

# Second Sunday of Advent

## Repent!

December 7, 2025 • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

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### As We Gather

The Bible says: "A shoot, a branch, will come out of the stump of Jesse." (Isaiah 11:1) That branch is Jesus. Jesse was the father of King David, according to the flesh, Jesus is his descendent. The Bible says that the "**Branch of Jesse**" will bring judgment, punishing those who do evil but saving the weak who trust in him. The wolf and the lamb will live together and all nations will rejoice. We need to repent, that is, to turn back to God, before the second coming of Jesus Christ, the Branch of Jesse.

### The Season of Advent

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

The four Sundays before Christmas are "Sundays of Advent". It's a time to get ready for Jesus. It's a time to repent and to turn to our Savior in faith.

**Prelude:** "Come Now O prince of Peace" (Roberta Rowland-Raybold)  
"There's a Voice in the Wilderness" (Robert Benson)

### 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)

**Call to Worship (Choir):** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (Wesley and Shaw)

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free.  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
2. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art.  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
3. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king;  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
4. By thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone.  
By thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne!

## Invocation

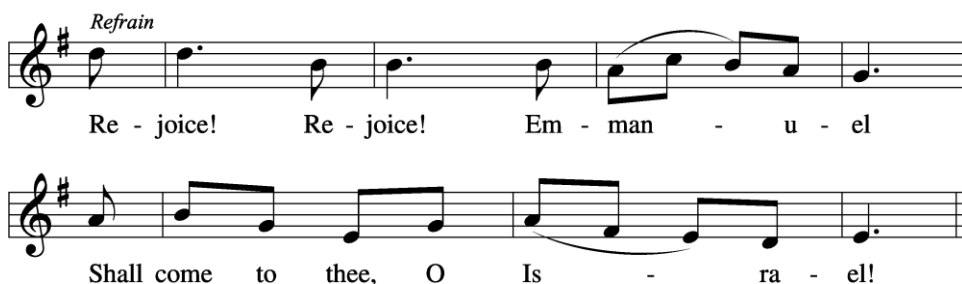
- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen.**  
**P** The Bible says, "A shoot, a branch, will come out from the stump of Jesse."  
(Isaiah 11:1)  
**C** **That branch is Jesus Christ.**  
**P** Jesse was the father of King David and the ancestor of Jesus according to  
human lineage.  
**C** **Jesus is the Branch of Jesse.**  
**P** This Branch of Jesse will bring judgment. (Isaiah 11:3, 5)  
**C** **Jesus will come again as our judge.**  
**P** His words will be like a rod to punish those who do evil. (Isaiah 11:4)  
**C** **But he will save the weak who trust in him.**  
**P** On that day there will be peace everywhere. (Isaiah 11:6-9)  
**C** **And all the nations will worship Jesus.** (Isaiah 11:10)  
**P** We eagerly wait for Jesus to come.  
**C** **Oh come, Jesus, Branch of Jesse!**  
**P** The lion and the lamb will live together in peace. (Isaiah 11:6)  
**C** **Oh come, Jesus, Branch of Jesse!**  
**P** All the nations will rejoice together. (Isaiah 11:10)  
**C** **Oh come, Jesus, Branch of Jesse!**

## Opening Hymn: Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357, verses 1 and 4



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from  
cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y  
ex - ile here, Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Text and tune: Public domain

## 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)
- C** **Almighty God, we confess to you all our sins and wrongdoing. We acknowledge that we have offended you and deserve punishment. However, we trust in you, Lord Jesus, who came into the world to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15). Because of that, even though we have often failed, we trust in your wonderful promise of forgiveness.**

## Sung Prayer

Lutheran Service Book 361, verse 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 failures and rose from the dead to assure us that we have new life and will eventually be raised also. God himself wipes away our wrongdoing! Since you trust in Jesus, by his Word I tell you that you are forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit!
- C** **Amen.**

## Service of the Word

### Hymn of Praise: All Earth is Hopeful

Hymnal "With One Voice" 629

1. All earth is hopeful. The Savior comes at last!  
 Furrows lie open for God's creative task:  
 This, the labor of people who struggle to see  
 How God's truth and justice set everybody free.

2. People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:  
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel."  
She conceived him, "God with us," our brother, whose birth  
Restores hope and courage to children of this earth.
3. Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;  
New highways opened, new protocols declared.  
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!  
All clear every gateway, in haste, come out in haste!
4. We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.  
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live  
In our world; he is present in neighbors we see.  
Our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

## **The Advent Wreath**

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

We light the candles on the Advent Wreath – a symbol that Jesus the Light of the World is coming to us! Today we light two candles: 1) the candle of Hope, for Christ is our Light and our Hope; and 2) the candle of Peace, because through his death and resurrection Christ has made peace between us and God. *The first two candles of the Advent Wreath are 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 Day 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 admit our failures to do God's will, ask for God's forgiveness, and live for him.

