

Third Sunday of Advent

Rejoice!

December 14, 2025 • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

As We Gather

The ancient song “Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel” says: “Oh come, thou **Dayspring from on High!**” The Bible says, “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” (Ephesians 5:14)

Jesus Christ is the light of the world (John 8:12); he is the **Dayspring**, that is, the dawn of the new day (Luke 1:78, Malachi 4:2, 2 Peter 1:19). We were all living in spiritual darkness but Jesus has brought us salvation! “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:5) For that reason we rejoice and live in the light of Christ, the Dayspring from on high! Oh come, thou Dayspring from on high!

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?

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)

Call to Worship (Choir): Christ, Be Our Light

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church, gathered today.
2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your Word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church, gathered today.

5. Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
 Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come.
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
 Christ, be our light! Shine in your church, gathered today.

Invocation

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

C **Amen.**

P Jesus is the Dayspring, the first light of dawn in our hearts!

C **Jesus is the light of the world!**

P The light shines in the darkness

C **But the darkness has not overcome it.** (John 1:5)

P We lived in the darkness of sin,

C **But Jesus has given us eternal life!**

P We lived without hope,

C **But Jesus has given us eternal life!**

P For this reason we praise him with all our heart

C **And we eagerly wait for Jesus to come again!**

P Jesus, you are the Light of the world!

C **Oh come, Jesus, Dayspring from on high!**

P Let us live in the light of Christ, for he will come soon!

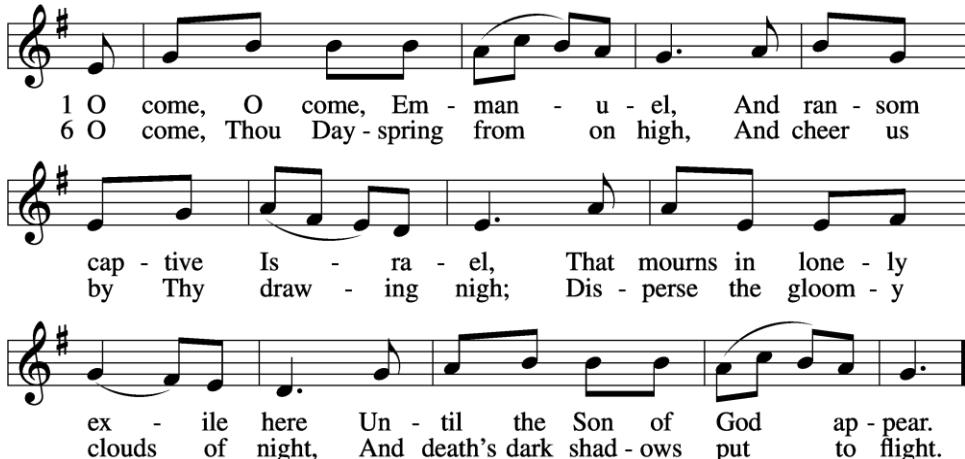
C **Oh come, Jesus, Dayspring from on high!**

P Darkness flees before the light of Christ!

C **Oh come, Jesus, Dayspring from on high!**

Opening Hymn Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357, verses 1 and 6



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
 6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us

cap - tive Is ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
 by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y

ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.

Refrain

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.

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: Glory in the Highest

Libro de Liturgia y Cántico 297

Refrain: Glory in the highest and peace on the earth!

Glory in the highest and peace on the earth!

Sing out the glad tidings of our Savior's birth!

Sing out the glad tidings of our Savior's birth!

1. Jesus seeks no lodging that sets him apart.

Jesus seeks no lodging that sets him apart.

He looks for a place now to dwell in your heart.

He looks for a place now to dwell in your heart. (Refrain)

2. Open up your heart, then, Christ wants to come in.
Open up your heart, then, Christ wants to come in.
And all of your days will be Christmas again!
And all of your days will be Christmas again! (Refrain)

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 of hope that Jesus the Light of the World is coming to us! Today we light three candles: 1) the candle of Hope, for Christ is our Light and our Hope; 2) the candle of Peace, for Christ has made peace between us and God; and 3) **the candle of Joy, the candle of a different color, because Christ gives us the joy of everlasting light.** In the first Christmas, the angels rejoiced and praised Jesus for his salvation. We do the same today! *The first three 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!

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

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

(Rejoice, for God will come to change everything, bringing eternal joy!)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴ Say to those who have an anxious heart,
"Be strong; fear not!
Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you."

