



ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

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

First Sunday in Advent – November 30, 2025



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Welcome! We're happy you're with us for worship today.

IF YOU ARE VISITING FOR THE FIRST TIME, please take a moment to sign in at the podium at either sanctuary entrance. We pray your time with us strengthens your faith in the Lord. We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS). You can find more information about our beliefs at LCMS.org/about/beliefs.

IF YOU HAVE SMALL CHILDREN, we understand that God made them wiggly and noisy at times, but we also believe they should be with us in worship. If you need a moment, we have a nursery available to you through the hallway to the right of the altar. Children's bags are also available in the Narthex for use during service.

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated at Ascension Lutheran on each Sunday. We receive this Holy Sacrament in the glad confidence that our Lord Jesus, as His word says, gives not only bread and wine, but also His true Body and Blood for us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of our sins (Matthew 26:26-28). Our Lord invites to His table those who, repenting of their sins, believe His word that His body and blood are truly present for the forgiveness of our sins. All baptized believers who hold our confession of faith and have examined themselves according to Scripture's guidance (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), are invited to receive His Sacrament. If you are not yet baptized or are visiting us for the first time, we invite you to come forth during communion and fold your arms over your heart for a blessing. Pastor would be happy to discuss receiving Holy Communion at Ascension with you.

AFTER EACH SERVICE from September to May, please join us for a brief time of **FELLOWSHIP** with coffee and treats downstairs in our Fellowship Hall briefly before we begin our **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** hour for those ages 2 and above.

If you have any questions, seek out Pastor, an usher, or a member with a name tag; they will be happy to help you out.

SERVING TODAY:

ELDER(S): Kurt Dolph & Bob Booth

LAY READER: Darryl Gunther

USHERS: Jim Obringer & Cristen Fiffik

ACOLYTE: Grace Russler

SERVING NEXT WEEK

ELDER(S): Dave Dille & Cooper Blake

LAY READER: Dave Dille

USHERS: John Russler & Lynn Gunther

ACOLYTE: Dalaney Gard

First Sunday in Advent

Pre-Service - Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Welcome

Prelude/Lighting of Advent Wreath

LSB 357 sts. 1, ref

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: French, 15th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

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 - Even So Come

Verse 1

All of creation all of the earth

Make straight a highway a path for the
Lord
Jesus is coming soon

Verse 2

Call back the sinner wake up the saint
Let ev'ry nation shout of Your fame
Jesus is coming soon

Chorus 1

Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Even so come Lord Jesus come
Even so come Lord Jesus come

Verse 3

There will be justice all will be new
Your name forever faithful and true
Jesus is coming soon

(Chorus 1)

Bridge 1

So we wait we wait for You
God we wait You're coming soon
So we wait we wait for You
God we wait You're coming soon

Chorus 2

Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Even so come Lord Jesus come
Even so come Lord Jesus come

Exhortation

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

Confession of Sins

LSB 184

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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

Following the Absolution, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matthew 5:22–24; Ephesians 4:1–3).

Hymn of Praise - King of Kings

Verse 1

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfil the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

Chorus

Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory
Majesty
Praise forever to the King of kings

Verse 2

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross
For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation

Jesus for our sake You died
(Chorus)

Verse 3

And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

Verse 4

And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint
By His blood and in His Name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me
(Chorus)

Tag

Praise forever to the King of Kings

Old Testament

Isaiah 2:1–5

¹The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,

³and many peoples shall come, and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Romans 13:8–14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and

put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:1–11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

⁵“Say to the daughter of Zion,
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” ¹⁰And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” ¹¹And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message

Pastor Thompson

Hymn of the Day - Savior of the Nations, Come

LSB 332 sts. 1-2, 4, 7-8

Sermon

Pastor Thompson

Lutheran Catechesis - The Seventh Petition

C But deliver us from evil.

P *What does this mean?*

C We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

Stand

Nicene Creed

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.