## **Advent Wreath Song: It's Coming!**

Libro de Liturgia y Cántico 282

Refrain: It's coming, it's coming, it's Christmas coming again!  
It's coming, it's coming, it's Christmas coming again!

2. Light a candle for peace, a candle-light for peace!  
Light a candle for peace, a candle-light for peace!  
And with the candle, bring to all the peace of the Lord.  
And with the candle, bring to all the peace of the Lord. (Refrain)

**Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 11:1-10

*(Jesus, the Branch of Jesse, will bring peace to the nations.)*

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

<sup>3</sup> And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,  
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup> They shall not hurt or destroy  
in all my holy mountain;  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of  
him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

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

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

## New Testament (Epistle) Reading

Romans 15:4-13

*(As Isaiah prophesied, all nations will praise Jesus together and have hope in him.)*

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

<sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup> and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name."

<sup>10</sup> And again it says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

<sup>11</sup> And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him."

<sup>12</sup> And again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

## Alleluia and Verse

Lutheran Service Book 173

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a C-clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains the melody for the Alleluia. Below the staff, the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?" are written. The second staff also begins with a C-clef and a key signature of one sharp. It contains the melody for the verse. Below the staff, the lyrics "You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia." are written. The music ends with a double bar line.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

*(Jesus' deeds show that he is the one foretold,  
the one for whom John the Baptist prepared the way.)*

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,  
<sup>2</sup>"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." <sup>3</sup>For this is he who was  
spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make  
his paths straight.'"

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist,  
and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all  
the region about the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by  
him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism,  
he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to  
come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup>And do not presume to say to  
yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from  
these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the  
root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down  
and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is  
mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with  
the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his  
threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn  
with unquenchable fire."

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

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

## Prayer

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray together:

**C Move our hearts, Lord Jesus, to prepare a way for you. Come to us,  
forgive us, cleanse us, and stay with us. Through us, touch other  
hearts with your love, so that together we will be ready when you  
come as Judge of all the earth. In your own name we pray. Amen.**

Sit

## Song while Children Come to the Front: **Away in a Manger**

(LSB 364)

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
2. Be near me, Lord Jesus. I ask thee to stay  
Close by me forever. And love me, I pray!  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with thee there.

## Children's Message

### Hymn: **On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry**

Lutheran Service Book 344

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the  
△ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,  
way for God with - in, And let us all our  
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

Stand

### **Nicene Creed** (Public declaration of our faith)

**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 of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayers and Petitions**

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 in helping others. 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. Especially we pray for our family and friends who need your help. 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. Bless our preschool and Sunday school teachers, our elders and council leaders, and everyone who serves. 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. We particularly pray that you would bring healing to Israel and the Middle East, and that you would bring the Jews back to faith in you, the Messiah. Bless

and protect our leaders here in this country, as well as all who protect and defend our freedom and our well-being. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer!**

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

**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.

## Offering Options

You can contribute offerings using any of the following methods:

**In-Person donations:** You can place your donation in the offering plate as it is passed during the service.

**On-line Banking donations:** You can utilize the on-line bill pay option at your financial institution to donate to Ascension Lutheran Church, 6520 Loma de Cristo, El Paso, TX 79912.

**Mail donations:** Mail your check to the church office: Ascension Lutheran Church, 6520 Loma de Cristo, El Paso, TX 79912. The mail is checked daily.

**Other Electronic donation option:** You can make a secure contribution from your credit card or bank account at [www.alconnect.faith](http://www.alconnect.faith) or by scanning the QR code below. We use Vanco, a reputable agency which specializes in donations to churches and nonprofit organizations. Your contribution can be set up to be recurring, such as each week or month, or as a one-time donation.

**Donations via an app:** If you prefer using your phone or tablet, you can download the Vanco Mobile app. You can easily set up an account and donate through the app.

*The ministries of Ascension are supported by the love, generosity and sacrificial giving of our members and friends. As a guest, please do not feel obligated in any way to make a contribution. We believe that any gift to the Lord should be uncoerced and from the heart — as a loving response to God’s grace.*



### **Choir Anthem during the Offering:** There's a Voice in the Wilderness

1. There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:  
Prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted. The lofty hills brought low.  
Make straight all the crooked places where God, our God, may go!
2. Oh Jerusalem, herald good tidings. Ascend to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their king.  
Like flowers of the field we perish, like grass our works decay.  
The power and the pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away.
3. But the Word of our Savior is faithful. The arm of our God is strong,  
Who stands in the midst of the nations and soon will right the wrong.  
Lord, feed your flock like a shepherd. The lambs so gently hold.  
In pastures of peace now lead them, and bring them to your fold.

### **Offering Prayer of Dedication**

- 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.**

### **Sung Prayer**

Lutheran Service Book 370, verse 3

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!

