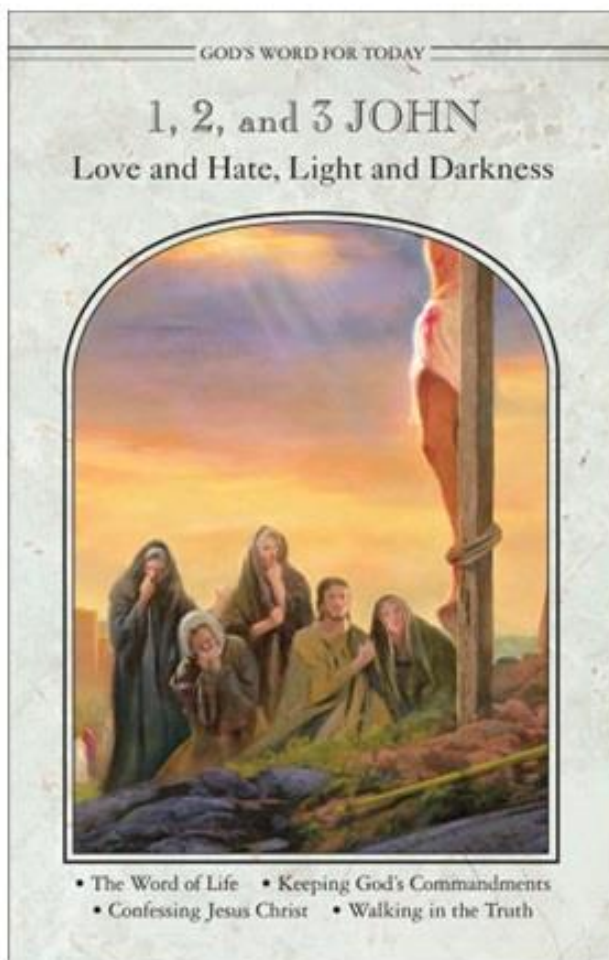
(located near Cheddar's & Panera Bread  
restaurants)

For information call Robin Wiegert at (915)581-5566  
I hope you can join us.

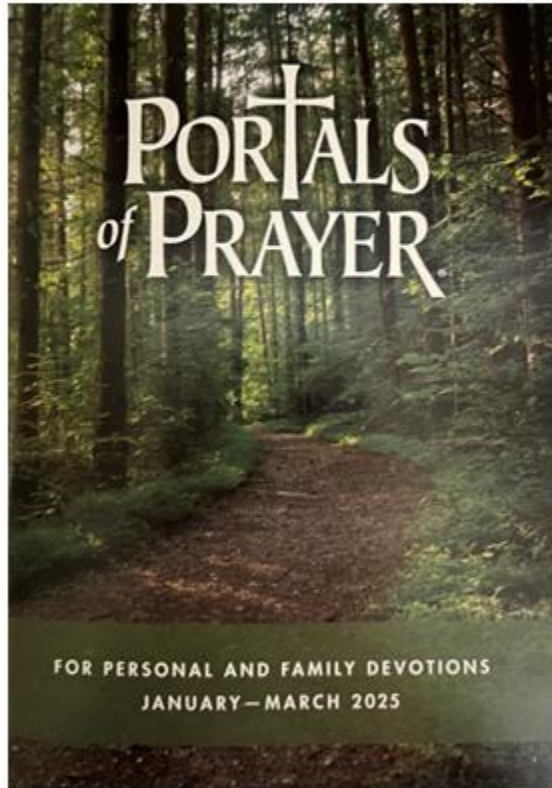
**The Thursday morning Bible study will begin a new study starting January 30. We will be studying 1, 2, 3, John and Jude.**

**We meet at the church on Thursdays mornings, we gather at 9:45, begin the lesson at 10:00 and end at 11:00. Please let Gretchen Schmalz or Jan Schlak know if you will be joining us. We will be ordering the books on January 24.**

**All women are welcome to join us.**



**NOW AVAILABLE**  
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TODAY IN THE NARTHEX.



Be refreshed daily in God's living



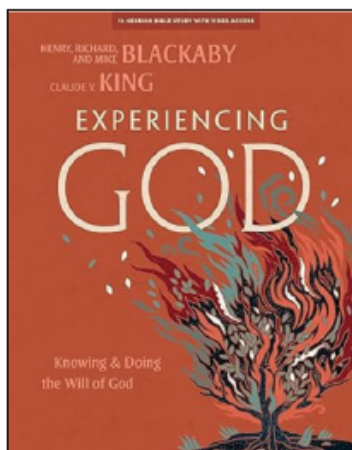
Jesse Faugstad deployment address is:

Major Jesse Faugstad

4-6 IN, HHC

Unit 29943

APO, AE 09753



# Tuesday Night Bible Study Winter 2025

- Time:** 6:30 p.m. gather, visit, share prayer requests  
[Video rolls at 7 p.m.]
- Place:** *Via ZOOM!*
- Date:** First session is Tuesday, January 7, 2025  
(proposed schedule below)
- Cost:** Order *Experiencing God* (with video access)  
directly from [Lifeway.com](http://Lifeway.com) or [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)

## Experiencing God

By Henry T. Blackaby, Richard Blackaby, Mike Blackaby and Claude V. King

God is inviting you into an intimate love relationship through which He reveals to you His will, His ways, and His work. When you recognize where God is working, you can join Him in what He is doing. Carefully listening to His voice will anchor you in His plan and set you free to live it with boldness and freedom. Then you will experience God doing through you what only He can do.

### Proposed Schedule:

#### Features:

- Biblically-rooted and gospel-centered content
- Interactive teaching videos  
(approximately 15-20 minutes per session)
- 12 group sessions (12 weeks of homework, optional)

#### Benefits:

- Stay connected with your sisters in Christ with weekly fellowship, encouragement and prayer from the comfort and convenience of your own home!

Date	Lesson #
Jan. 7, 2025	1
Jan. 14th	2
Jan. 21st	Break-Church Council Meeting
Jan. 28th	3
Feb. 4th	4
Feb. 11th	5
Feb. 18th	Break-Church Council Meeting
Feb. 25th	6
Mar. 4th	7
Mar. 11th	8
Mar. 18th	Break-Church Council Meeting
Mar. 25th	9
Apr. 1st	10
Apr. 8th	11
Apr. 15th	Break-Church Council Meeting
Apr. 22nd	12-Final Session
Apr. 29th	Dinner/Fellowship

Please RSVP your attendance to Anita Werner by December 31st ([awerner@elp.rr.com](mailto:awerner@elp.rr.com))

*Please visit [Lifeway.com](http://Lifeway.com) or [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and*

*order [Experiencing God](#) (with video access)*

*prior to our first session.*

## **This Week @ Ascension**

### **Sunday (January 19)**

9:00 AM Sunday School and Adult Bible Study  
10:00 AM Fellowship  
10:30 AM Worship  
11:45 AM Confirmation Class



### **Monday (January 20)** **Church Office Closed**

### **Tuesday (January 21)**

6:45 PM Boy Scouts  
7:00 PM Church Council Meeting (FH)

### **Wednesday (January 22)**

9:00 AM Preschool Chapel  
11:00 AM Sit and Sew (FH)

### **Thursday (January 23)**

9:45 AM Women's Bible Study (FH)

### **Friday (January 24)**

12:00 PM-2:30PM Preschool Extended Care (FH)

### **Saturday (January 25)**

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