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.^[a]
⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

Special Music: He Comes! (Isaiah 35:1-10) by Bryan Perdue

1. The desert will rejoice, the wilderness be glad;
Dry lands fill with dew; no longer are they sad.
The crocus will bloom, its fragrance soon release
For the Lord, He comes! He comes! He comes, the Prince of Peace!
2. Steady my trembling hand; give strength to my weakened knees.
Soothe now my anxious heart; be strong!
Fear not! He comes! The Prince of Peace!
3. The blind eyes shall see. Silent ears will hear.
The muted voice will sing. The lame will leap like deer.
The streams in deserts flow. The burning sands will pool.
For the Lord, He comes! He comes! He comes to earth to rule!
4. His highway will appear, the Way of Holiness.
No unclean soul upon it treads, no jackal to distress.
No lion shall be there, where fools cannot stray.
For the Lord, He comes! He comes! He comes to lead the way.

New Testament (Epistle) Reading

James 5:7-11

(At the present time we suffer in patience, but Christ is coming to bring us great joy!)

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.

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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2-15

(Jesus fulfills Isaiah's prophecy and reassures John the Baptist who is in prison.)

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴ And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹ "Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³ For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴ and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵ He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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 Lord Jesus, come to our hearts and let your light shine in us. Throw out our sin and help us to grasp firmly the hope of eternal life. For you are our God and Lord, and you are the Light of the world. In your own name we pray. Amen.

Sit

Song while Children Come to the Front: Oh How Joyfully Himnario Luterano 418

1. Oh how joyfully, oh how blessedly, Comes the glory of Christmastime! To a world so lost in sin, Christ the Savior enters in. Praise him, praise him Christians evermore!
2. Oh how joyfully, oh how blessedly, Comes the glory of Christmastime! Jesus, born in lowly stall, With his grace redeems us all. Praise him, praise him Christians evermore!

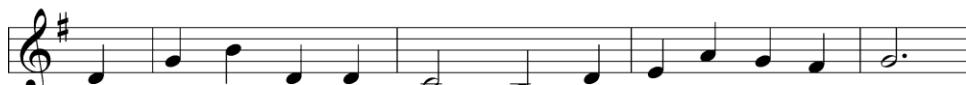
Children's Message

Hymn Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Lutheran Service Book 515



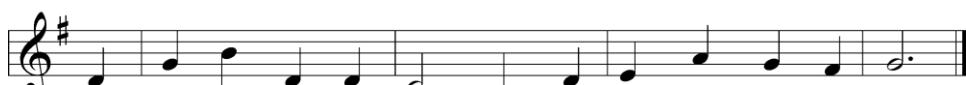
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride-groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.
Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.
A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night-ed sphere.



The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride-groom is at hand.
In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.
The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon: "Joy to the World"

Baptism

Scripture Reading

- P** Jesus Christ says in the last chapter of Matthew: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." In the last chapter of Mark, Jesus promises: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved."
- P** Ellie, Greyson, Landon, receive the sign of the cross upon your forehead and upon your heart, to mark you as one rescued by Christ the crucified.

Prayer

- A** **Almighty God, we bring these children before you. We pray that you give them your Holy Spirit, so that they will have faith in Jesus as their Savior all the days of their lives. Wash them from all evil, forgive them and help them to live as a new person. Let them know that they are your children. Give them your love every day and in the end, bring them to eternal life with you. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Words to the Parents and Godparent

- P** A little child is not able to take care of himself, but depends on his parents for everything. Ellie, Greyson, and Landon depend on you, not only for their physical food and care, but also with regard to their faith. It is good that you have brought them to be baptized! But afterwards you must raise them up in the Christian faith. Jesus said to make disciples by baptizing and also teaching. God is calling you to pray for Ellie, Greyson, and Landon, to teach them about Jesus, to show them how to follow Jesus, how to pray, how to understand the Bible. God wants you to encourage them and bring them to join with other Christians in worship. Will you commit to doing this? If so, say, "I will, with the help of God."

Parents and Godparent: I will, with the help of God.

- P** God enable you to do this faithful and loving work and with his grace fulfill what we are unable to do.

Parents: Amen.

- P** Hear the Gospel according to Mark: "They brought young children to [Jesus] that he might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was greatly displeased and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the

kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, put his hands on them, and blessed them." This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Baptism Questions

P We believe that God can work faith in the hearts of little children just as much, if not more, than in older people. Nevertheless, very little children cannot yet express what is in their hearts. Therefore I ask you parents and godparent to answer for Ellie, Greyson, and Landon just as you speak for them and protect them in many other ways.

Do you renounce all the devil's works and ways?

Parents and Godparent: Yes, Ellie, Greyson, and Landon, and we renounce them.

P Do you believe in God? I invite the whole congregation to join in this response, in the words of the Apostle's Creed:

C I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✫ everlasting. Amen.