## **✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠**

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### **Invitation and Preparation for Communion**

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, one of the precious gifts that God gives to His people. In Communion, God wants to assure us that we have been forgiven through faith in Jesus who gave his body and blood for us on the cross.

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To prepare for Communion, we follow what 1 Corinthians 11:28 says: "*Let each man examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks the cup.*" Therefore, if you wish to participate in Communion today, we ask that you review and affirm the following questions:

1. Do I believe I am a sinner, that is, that I have failed to keep God's commands as I should, and that I need forgiveness?
2. Do I trust in Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior, who died and rose for me?
3. Do I believe as I eat the bread and drink the cup, that I also receive the true body and blood of Jesus that He gave for me on the cross – even though I can't fully explain it?
4. Do I intend, with the help of God, to follow Jesus more closely and obey him more faithfully?

If you answer "yes" to these questions, then you share a common faith with our Christian congregation and you are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. Our common faith is expressed in more detail in the Creed that we confess together during the worship service.

### **Special Instructions for Communion:**

- Children and adults who are not communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing. To indicate this, please cross your arms when the elders or pastor come by. Children do not commune until they have completed basic instruction classes about 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 (Communion) to your pew. Please sit close to any of the three aisles in the church.
- During Communion, gluten-free communion wafers (bread) are available. Just ask the Pastor when he comes to give you the bread.
- During Communion, you may take one of the small communion cups from the tray, or you may wait and drink from the common cup.
- On the tray of small communion cups, those cups in the center of the tray have light-colored, non-alcoholic grape juice. The other cups have wine.

If you have any questions, please see the Pastor or one of the elders.

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## 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 indeed good and right that we give you thanks and praise at every moment and in every place, because at the right time you came to our world to save us. John the Baptist prepared the people for your coming, calling everyone to repent, to turn back to God. Today, we who are repentant and forgiven, await your second coming, when you will return visibly in glory. For this reason, together with all believers everywhere, we praise your name and sing together:

### Song of Praise: Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380, verse 3

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild, he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give them second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing: "Glory to the new-born King!"

### 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.**

### The Words of Jesus

**P** 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."

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

**C** Amen.

### Oh Lamb of God (Sung to the tune of "What Child is This?", LSB 370)

Oh Lamb of God, oh Holy Child, who takes the sin of the world away,  
Have mercy on us, Lamb so mild, the babe, the son of Mary.

This, this is your body given, your precious blood, the gift of heaven.

Take, eat, for we are one in the babe, the son of Mary.

## Hymns during Communion

### Oh Come, All Ye Faithful

Lutheran Service Book 379



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to Thee be glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God In the high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

#### *Refrain*



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text and tune: Public domain

# Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Lutheran Service Book 340 or 341



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the  
 2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot  
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the  
 4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a  
 5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to



King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing  
 is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -  
 rul - er is con-fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py  
 tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -  
 Thee; here, Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di -



near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -  
 ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of  
 homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less  
 ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your  
 vine; Thy face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly



va - tion He doth bring; There-fore re - joice and glad - ly sing.  
 all our woe He brings; There-fore the earth is glad and sings.  
 sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.  
 Sov - 'reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.  
 Spir - it guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won.



To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.  
 To Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.  
 To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.  
 To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!  
 E - ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Angels From the Realms of Glory

Lutheran Service Book 367



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er  
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your  
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions  
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in  
 Δ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,  
 beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,  
 hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,  
 Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.  
 Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.  
 Ye have seen His na - tal star.  
 In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.  
 To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Lutheran Service Book 347



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus  
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each  
 3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert  
 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er





saith our God; "Com-fort those who sit in dark-ness, Mourn-ing  
dark mis-deed; All that well de-served His an-ger He no  
far and near, Call-ing sin-ners to re-pen-tance, Since the  
plac-es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum-ble, As be-



'neath their sor-rows' load. Speak ye to Je-ru-sa-lem  
more will see or heed. She hath suf-fered man-y a day,  
King-dom now is here. O that warn-ing cry o-bey!  
fits His ho-ly reign. For the glo-ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her  
Now her griefs have passed a-way; God will change her  
Now pre-pare for God a way; Let the val-leys shall  
Now o'er earth is shed a-broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov-er And her war-fare now is o-ver."  
pin-ing sad-ness In-to ev-er-spring-ing glad-ness.  
rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.  
see the to-ken That His Word is nev-er bro-ken.

