



ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

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

Second Sunday after the Epiphany – January 18, 2026



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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): Mike Fiffik & Cooper Blake

LAY READER: N/A

USHERS: John Russler & Cristen Fiffik

ACOLYTE: Craig Fleishauer

SERVING NEXT WEEK:

ELDER(S): Bob Booth & Kurt Dolph

LAY READER: Bob Booth

USHERS: Ron Curcio & Lynn Gunther

ACOLYTE: Adalyn Russler

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Pre-Service - Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Welcome

Prelude

Our service today follows Divine Service Setting Two in the Lutheran Service Book starting on page 167.

Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

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

C Amen.

Hymn of Invocation - The People That in Darkness Sat

LSB 412

Exhortation

1 John 1:8-9

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Confession of Sins

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Declaration of Grace

John 1:12; Philippians 1:6

P 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.

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).

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 19:1–4a, b; antiphon: v. 14

P Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,

O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

C The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

P Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.

C There is no speech, nor are there words,
whose voice is not heard.

P Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

In them he has set a tent for the sun.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,

O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47

- A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



The musical score is written on seven staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: **A** Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth. **C** Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther: We wor - ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the

Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer. For You a-lone are the
 Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord, You a-
 lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 49:1-7

¹Listen to me, O coastlands,
 and give attention, you peoples from afar.
 The LORD called me from the womb,
 from the body of my mother he named my name.
²He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
 in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
 he made me a polished arrow;
 in his quiver he hid me away.
³And he said to me, "You are my servant,
 Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

Many will see and fear,
and put their trust | in the LORD.

⁴Blessèd is the man who makes
the | LORD his trust,*
who does not turn to the proud,
to those who go astray af- | ter a lie!

⁵You have multiplied, O LORD my God,
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;
none can com- | pare with you!*

I will proclaim and tell of them,
yet they are more than | can be told.

⁶Sacrifice and offering you have not desired,
but you have given me an | open ear.*
Burnt offering and sin offering
you have | not required.

⁷Then I said, "Behold, | I have come;*"
in the scroll of the book it is writ- | ten of me:

⁸I desire to do your will, | O my God;*"
your law is with- | in my heart."

⁹I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congre- | gation;*"
behold, I have not restrained my lips,
as you know, | O LORD.

¹⁰I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your sal- | vation;*"
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness
from the great congre- | gation.

¹¹As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain
your mer- | cy from me;*"
your steadfast love and your faithfulness will
ever pre- | serve me!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:1–9

¹Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a whole rest followed by a half note G, a quarter note A, a half note B, a quarter note C, a half note D, a quarter note E, a half note F, and a quarter note G. Below the staff is the text "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?". The second staff begins with a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F, a quarter note G, a half note A, a half note B, a half note C, and a whole note D. Below the staff is the text "You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.".

Holy Gospel

John 1:29–42a

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁹The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ ³¹I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³²And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

³⁵The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” ³⁷The two

disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). ⁴²He brought him to Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day - O Love, How Deep

LSB 544 sts. 1-4, 7

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

C 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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

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.

Sit

Offering

Meditation Song - There Is a Redeemer

Praise Team

Stand

Offertory - What Shall I Render

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
 va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
 vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo - ple, in the
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru - sa - lem.

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.**

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless us and keep us.
 The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The Lord look upon us with favor and ✠ give us peace.

G Amen.

Closing Hymn - Who You Are

Verse 1

Your glory speaks in every language
Across the sky to every nation
You are beauty un-imagined
This is who You are

Verse 2

You are the Lord of my salvation
You are the One who lights my way
Through the dark night You will lead me
This is who You are
This is who You are

Chorus

(So) lift it up lift it up
Endless praises to our God
Full of grace full of love
And He's reigning over us
I know You are faithful
And You are worthy God
This is who You are

Verse 3

Day and night the angels sing it

Sit

Announcements

Memory Verse For The Week – Isaiah 49:3 – “And he said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”

Dismissal

P Go in peace and

Holy holy is the Lord

There's none more worthy to receive it
This is who You are
(Chorus)

Interlude

This is who You are

Bridge

You hear the cry of every broken heart
You give the hopeless soul a brand new
start
You lead the captive in Your freedom
song
This is who You are
And in the night when all our hope is lost
You are the One who won't give up on
us
You hold the orphan in Your loving arms
This is who You are
This is who You are
(Chorus-first half)
(Chorus)

C Serve the Lord!