Sit

Offering

Meditation Song - Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

Praise Team

Stand

Offertory - Manger Throne

Glory be to You alone
King who reigns from a manger throne
My life my praise everything I own
To Jesus the King on a manger throne

Installation of Congregational Officers

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.

The Words of Institution *Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

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 ✠ 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 ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Peace of the Lord

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Sit

Holy Communion

Distribution Hymns - Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

LSB 621

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Verse 1

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
 In the dawning of the King
 He the theme of heaven's praises
 Robed in frail humanity
 In our longing in our darkness
 Now the light of life has come

Look to Christ who condescended
 Took on flesh to ransom us

Verse 2

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
 He the perfect Son of Man
 In His living in His suff'ring

Never trace nor stain of sin
 See the true and better Adam
 Come to save the hell-bound man
 Christ the great and sure fulfillment
 Of the law in Him we stand

Verse 3

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
 Christ the Lord upon the tree
 In the stead of ruined sinners
 Hangs the Lamb in victory
 See the price of our redemption
 See the Father's plan unfold
 Bringing many sons to glory
 Grace unmeasured love untold

Verse 4

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
 Slain by death the God of life
 But no grave could e'er restrain Him
 Praise the Lord He is alive
 What a foretaste of deliv'rance
 How unwavering our hope
 Christ in power resurrected
 As we will be when He comes

Ending

What a foretaste of deliv'rance
 How unwavering our hope
 Christ in power resurrected
 As we will be when He comes

Communion Dismissal

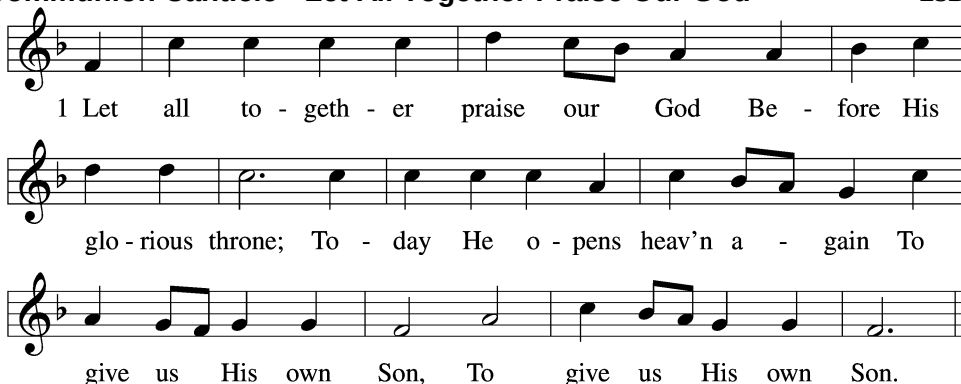
P Now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen and preserve you, in body and soul, unto life everlasting. Depart in His peace ☩ and with joy.

C Amen.

Stand

Post-Communion Canticle - Let All Together Praise Our God

LSB 389 st. 1



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
 glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
 give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.

Text: tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001

Text and tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561

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Tune: Public domain

Post-Communion Prayer

- P** Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 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 - Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

LSB 516

Sit

Announcements

Memory Verse For The Week: Matthew 21:10-11 – “And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

Dismissal

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

Acknowledgments

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Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses:
Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7; Rom. 15:4-13; Matt. 3:1-12

This week we pray for:

- Darryl Gunther for healing for his eyes.
 - Barb, Jackie Dolph's sister, as she undergoes treatment for cancer, that the treatments are effective.
 - Eileen Vogel in thanksgiving for her safe return home and for continued swift recovery.
 - We give thanks for the progress Jim Obringer Sr. has made recovering from his stroke. We pray you continue to grant him a return to even more mobility.
 - Shirley Waselko, who has started another round of chemo treatments every six weeks. Prayers that she continues tolerate the treatments and that they continue to work.
-

Church News & Announcements:

Happy Birthday to: Craig Fleishauer, Sr. December 6th

Christian Education Hour - There are no Adult Bible Classes or Sunday School today.