Text and tune: Public domain

## The Advent of Our King

Lutheran Service Book 331



1 The ad-vent of our King Our prayers must now em-ploy,  
2 The ev-er-last-ing Son In-car-nate deigns to be,  
3 O Zi-on's daugh-ter, rise To meet your low-ly King,  
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a-gain

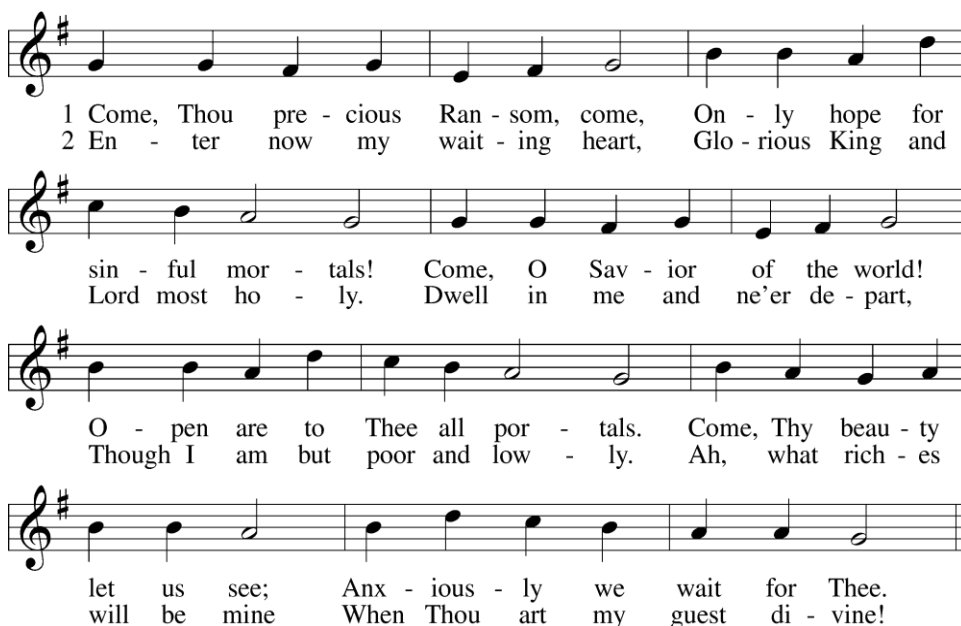


And we must hymns of wel-come sing In strains of ho-ly joy.  
Him-self a ser-vant's form puts on To set His ser-vants free.  
Nor let your faith-less heart de-spise The peace He comes to bring.  
And His true mem-bers all u-nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

- 5 Before the dawning day Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away, The new self now put on.
- △ 6 All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one Through all eternity.

## After Communion

**Song After Communion** Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come LSB 350, 1-2



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for  
2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and  
sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!  
Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,  
O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty  
Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es  
let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.  
will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!

Text and tune: Public domain

## Closing Prayer

- P** Let us pray.
- C** Heavenly Father, go with me now as I leave this place. Help me to show Jesus' love in everything I do and say. Help me to share with others how Jesus came to save us and is coming again in glory. In Jesus' own name. Amen.

**Benediction** (Numbers 6:24-26)

Lutheran Service Book 183

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

## Closing Hymn What Child is This

Lutheran Service Book 370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

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## Worship Leaders

Pastor:	Richard Schlak
Organist:	Ruth Ann Ostergren
Elders:	Russ DeWitt/Ron Seiders
Acolyte:	Elizabeth Valdes
Reader:	Anders Faugstad
Ushers:	Team 1
Altar Care:	Group Effort
Projectionist:	Jacob Canada
Sound/Camera:	Mike Mielke

## **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).

### **Grieving the Loss of Loved Ones:**

We pray for peace, comfort, and hope for all those who are grieving from the loss of loved ones.

### **Special Prayer Requests:**

Please pray for **the teachers and students of El Paso Leadership Academy** where Maritza Schlak teaches. Many of her coworkers were let go unexpectedly recently. Also, all the teachers who continue to teach at the school, received pay cuts to their salaries and are now taking on extra teaching duties. Due to the suddenness of the situation, many teachers are going to be in financial distress. In addition, please pray for all the students at the school because the class sizes are larger, making things more difficult for the students, too.

### **Illness and Recovery:**

**David Behl**, Steve Behl's brother, needs both a heart & a kidney transplant (please pray for patience for both David & his family as there is a long waiting list for organ availability as well as skilled doctors to be available for the transplant); **Donna Tuchenhausen**, had a colonoscopy to find reason for active or inactive internal bleeding, & is now waiting for the lab results (please pray for good test results); **Dick Seiders**, Ron Seiders father, continued cancer recovery & suffers from macular degeneration which the pressure in the eye is now increasing & his vision is deteriorating on a daily basis (pray that the vision loss will halt & reverse to prevent blindness); **Michael Sheridan**, family of Gretchen Schmalz, now at home, resting after surgery to remove brain tumor, but they were unable to remove all of the tumor & he will be monitored (please pray that he gets rest & his mother is grateful for the prayers); **Jaxon Coles**, nephew of Kari Larson Decker, had an unexplained seizure, will have an ambulatory EEG test on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, & will have to wait 2 weeks after that for the results to be read & he is awaiting to have a brain MRI to determine the cause, & he will be unable to drive for 6 months (please pray for correct diagnosis & effective treatment); **Connie Swinney**, had successful surgery on her hand, (please pray for continued recovery with no complications); **Aaron Levenhausen**, Linda Canada's nephew & Cheryl Canada-Karl's cousin, back home after a surgery for a bowel obstruction, but continues to experience GI pain (please pray for relief from the pain); **Norma Rust**, recovering from hip surgery at White Acres after a fall, & she is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease (please pray for a good recovery from hip injury, & for strength as she and **Jerry**, and their son, **Doug** move forward with difficult decisions after

