

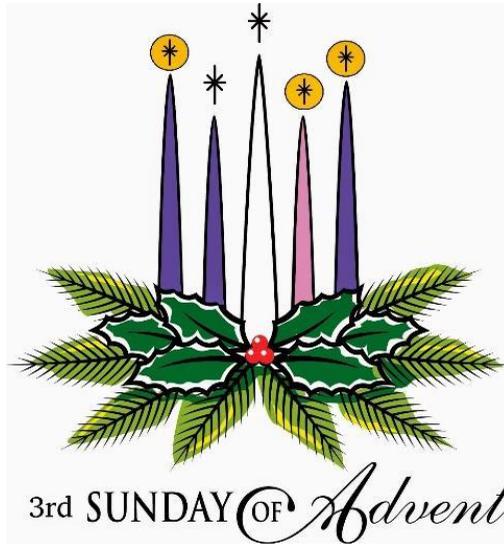


ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

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

Third Sunday in Advent – December 14, 2025



Rev. Adam Thompson, Pastor, pastor@ascensionpgh.com
Lisa & Emily Marcellus Music Director, music@ascensionpgh.com
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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 & Mike Fiffik

LAY READER: N/A

USHERS: Matt Gunther & Jim Obringer

ACOLYTE: Grace Russler

SERVING NEXT WEEK

ELDER(S): Bob Booth & Cooper Blake

LAY READER: N/A

USHERS: Ron Curcio & Cristen Fiffik

ACOLYTE: Christian Fleishauer

Third Sunday in Advent

Pre-Service - God With Us

Welcome

Prelude/Lighting of Advent Wreath – O Come, O Come Emmanuel *LSB 357, sts. 6, ref.*

6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalteriolum Cantionum 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 - Once in Royal David's City

LSB 376

Exhortation

Psalm 124:8; Psalm 130:3–4; Luke 18:13

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** who made heaven and earth.

- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

- P** Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

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

Confession of Sins

- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, 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

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).

Sit

Children's Christmas Program

Please watch and sing along as the children of Ascension Lutheran Church present:
The Very First Christmas

Cast:

Narrators- Elijah Blake, Hannah Koontz, Lucas Mayes

Mary- Dalaney Gard

Joseph- Gabriel Blake

Angel Gabriel- Adalyn Russler

Innkeeper/Star- Simon Blake

Wise Men- Craig Fleishauer, Christian Fleishauer, Carter Mayes

Shepherds- Lucas Mayes, Sammy Rajendaran

Sheep- Henry Thompson, Caleb Rajendaran

Stage Manager- Grace Russler

(Congregation to sing bolded songs only)

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O Come, O Come Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, How still
we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;

**Yet in thy dark streets shineth the
everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed.
The little Lord Jesus laid down His
sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where
He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Angels We Have Heard on High

**Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

We Three Kings

**We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and
mountain
Following yonder star.
O, star of wonder, star of night.
Star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding,**

Guide us to Thy perfect light.

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King:
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Stand

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 Song - Turn Your Eyes

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

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

Your Name (Christmas Version)

Verse 1

Humbly to the earth You came
Born into this world to save
God with us Emmanuel
Now we adore Your Name

Chorus

Your Name is a strong and mighty tower
Your Name is a shelter like no other
Your Name let the nations sing it louder
For nothing has the power to save
(But Your Name)

Verse 2

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

Jesus in Your Name we pray
Come and fill our hearts today
Lord give us strength to live for You
And glorify Your Name
(Chorus)

Interlude

Wonderful Counselor Prince of Peace
Wonderful Counselor Prince of Peace
(Chorus)

Ending

God with us Emmanuel
God with us Emmanuel
God with us Emmanuel
Now we adore Your Name

Post-Communion Canticle - Let All Together Praise Our God

LSB 389 st. 4



4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our
hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His
glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.

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 - Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

LSB 386

Sit

Announcements

Memory Verse For The Week: Luke 2:7 – “And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”

Dismissal

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

Acknowledgments

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Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses:
Isaiah 7:10-17; Psalm 24; Rom. 1:1-7; Matt. 1:18-25

This week we pray for:

- **NEW:** The family and friends of Marge Vossler, grandmother to Chris Schroeder, who died in faith. Comfort them with the hope and promise of the resurrection in Jesus.
 - Darryl Gunther for healing for his eyes.
 - Barb, Jackie Dolph's sister, as she undergoes treatment for cancer, that the treatments are effective.
 - 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 to tolerate the treatments and that they continue to work.
-

Church News & Announcements:

Happy Birthday to: Tim Koontz December 19th

Happy Anniversary to: Ron & Ruth Gredlein December 20th

Christian Education Hour - There is no Sunday School or Adult Bible Classes 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](#)

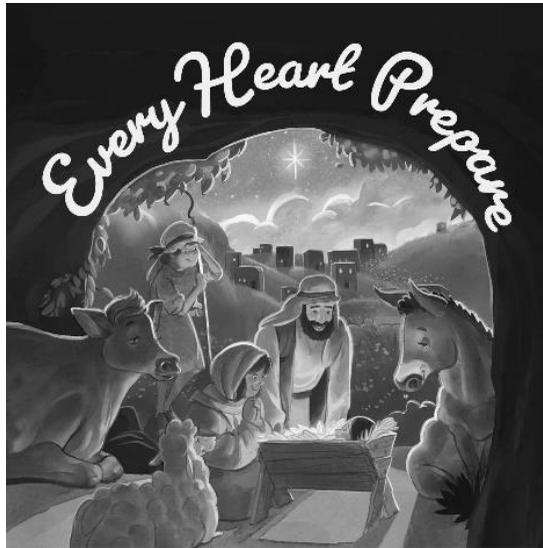
A/V Booth Helpers Needed: We are looking for volunteers to help in the A/V Booth. If interested, please reach out to me at pastor@ascensionpgh.com.

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.

Christmas Pageant - Please join us after the children’s Christmas pageant next for cocoa and cookies in Fellowship Hall.

This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:		
Sunday 12/14	Divine Service-Children’s Christmas Pageant Hot Cocoa & Cookies	9:30 AM 11:00 AM
Wednesday	Prayer & Praise Mid-Week Advent Service Choir Rehearsal	10:00 AM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM
Sunday 12/21	Divine Service Christian Education Hour Bell Rehearsal	9:30 AM 11:00 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.