Prayer and Praise: We are meeting this Wednesday at 10am for Prayer & Praise! We meet in the Fireside Room at church or we have an online option via Zoom. If you have questions or need prayer, please contact Bob Booth at 808-295-1835. [Zoom Link](#)

A/V Booth Helpers Needed: We are looking for volunteers to help in the A/V Booth. If interested, please reach out to me at pastor@ascensionpgh.com.

New Members needed for Praise Team – With the departure of some of our long-time Praise Team members we need some new people to help serve the worship of the congregation on Sundays. Please prayerfully consider joining our Praise Team! If you have any questions, please contact Lisa or Emily Marcellus.

Part-Time Youth Director – Looking for someone to help lead and organize our Youth Group activities and trips starting in 2026.

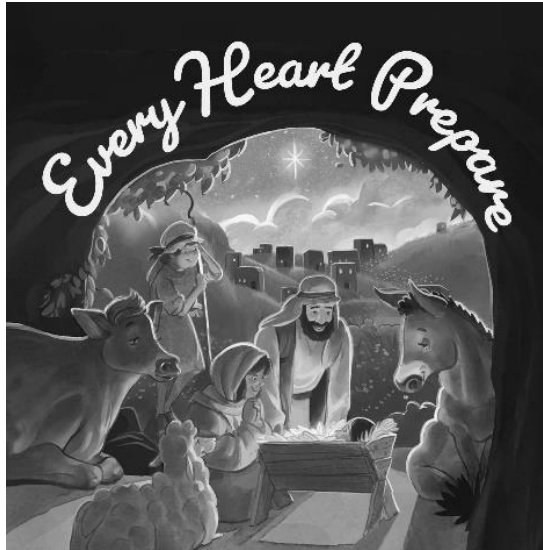
Powers Baby-to-Be! If you are able, let's bless Nelle & John Powers as they prepare to welcome their baby boy in the new year! They have a registry on [BabyList](#) for all the things they still need. Please place any gifts in the labeled baskets in the Narthex by **today** or they can be sent directly to their home. More details on the flyer in the Narthex. Thanks for helping us bless them!! Questions? Contact Marissa Thompson (Care Committee - New Moms & Food Trains)

Hampton Band's Holiday Extravaganza: Come support Craig and Christian Fleishauer at the winter band extravaganza with over 100 vendors offering crafts, gifts and anything else you can imagine on Saturday, December 6th from 9am to 3pm at Hampton High School, 2929 McCully Road, Allison Park. There will also be band performances throughout the day. Free admission!

Christmas Decorating/Christmas Caroling- On December 6th, we will be decorating for Christmas and doing some Christmas Caroling. Please be at the church at 8:30 am for breakfast then we will have a group stay to decorate the church for Advent/Christmas season and a group that will go caroling. Kindly sign up using the sign-up sheets located in the Narthex.

Poinsettia's- It's that time of year again! We are offering for sale 6" poinsettia plants to beautify our sanctuary for Christmas. We will have Red, White or Pink ones available for \$10.00 each. Order forms are inserts in the bulletin. All orders are due by next **Sunday, Dec. 7th**. Checks should be made payable to Ascension Lutheran Church. Please give order forms to Alicia by leaving them on her desk or placing them in the secretary mailbox in the narthex or in the offering plate. Flowers will be available for pickup directly after our Christmas Eve service.

This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:		
Sunday 11/30	Divine Service	9:30 AM
Wednesday	Prayer & Praise Mid-Week Advent Service	10:00 AM 6:30 PM
Saturday	Christmas Decorating & Christmas Caroling	8:30 AM-12 PM
Sunday 12/07	Divine Service Christian Education Hour Practice for Christmas Pageant during Sunday School	9:30 AM 11:00 AM



Advent/Christmas Service Schedule

Mid-Week Advent Services – Wednesday, December 3rd – 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, December 10th – 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, December 17th – 6:30 p.m.

Children's Christmas Program – Sunday, December 14th – 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Service – Special Christmas Music starts at 5:40 p.m.

Wednesday, December 24th – 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service – Thursday, December 25th – 10:00 a.m.