receiving the diagnosis); **Wayne Woolery**, who is the chairman of the board of directors of the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute, asks to pray for his 12 year old grandson, **Reuben**, who is undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; **Dorothy Lenz**, surgery to remove some lymph nodes showed no malignancy, but she will undergo more tests to be certain the parathyroid is not malignant (please pray for a good outcome); **Elizabeth Hinson**, Mary Lou Provencio's daughter, waiting on the pathology results for evaluation of a nodule on her thyroid (asking for God's mercy & favor that the nodule is benign); pray for **Rachel**, Elizabeth Hinson's daughter, who is hoping to find employment (pray that she finds a nursing job soon); **Gilbert Provencio**, Mary Lou's husband, who has not improved since the shunt placement, (pray for the neurologist treating him to be able to increase the cerebrospinal fluid to improve his walking gait & balance); **Bruce Walker**, father of Daren Walker, receives maintenance care for Parkinson's disease (please pray for strength & comfort for him and his family); **Kelly Alberson**, breast cancer (please pray for strength and comfort); **Cindy & Don Unsworth**, friends of former Ascension members Cathy & Randy Engel; Cindy is in hospice care for lung cancer (please continue to pray for God's will for Cindy and for peace & strength for her husband, Don); **David Kwiatkowski**, friend of Connie Swinney, continues on in receiving different treatments for brain cancer, (please continue to pray for successful treatment); **Sandy Spott**, daughter-in-law of Barb Spott, is being treated by radiation & medication for recurring breast cancer (please pray for successful treatment); **Laurie Sterling**, continues to undergo treatment for colon cancer (please pray for treatment to be successful); **Maisie Warsau**, Marjy Brady's daughter Lauren's friend, at a facility in Atlanta that works with specialized injuries (pray for strength and continued healing for Maisie, & for peace and strength for her family); **Barbara Brock**, sister of Becky Hite, Becky & Gary Hite (former members), Barbara is in the hospital & she is not in good condition (please pray for healing); **Abigail Kailukatis**, friend of Jan Schlak's daughter Elizabeth, is still in a wheelchair, & limited in activities (praise the Lord that she is doing a little better, and please continue to pray for healing); **Martha Neal**, will need further leg surgery to improve blood circulation (pray for healing); **Jennifer Solich**, past Ascension administrative assistant, diagnosed with a brain tumor, (please pray for successful treatment & strength to tolerate the medication); **Kirstin Hervin**, daughter of Mike & Christy Mielke, experiencing a recurrence of lupus affecting her kidneys & is receiving injections, (please pray that the treatment is effective with no side effects); **Andy Barber** (for pain relief radiating from neck to hands) & for his wife, **Suzette Barber** (pray for her as she copes with OCD & anxiety as a result of her condition); **Marsha**, friend of the Barber's, has a lump in her breast, (please pray for strength); **Gloria Voge** (for successful leg therapy & healing from spine fracture); **Aubrey McDermett**, 15-year-old with MS, in hospital due to stroke (pray for healing); **Patty Jones**, Martha Neal's sister in stage 4 breast cancer (pray for strength); **Sean Sweeney**, has a brain tumor (pray for strength); **Mariella Kraus**, has cancer (pray for healing); **Bob Gallagher**, **Brian Stickney** (pray for continuing health

issues that cause them to be homebound); **Linda Seiders** (pray for continuing health issues); **Daniel Mendoza** rapidly losing kidney function (pray for strength).

**Praise and Thanksgiving:**

**Melanie Gallagher**, released from her doctor after the antibiotics worked, (praise God & she thanks everyone for their prayers to God & for their support); **Gretchen Schmalz**, treatment for the bladder cancer was successful & there is no sign of cancer (give praise to the Lord, & she is grateful for the prayers from everyone); **Sharon**, Melanie Gallagher's niece, cancer treatment was successful (give praise to God, & she is grateful for the prayers); **Coby Clark**, cancer is in remission (give thanks that he is doing well); **Barb Spott**, treatment for vertigo is working (give thanks for the relief from the condition); **Mary Spott**, Barb Spott's niece, Keighley Spott's mother, on medication for heart related issues (give thanks & praise that she is doing well); **Ryan Walker**, nephew of Daren Walker, cancer is in remission (give thanks to God that he is doing better).

