

Ascension Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod

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

January 22nd



Welcome To Our Guests

It is a great joy to have you here today. We pray that your time with us helps 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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THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

WELCOME

PRELUDE

AS WE GATHER

When Jesus appeared on the scene of human history, His coming was like the light of a new day. Isaiah had prophesied a day would come filled with joy as at the harvest or when victors divide spoils. But daylight also reveals problems covered by darkness, like the divisions at the Church in Corinth, as Paul writes. Jesus' light not only reveals, but it also forgives, heals, and enlivens. People brought the sick and demon-possessed to our Lord, and the first four disciples jumped at the opportunity to follow Him. What ills shall we bring to worship today for resolution? Sins requiring forgiveness, gloom needing joy, divisions seeking reconciliation? Jesus came into human history to die and rise for us; today He comes through Word and Sacrament in grace and mercy to meet our deepest needs. Let us rejoice in the light of God's forgiveness, mercy, and love.

Stand

INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

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

OPENING HYMN - Living Hope

OPENING SENTENCES

P The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing,
C **but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**

P Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage;
C **wait for the LORD!**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** St. Matthew writes that Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Let us respond by confessing our sins and asking our Lord’s forgiveness.
- C** **Heavenly Father, we confess our sins to You. We are too much a part of this fallen world. Because our citizenship is in heaven, invade our thoughts, words, and deeds by Your gracious power. Help us to live each day as pilgrims heading to the eternal promised land. Turn us from our sinful direction to follow our Savior’s gracious lead, walking in ways pleasing to You for Jesus’ sake. Amen.**
- P** “For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” Be assured that through Jesus’ blood-bought rescue, you are already citizens in the Kingdom of heaven. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

GREETING OF PEACE

At this time, you may turn to those around you and greet each other with the peace of Christ.

GATHERING SONG - Holy Spirit, Light Divine

LW 166 vs. 1-3

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:1-4

¹ There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.

³You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you

as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
⁴For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 1:10–18

¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹²What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12–25

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹²When [Jesus] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea,

in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,
on them a light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

¹⁸While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Thompson

HYMN OF THE DAY - Praise The One Who Breaks The Darkness

THE APPLICATION OF GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY

Pastor Thompson

Stand

APOSTLES 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.
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 Song - Your Name Is Power

Praise Team

Stand

OFFERTORY - We Praise You And Acknowledge You, O God

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

After each prayer, the response will be:

P Lord, in Your mercy,
C Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- C** **Our Father who art in heaven,**
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Number 6:24-26

- 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 SONG - Great Things

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace and
- C** **Serve the Lord!**

Acknowledgments

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LOOKING AHEAD: The assigned readings for next week are:
Micah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

SERVING TODAY

ELDER(S).....Bob Booth
LAY READER..... Trish Young
USHERS.....Edie Krom & Lora Koontz
ACOLYTE.....Hannah Koontz

SERVING NEXT WEEK

ELDER(S).....Kurt Dolph & Darryl Gunther
LAY READER.....Dave Dille
USHERS.....Jim Obringer & Lynn Gunther
ALTAR GUILD.....Ruth Redondo
ACOLYTE..... Kayla Arnett

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers today are given in celebration of Anna Fiffik's sweet sixteenth birthday! Mike and Cristen are so grateful for all the joy she brings!



- ✦ Prayers of recovery for Caleb Rajendaran, he had a virus & was admitted to Children's Hospital for treatment. Please pray for Caleb's full recovery and rest for the family.
- ✦ Prayers for Emma Nagy, friend of Janet and Bill Seitz. Prayers for safety and for God's blessing on her work with the Mission of Christ Organization.
- ✦ We pray for God's healing for Brian Bedel, brother of Denise, as he recovers from ear surgery.
- ✦ We pray for God's continued healing for Dennis Meier as he recovers from knee surgery.
- ✦ We pray for God's continued healing for Janine Nicolette who is recovering from knee surgery.
- ✦ Prayers of thanksgiving for God's healing grace for Caryn, sister of Cristen Fiffik. Caryn's surgeries went well and her breast cancer was not shown to have spread further. We pray for God's continued comfort and support as she begins radiation treatment soon and all the effects that may bring.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL LEADERSHIP ORIENTATION – Our annual Leadership class will take place on Saturday, January 28th from 9:00am-12:00pm and will meet in the following rooms: fellowship hall, fireside room & conference room.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Our Sunday School classes meet again today following our Divine Service. Toddlers – with Emily Marcellus; K-2 – with Patti Lopresto; 3rd - 6th Grade with Lora Koontz. Parents of toddlers may stay in the classroom with your child if you wish.

YOUTH GROUP – Our 7th - 12th grade youth group will meet with Pastor and the new member class in the Fireside Room directly following our Divine Service.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY– Our Men's Bible group meets on the 4th Saturday of each month. Our next meeting will be Saturday, February January 25th at 8:30 am in the Fireside room.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY – We are offering two Adult Bible study classes & our New Member class immediately following Sunday Divine Service:

- ❖ ***Topical Study: Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels*** - Christianity could be defined as a “cold case”: it makes a claim about an event from the distant past for which there is little forensic evidence. In *Cold-Case Christianity*, J. Warner Wallace uses his nationally recognized skills as a former LA homicide detective to look at the evidence and eyewitnesses behind Christian beliefs. Including gripping stories from his career and the visual techniques he developed in the courtroom, Wallace uses illustration to examine the powerful evidence that validates the claims of Christianity. A unique apologetic that speaks to readers' intense interest in detective stories, *Cold-Case Christianity* inspires readers to have confidence in Christ as it prepares them to articulate the case for Christianity.
- ❖ ***Book Study***: The book study class will be facilitated by Janine Nicolette and meets in the Fireside Room. We will be studying the book “***Hebrews: The Fulfillment of Faith***” by Howard Kramin. This 12-session series from Concordia Publishing includes background information, a discussion of author, audience, occasion, and purpose, and challenging questions on this important book.
- ❖ ***New Member Class***: Please join Pastor Adam Thompson for our New Member Class where we go over the basics of the Lutheran Confession Of Faith.

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

SUNDAY 1/22/2023	WORSHIP SERVICE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL	9:30 AM 11:00 AM 6:30 PM
WEDNESDAY	PRAYER & PRAISE CONFIRMATION CLASS	10:00 AM 7:00 PM
SATURDAY	ANNUAL LEADERSHIP MEETING	9:00 AM
SUNDAY 1/29/2023	WORSHIP SERVICE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	9:30 AM 11:00 AM