P This is the Christian faith. Do you wish to baptize Ellie, Greyson, and Landon in this faith?

Parents and Godparent: Yes.

Baptism

P Ellie Wagner – Greyson Wagner – Landon Wagner – I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blessing

Parents: (placing hands on child) May God bless you and keep you strong in faith. Amen.

P *(placing hands on child)* Almighty God, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you, strengthen you in faith until Jesus comes again. Amen.

Baptismal Candle

P *(lighting the baptismal candle and giving it to the parents or the godparent)*
Receive this burning light to show that you belong now to Christ, the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ. Amen.

You may extinguish the candle now, to take it home. May I suggest that you keep the candle in a special place and take it out and light it on special occasions such as the children's birthdays, or on the anniversary of their baptism. Light it with them and remind them that God loves them, that they are baptized, that they belong to the Lord, and that Jesus wants them to live in the light, in faith and love. Amen.

Presentation

P I present to you Ellie, Greyson, and Landon, new-born in the Lord, our brothers and sister in Jesus' name!

C **Amen. We welcome you in the name of the Lord. May God bless you always!**

P Peace be with you all.

C **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: *(See our prayer list at the back of the bulletin)*. 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 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: Oh Blest is He that Comes (David von Kampen)

1. *His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding:
Oh, blest is he that comes in God the Father's name,
In God the Father's name!*
2. *Prepare the royal highway; the King of Kings is near!
Let every hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
Oh, blest is he that comes in God the Father's name,
In God the Father's name!
Oh, blest is he that comes in God the Father's name!*

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!

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.

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)

LSB 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 \ddagger give you peace.
C Amen.

Closing Hymn

Joy to the World

LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound-ing joy, Re - peat the sound-ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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Worship Leaders

Pastor:	Richard Schlak
Organist:	Ruth Ann Ostergren
Elder:	Ron Seiders
Acolyte:	Aden Morales
Reader:	Ron Seiders
Ushers:	Team 2
Altar Care:	Coordinated 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.

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:

Tom Wade, father of Kristal Wade, & **Merle DeMarteleare**, father of David DeMarteleare, are both having a heart procedure (Tom on the 11th, & Merle on the 17th) to put in a WATCHMAN implant & ablation to address atrial fibrillation and avoid possible stroke (please pray the doctors & staff will complete the procedures successfully, give them a quick recovery, and calm fears of Tom, Merle, and all of their family & friends); **Krissy Miller**, had successful surgery this past Wednesday morning (pray for healing); **BJ Schwab**, had a biopsy on her thyroid this past Dec. 11th, (please pray for a good outcome on the results); **Kari Decker Larson**, has a persistent cough (please pray for healing); **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); **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. 16th, & 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 (please pray for correct diagnosis & effective treatment); **Aaron Levenhagen**, 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 & **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 Kwiatakowski**, 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:

Dick Seiders, Ron Seiders father, received a second medical opinion revealing that the macular degeneration had not worsened to the point that he was losing his vision (praise and thanksgiving to God and grateful for everyone's prayers); **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 Darwin & Gloria Voge
in celebration of Brad Voge's birthday.**



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. 17 — Bradley Voge



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

**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.)**





Youth BAKE SALE

Thank you!



Thank you to all who participated and made baked goods for the bake sale we had during the week of Thanksgiving. **Thank you** to everyone that purchased those goods and helped raise a total of **\$448** that will be used to support our youth for travel to the next **LCMS Youth Gathering** taking place in **San Antonio in 2028!**



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the money needed to by special hearing aids for our dedicated, and faithful servant, Ruth Ann Ostergren!

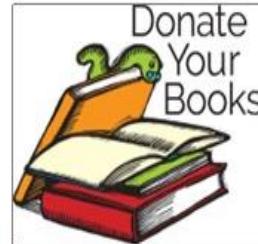
Thank you!

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.**



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.



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

This Week @ Ascension

Sunday (December 14)

9:00 AM Adult Bible Study & Sunday School

10:00 AM Fellowship

10:30 AM Worship

Immediately after service: Congregational Meeting with lunch (FH)

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Monday (December 15)

Church Office Closed

Tuesday (December 16)

6:30 PM Boy Scouts

6:30 PM Choir Practice (S)

Wednesday (December 17)

9:00 AM Preschool Chapel (S)

11:00 AM Sit & Sew (FH)

6:00 PM Soup Supper (FH)

7:00 PM Midweek Worship Service (S)

Thursday (December 18)

Last day of Preschool (Winter Break)

3:00 PM January newsletter announcements due in office

Friday (December 19)

Saturday (December 20)