**Ascension News and Notes**

**Flowers for today's service  
are provided by Marjy Brady  
in honor and praise to God's Glory.**



**BOTH SETS OF FLOWERS ARE \$60.00.**

**NOTE: CONSIDER SHARING THE COST WITH SOMEONE ELSE.  
THEN YOU EACH PAY \$30.00**

**PLEASE PLACE YOUR CHECK IN THE OFFERING PLATE  
OR DROP IT OFF IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.  
SIGN UP SHEET IS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.**



**Dec. 08 — Taylor Martinez**



**HEARING AIDS FOR MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Our music director, Ruth Ann, is struggling with serious hearing difficulties that blur and confuse the organ sounds and the voice of anyone using a microphone (like the pastor during worship). She needs some specialized hearing aids; without them, she will not be able to continue to serve the Lord as organist and choir director. Insurance will cover part of the cost, but there will still be a shortfall of \$2,800.00, which is out of Ruth Ann's reach. Over the next 2 weeks, we will be taking up a freewill offering to help Ruth Ann with these hearing aids. If you would like to help out, you can place an envelope with a check or cash in the offering plate, with the words "Music Director Hearing Aids" written clearly on the outside. Ruth Ann has been a faithful servant of our congregation for many years; now we have an opportunity to support her, so she can continue to serve the Lord in music ministry.



**Now collecting \$\$ for Poinsettias  
to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas!**

**\$10 per plant**

**See Robin Weigert after worship to donate  
(\$\$ Due by Sunday, Dec. 14th )**

**(Please remember to take home your poinsettia after the  
Christmas service.)**

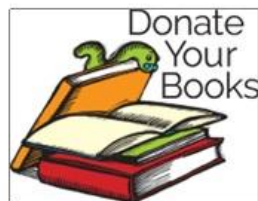


We received a request to collect book donations for a new detention center in El Paso, Texas. A small library was recently built, but it is in urgent need of books so detainees can have access to free reading materials that support education, spiritual encouragement, & personal growth.

Many individuals in our facility are seeking positive, uplifting resources. Since the population includes many Spanish speakers and others from diverse backgrounds, books in **Spanish, English**, or additional languages are very welcome. We can also accept paperback books and bilingual Spanish–English dictionaries.

We are accepting new and gently used books, especially:

- Fiction and nonfiction
- ESL and educational books
- Dictionaries (Spanish–English encouraged)
- Motivational, Bibles or faith-based books (all denominations welcome)



**THE 2026 LUTHERAN WITNESS  
RENEWAL FOR SUBSCRIPTION IS  
HERE. THE RENEWAL AMOUNT IS  
\$20.65 FOR THE YEAR. PLEASE SEND  
IN YOUR CHECK TO THE CHURCH  
OFFICE BY JANUARY 9, 2026.**





Ornament Exchange

Wrapped Please!

(Bring something you would  
like to receive)



**ALL Women of Ascension are invited to a**

***Christmas Brunch & Ornament Exchange***

**Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025 | 10 a.m. to Noon**

**At the home of Maritza Schlak**

**6317 Franklin Vista Drive | 915-238-3283**

***Please bring a plate of your favorite brunch goodies  
(savory or sweet) to share with everyone.***



**Congregational Meeting**

**December 14th, 2025**

**Immediately after the service  
(Lunch will be provided)**

**Voting on the**

**Proposed 2026 Budget &**

**Proposed Slate of Council and Elders**

**\*The following copies are available in the church office to  
be printed upon request:**

**Congregation Agenda (Dec. 14, 2025),**

**Prior Congregation Minutes (July 13, 2025),**

**Proposed 2026 ALC Budget**

**Proposed 2026 Slate of Council & Elders**



*Ladies Night Out*

## **NO "LADIES NIGHT OUT"**

**Attention!! All Ladies of Ascension**

There will be **No "Ladies Night Out"** in December  
due to the holidays.  
**It will resume again in January 2026.**



**Come join us after the New Year's Eve worship service for fellowship & dinner  
as we usher in the New Year!**

**All are welcome!**

**We have reserved space at The Great American Steakburger**

**(701 S. Mesa Hills, El Paso, TX 79912)**

**for 6:30 PM.**

**Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board at entrance.**

**Please sign-up to give the restaurant an accurate head count.**

**Or call Robin Wiegert (915)581-5566/or the church office.**



## Sunday Morning Snacks Sign Up

December

7th Radach-THANK YOU

14th

21st

**OPEN**

28th: There is **NO** Bible  
Study/Sunday School

Sign-up  
sheet on  
the kitchen  
wall next to  
counter

**December 14th & 21st are open.**

**Thank you!**



Sunday School: God calls us to encourage each other in studying His Word and putting it into practice. A great way to do this is to come and join us for Sunday School and Bible Study right before church on Sundays! We meet from 9:00-10:00 am.

