

Ascension Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod

A **Christ-centered** community where we *connect, learn, and serve.*



November 28, 2021

Welcome To Our Guests

It is a great joy to have you here today. We pray that your time with us has helped to deepen your faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ. If we can be of service to you or your family, we invite you to talk to us at your convenience.

You will always be welcome here. Please do us the honor of signing the guest sheet at the podium at the front of the church or at the entrance from the Education Wing.

Thank you for coming!

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FIRST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR / ADVENT

Nov. 28, 2021

Worship Service - 9:30 AM

WELCOME

PRELUDE

AS WE GATHER

Some days in our lives stand out as more memorable than others. The birth of a child, a long-awaited graduation, a particular vacation, or a family gathering are all days of joy that become part of the stories of our lives. A terrible illness, the death of someone dear, the loss of a job—these days, too, stand out as moments seared in our memories of pain that never seems to go away entirely. Some days stand out more than others. Today's Readings declare the days when Jesus came into the midst of all our joys and sorrows to bring joy, restoration, and hope. Our salvation was won on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. And the day is still coming when Christ will return and all creation will be restored. Jesus fills our days—good or bad, joyful or sorrowful—with His gracious presence from now until He returns on that great Last Day.

(stand)

INVOCATION

Elder: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *Jeremiah 33:14–15; Luke 21:27, 33, adapt.*

Elder: The LORD says, "I will fulfill the promise I made to the houses of Israel and Judah."

People: **We thank You, O Lord!**

Elder: The LORD says, "My righteous Branch will cause justice and righteousness to spring up."

People: **We adore You, O Lord!**

Elder: The LORD says, “You will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”

People: We praise You, O Lord!

Elder: The LORD says, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.”

People: We worship You, O Lord!

One Advent candle is lit.

Elder: Let us pray.

O Lord, let the lighting of this candle signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 25:6–7*

Elder: Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God’s new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

A time of silence is observed.

Elder: We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have neither loved You with our whole heart nor loved our neighbors as ourselves.

People: Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Elder: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

People: according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

Elder: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

GREETING OF PEACE

(At this time, please turn around and greet each other with the peace of Christ.)

GATHERING SONG: “Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery”

(sit)

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Jeremiah 33:14–16

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE: 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(stand)

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 19:28-40

Elder: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the Nineteenth chapter.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

(Congregation reads together:)

²⁸ And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, “Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’” ³² So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. ³³ And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” ³⁴ And they said, “The Lord has need of it.” ³⁵ And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the

road. ³⁷ As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, ³⁸ saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” ³⁹ And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” ⁴⁰ He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

Elder: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

HYMN OF THE DAY: “The King Shall Come”

LW 26, v. 1-5

THE APPLICATION OF GOD’S WORD FOR TODAY

APOSTLES CREED:

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

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

(sit)

OFFERING / MEDITATION: “Hearts Waiting (Joy To The World)”

Praise Team

(stand)

OFFERTORY: “We Praise You and Acknowledge You”

LSB 941, v. 1

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each prayer, the response will be:

Elder: Lord, in Your mercy,
People: **hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

(sit)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

THE BLESSING

Elder: The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious unto us. The Lord lift up His countenance upon us and ✠ give us peace.
People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN/SONG: "The Lord Our God"

Elder: Go in peace and
People: **serve the Lord.**

LOOKING AHEAD: The assigned readings for next week are:
Malachi 3:1–7b; Philippians 1:2–11; Luke 3:1–20

Ascension News

COMMUNITY PRAYER LIST: Please send any current prayer concerns by **Wednesday of each week** to: secretary@ascensionpgh.com. We will place the list in the bulletin and monthly newsletter. Prayers will remain on the list for 30 days and then be removed unless an extension is requested by notifying the church secretary. These prayers, if you give permission, will also be shared in the weekly email.

Prayers for this week:

- We pray for Roger Vogel (Eileen Vogel's brother in law) who will be undergoing cancer treatments. That God would strengthen Him and bless the treatments.

-We pray for the family and friends of Bob (Shannon Schroeder's father and Juliette and Zac's grandfather). Bob entered his eternal rest this past Sunday night. We give thanks for his faith and pray for comfort and peace in the promise of the resurrection in Jesus for his loved ones.

- We offer up a prayer of thanksgiving for Diane McClellan. She returned home from the hospital. Pray for continued recovery from her illness.

- We pray for Joni, Vanessa's mother, as she recovers from a fall in the hospital.

CHURCH DECORATING: Do you like to put up Christmas decorations? If so, please come help decorate our church on **Saturday, Dec. 4** beginning at 9:00 a.m.

SHEPHERD'S HEART COAT DRIVE: The Shepherd's Heart Coat Drive is now extended through the end of November. Men's and women's coats, hats, gloves, scarves, and socks are need (but NOT children's at this time.) Place your donations in the boxes under the mailboxes in the Narthex.

OUTREACH ACTIVITY: Concordia of Franklin Park Christmas Gift Drive starts on Sunday, Dec. 5 - pick up a resident's name and wish list return your wrapped gifts by Dec. 19th / there are 53 residents who need gifts! NEW for this year - Concordia of Wexford - Christmas Gift Drive because extra funds were available this year, we have added a new resident hall. They currently have 37 residents. The Outreach Committee will purchase gifts, and we will have a "wrapping party" on Sunday, Dec. 12 during the Education Hour. Everything will be provided - the gifts, boxes, wrapping paper, etc. Food will be provided! Please come to help us out!

Happy Birthday

November 28 – Stephan Weber
 November 30 – Gene Williams, Sr.
 December 4 – Bonnie Clark

Worship Servants

SERVING TODAY

ALTAR GUILD / NOVEMBER:Nancy Hughey
 ELDER ON DUTY TODAY:Cooper Blake
 LAY READER:Trish Young
 USHERS:Lora Koontz & Matt Gunther
 ACOLYTE:Juliette Schroeder

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

SUNDAY, 11/28/21	WORSHIP SERVICE	9:30 AM
	In-Person and Livestreamed Christian Education for Adults, Youth, and Children	11:00 AM
WEDNESDAY	Prayer and Praise Group via ZOOM	10:00 AM
	Confirmation Class	7:00 PM
THURSDAY	Adult Choir	7:00 PM
	Handbell Choir	7:45 PM
SATURDAY	Church Decorating	9:00 AM
	Women's Bible Study	9:00 AM
NEXT SUNDAY, 12/5	WORSHIP SERVICE and Christian Education	9:30 AM 11:00 AM