Acknowledgments

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Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses:

Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1-9 (10-14); 1 Cor. 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-25

This week we pray for:

- Nelle Powers and Marissa Thompson, for safe and healthy upcoming deliveries for mom and baby.
- John Fagen, for strength and faith as he battles cancer.
- Kurt Dolph as he battles cancer and has an upcoming surgery to remove a mass on his kidney.
- Larry Sauer, for successful knee replacement surgery on January 12th and a smooth recovery.
- **UPDATED:** For the family and friends of Alice Helmink, Marissa's great-grandmother, who died in the faith. Comfort them with the hope and peace that comes from the promise of the resurrection victory in Jesus.
- Greg Horne, husband of Rosalie Horne, as he deals with physical and mental distresses. Grant him relief and healing from his afflictions.
- The family and friends of Barb Vinson who died in the faith, that they may be comforted by the promises of her baptism and the resurrection to eternal life.
- 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 tolerate the treatments and that they continue to work.

Church News & Announcements:

Happy Birthday to: Anna Fiffik January 22nd

Christian Education Hour - Join us at 11am (after some tasty treats in the Fellowship Hall) for one of our Bible Classes and Sunday School! Options are available for those aged 2 and above. See the Learn bulletin board in the Narthex for more info and about future classes and offerings.

Sunday School- Sunday school meets on the 2nd floor in the education room and is divided into three classes: PreK taught by Mrs. Fleishauer; K-2nd taught by Mrs. Lopresto and 3rd-6th taught by Mrs. Koontz. There are signs located outside of each classroom.

Youth Group (7th – 12th)- Join Janine Nicolette in the Youth Room as she will present Children & Teen Study.

Adult Bible Class-

- **Foundations of Faith**- Join us for a 12-week class on the Foundations of the Lutheran Confession of the Christian faith. This class is for visitors looking to become members of our congregation, transfers from other LCMS congregations, and anyone who wants to get a refresher on the basics of the Christian faith. We will meet in the Fireside Room each week during the Christian Education hour. Any questions, see Pastor Thompson.
- **Adult Topical Study**- Join Mike Fiffik in Fellowship Hall for a workbook study of the book of Titus.

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.

Altar Guild Help: Looking for a way to serve? How about joining the Altar Guild? Only one month a year to set up the altar and a year's worth of good feelings from your service! Contact Nancy Hughey at 412-780-5641 to find out how you can help. Thank you.

Men's Event: Ascension's Men's Social Group is gathering again! Whether you're a regular member or you've been "encouraged" by your spouse to get out of the house more in 2026 because she needs her "space", you are welcome here. We promise a night of: **Zero Liturgical Responsibilities:** You don't have to sing, stand, or sit in a specific order. **Substantial Sustenance:** We prioritize calories over kale. **Expert Advice:** Mostly unsolicited, ranging from lawn care tips to how to fix things we probably should have called a professional for.

The Details: When: Wednesday January 28th @ 6:30 PM

Where: Allusion Brewing (Duncan Manor Shopping Center). **The Goal:** To eat well and remember each other's names by the time the check comes.

Men's Bible Study: Men of Ascension, come join us for some fellowship, conversation and study of the faith on Saturday, January 24th at 8:30 am.

Powers Baby To Be: Nelle & John Powers have had their first baby! We are very excited for baby's arrival and would love to shower the new family with some Ascension Lutheran food love! Please sign up to take Nelle & John a meal at the link below. If you want to contribute but don't want to sign up online, contact Ronette Blake at 412-443-3704 (text or call) and she will make sure you are added in! <https://takethemameal.com/HWJT9755>

Pleasant Valley Shelter Meal: We are in need of a few more volunteers for our Pleasant Valley Shelter meal on Saturday, February 28th, specifically a server and monetary donations. If you are interested, please email Lisa or sign-up on this [Google Spreadsheet](#) (*open on a computer or the Google Docs app*). Also,

if you were unable to attend the Pleasant Valley Lead Info Meeting on Sunday, please email Lisa and she can forward you the info (LMarcellus@ascensionpgh.com).

Galentine's Women's Event: Join us for a fancy afternoon of food, activities & fellowship on Saturday, February 7th at 4pm! Please sign up in the Narthex to bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Please also bring one of your FAVORITE things (\$10 or less, new, unwrapped, think candles, treats, cosmetics, etc.) to use as a prize for our game. Questions to Lora Koontz or Elizabeth Russler. See you there!

This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:		
Sunday 01/18	Divine Service Christian Education Hour	9:30 AM 11:00 AM
Tuesday	Elder's Meeting	6:30 PM
Wednesday	Prayer & Praise Confirmation Class	10:00 AM 7:00 PM
Saturday	Men's Bible Study	8:30 AM
Sunday 01/25	Divine Service Christian Education Hour	9:30 AM 11:00 AM