**Kids meet in the Preschool Library**

**Youth meet in the Church Library**

**Adults meet in the Fellowship Hall**

## Adult Bible Study

**9 to 10 am in the Fellowship Hall**



**are all available for pick-up in the narthex entrance of the church.**

## Be sure to pick up your calendar in the narthex.

# December 2025

## NEW

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Nov 30</b> 9:00 am Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship <b>Nov Sunday in Advent</b> All are Confirmation	Church Office Closed Students return from Thanksgiving Break	<b>Nov 24</b> <b>St. Vincent's Pastor's Meeting (at Ascension Lutheran Church)</b> 9:00 am Preschool Chapel (I) 9:00 am GK and Sen (I) 9:00 am GK and Sen (II) 9:00 am Soup Supper 9:00 pm Holybush Worship	9:00 am Preschool Chapel (I) 9:00 am GK and Sen (I) 9:00 am GK and Sen (II) 9:00 pm Holybush Worship	<b>12:30 am Women Bible Study (Lunch at Harts)</b> 9:00 am Preschool Chapel (I) 9:00 am GK and Sen (I) 9:00 am GK and Sen (II) 9:00 pm Holybush Worship	Preschool Extended Care 12:00-2:30pm (I) 9:00 am Preschool Chapel (I) 9:00 am GK and Sen (I) 9:00 am GK and Sen (II) 9:00 pm Holybush Worship	9:00 am Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship <b>Dec Sunday in Advent</b> All are Confirmation
<b>1</b> 9:00 am Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship <b>2nd Sunday in Advent</b> All are Confirmation	Church Office Closed	9:00 pm Day Scouts <b>6:30 pm Choir</b>	9 am Preschool Phoenix Phoenix Phoenix Lunch (at Lutheran Church - I) 9:00 am Holybush Worship (Seniors & Youth)	6:00 pm Preschool Christmas Program 9:00 am Preschool Chapel (I) 9:00 am GK and Sen (I) 9:00 am GK and Sen (II) 9:00 pm Holybush Worship	Preschool Extended Care 12:00-2:30pm (I) 9:00 am Preschool Chapel (I) 9:00 am GK and Sen (I) 9:00 am GK and Sen (II) 9:00 pm Holybush Worship	<b>9:00 am-12:00 pm White Annual Christmas Bazaar (at 2317 Franklin Ave. (I))</b> 9:00 am Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship <b>3rd Sunday in Advent</b> All are Confirmation
<b>14</b> 9:00 am Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship <b>3rd Sunday in Advent</b> All are Confirmation	Church Office Closed	9:30 pm Day Scouts (I) <b>6:30 pm Choir</b>	9:00 am Preschool Chapel (I) 9:00 am GK and Sen (I) 9:00 am GK and Sen (II) 9:00 pm Holybush Worship	Last day of preschool (2025-2026) semester due in office 9:00 am Preschool Chapel (I) 9:00 am GK and Sen (I) 9:00 am GK and Sen (II) 9:00 pm Holybush Worship	9:00 am Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship <b>4th Sunday in Advent</b> All are Confirmation	9:00 am Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship <b>5th Sunday in Advent</b> All are Confirmation
<b>21</b> 9:00 am Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship <b>5th Sunday in Advent</b> All are Confirmation	Church Office Closed No School (RSD) Winter Break (Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup> - Jan. 3 <sup>rd</sup> )	9:00 pm Day Scouts <b>6:30 pm Choir</b>	<b>6:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight service w/Communion</b> 9:00 am Preschool Chapel (I) 9:00 am GK and Sen (I) 9:00 am GK and Sen (II) 9:00 pm Holybush Worship	<b>Christmas Day</b> Church Office Closed 9:00 am Christmas Worship Service w/Communion	9:00 am Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship <b>6th Sunday in Advent</b> All are Confirmation	9:00 am Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship <b>7th Sunday in Advent</b> All are Confirmation
<b>28</b> 9:00 am Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship <b>7th Sunday in Advent</b> All are Confirmation	Church Office Closed No School (RSD) Winter Break (Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup> - Jan. 3 <sup>rd</sup> )	9:00 pm Day Scouts <b>6:30 pm Choir</b>	<b>6:00 pm New Year's Eve Candlelight service w/Communion</b> 9:00 am Preschool Chapel (I) 9:00 am GK and Sen (I) 9:00 am GK and Sen (II) 9:00 pm Holybush Worship	<b>New Year's Day</b> Church Office Closed	9:00 am Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship <b>8th Sunday in Advent</b> All are Confirmation	9:00 am Bible Study 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship <b>9th Sunday in Advent</b> All are Confirmation

Diana Halgum	12/03
Tatiana Walker	12/03
Barbara Laska	12/04
Oksa Tachalagan	12/04
Tanya Martnez	12/06
Bradley Vinge	12/07
Jacobi Carale	12/08
Michael Provenza	12/09
Isabella Kati	12/09

\*Please note location of all births and wedding meals.  
Phone 139-104

David & Josie Pease	12/13
David & Gloria Vase	12/16
Tina & Diana Halgum	12/18
Steve & Leslie Bell	12/20
Phyllis & Taylor Martnez	12/21

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love.  
1 Corinthians 13:13

LEADER	
(I) - Fellowship lead	
(II) - Liturgy	
(III) - Sanctuary	
(PC) - Pastor's Office	

	
Newsletter of Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso Texas • November 2025	
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6802 Linda Dr. Cross Street El Paso TX 79907-3030 Office 915-833-1009 Fax: 915-833-1008 Preschool: 915-884-4447 <a href="http://www.ascensionlutheran.org">www.ascensionlutheran.org</a> 800-541-2222	

## “Sharing God’s Love By Connecting People To Christ”

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### Ascension Lutheran Church Newsletter November 2025

## Pastor’s Desk

### Count Your Blessings

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good: his love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say this: “Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men...” (Psalm 107:1, 2 & NIV)*

Years ago, at Thanksgiving, Ascension used to pass out printed sheets with spaces to write down plenty of things we are thankful for. Each page had maybe 30 or so blank spaces to be filled in. When my family finished Thanksgiving dinner, my mom passed out the sheets and had us start writing. The first time this happened, I wasn’t thrilled. I looked at that sheet with all the enthusiasm of a grade school kid having to write up an essay about what they did over summer vacation. Didn’t we have enough forms to fill out all the time? Why ruin Thanksgiving with another one?

I started writing, thinking that I would have to really stretch to be able to find enough things to be thankful for to fill in all the spaces. But it wasn’t at all like I thought it would be. I started with family. I wrote that I was thankful for my wife, for my son, for my two daughters, for my mother, for my mother-in-law, and each of my extended family members.... In fact, I had to cut myself short because I could have filled in all of my spaces just with family. Then I started writing about the physical blessings God had given me: clothes and shoes, food on the table, a roof over my head, a job with income, a phone, a computer, and so on... again I had to stop because I could have used up another two pages just with “things” with which God had blessed me. Then there were friends and co-workers and brothers and sisters at church... better still, I wrote the general category “friends” and not try to list them all because I was running out of room. And what about health and eyesight and hearing and being able to talk and walk and think and hope and faith and small joys and adventures... better cut it short again! And then there were spiritual blessings: God forgives me, saves me through Jesus, gives me eternal life, gives me His Word, is with me all the time, gives me strength when I face problems, hears me when I pray, encourages me, loves me no matter what, and so on. Then what about the country in which I live, the freedoms I enjoy, the people who sacrifice to serve my community...

**NOW AVAILABLE**  
PICK UP YOUR FREE COPY  
TODAY IN THE NARTHEX.

PORTALS  
of PRAYER

PERSONAL AND FAMILY DEVOTIONS  
OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2015

Be refreshed daily in God's living Word!



## Holiday Worship Services Ascension Lutheran Church

Sundays and Wednesdays, Thanksgiving through New Years 2025

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES	MIDWEEK EVENING SERVICES
Sunday, November 23 10:30 am Worship	Wednesday, November 26 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship
Sunday, November 30 10:30 am Worship	Wednesday, December 3 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Midweek Worship
Sunday, December 7 10:30 am Worship	Wednesday, December 10 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm "Lessons and Carols"
Sunday, December 14 10:30 am Worship	Wednesday, December 17 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Midweek Worship
Sunday, December 21 10:30 am Worship	Wednesday, December 24 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
	Thursday, December 25 10:00 am Christmas Day Service
Sunday, December 28 10:30 am Worship	Wednesday, December 31 5:00 pm New Years' Eve Service





Merry  
Christmas

Ascension Lutheran  
Preschool

Christmas Program

**December 11**

**6PM**

\*Guests are limited to 4 per student



## **This Week @ Ascension**

### **Sunday (December 7)**

9:00 AM Adult Bible Study & Sunday School  
10:00 AM Fellowship  
10:30 AM Worship w/ Communion  
11:45 AM Confirmation Class



HAPPENING THIS WEEK

### **Monday (December 8)**

Church Office Closed

### **Tuesday (December 9)**

6:30 PM Boy Scouts  
6:30 PM Choir Practice (S)

### **Wednesday (December 10)**

9:00 AM Preschool Posadas  
12:00 PM Preschool Teacher Christmas Luncheon (FH)  
6:00 PM Soup Supper (FH)  
7:00 PM Midweek Worship Service

### **Thursday (December 11)**

6:00 PM Preschool Christmas Program

### **Friday (December 12)**

12:00-2:30 PM Preschool Extended Care

### **Saturday (December 13)**

10 AM-12 PM LWML Annual Christmas Brunch (at Maritza Schlak's home)  
6317 Franklin Vista Dr.

