



Advent Midweek 1

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024

ADVENT MIDWEEK 1

Welcome to all who are attending our service today. We are glad you are with us! To all guests and visitors, we especially extend our hands of friendship. May God bless the worship time for each one of you. Please come again!

TITHES AND OFFERINGS (Basket placed in the aisle)
(Our offerings are made as an act of worship, given in loving response to all that God has graciously given us, both materially and spiritually.)

✠ PREPARATION ✠

THEME: "THE SONG OF ZECHARIAH"

AS WE GATHER: The first week of the Advent season starts the time that is referred to as the festival half of the Church Year. Between now and the final week of the Easter season, we will follow the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, from now, when we await His coming as a baby in Bethlehem, to the time when He physically leaves the earth at His ascension and then His disciples begin the new era of life in the church as it takes form in Jerusalem and beyond. It is a time for praise! May the beginning of this new Church Year resound with our joyful praise that continues through Christmas and well beyond!

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Prepare the Royal Highway

LSB 343

- 1 Prepare the royal highway;
The King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory
Foretold in sacred story: Refrain

Refrain

**Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God's Word!**

- 2 God's people, see Him coming:
Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! **(refrain)**

3 Then fling the gates wide open
To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him!
All nations, now adore Him! **(refrain)**

4 His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kindness so abounding: **(refrain)**

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INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

OPENING SCRIPTURE Psalm 146:1-2, 5-6, 7b-8,10 (ESV)

P Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

C I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

P Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,

C who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever.

P The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

C The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION Psalm 124:8

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

P In this season of penitence and reflection, let us think of our unworthiness; confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed; and ask for His merciful forgiveness.

C **Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to life everlasting. Amen.**

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.**

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty Father, by the advent of Your Son into the world, the kingdom of heaven now is open to all who believe in Him. Give us grace to receive the Lord Jesus as our Emmanuel, God with us. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, inspire our praises in this season of blessed expectation. Lead us joyfully to serve Jesus, our Advent King, in our daily lives, so that when He comes again on the Last Day in power and majesty we may, by Your mercy, be gathered into Your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and our King.

C **Amen.**

+ THE WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 15:1-3 (ESV)

¹Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying,

“I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea.

²The LORD is my strength and my song,
and He has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise Him,
my father’s God, and I will exalt Him.

³The LORD is a man of war;
the LORD is His name.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 24 (tune: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence)

P The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for He has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

C **Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
Once for ev’ry sinner slain.**

P Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place?

C **Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train.**

P Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully. They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation.

C **Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.**

P Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up,
O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

C **Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne.**

P Who is the King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord,
mighty in battle.

C **Savior, take the pow'r and glory,**

P Lift your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that
the King of glory may come in.

C **Claim the kingdom for thine own.**

P Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of
glory.

C **Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!**

"Psalm 24" from *Sing Psalms!* by Arden W. Mead. Copyright © 1999/2005 by Creative Communications for
the Parish.

EPISTLE READING Ephesians 5:15-21 (ESV)

¹⁵Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,
¹⁶making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.
¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord
is. ¹⁸And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be
filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹addressing one another in psalms and hymns
and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all
your heart, ²⁰giving thanks always and for everything to God the
Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹submitting to one
another out of reverence for Christ.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 1:67-80 (ESV)

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁶⁷And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

⁶⁸"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for He has visited and redeemed His people

⁶⁹and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of His servant David,

⁷⁰as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old,

⁷¹that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;

⁷²to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember His holy covenant,

⁷³the oath that He swore to our father Abraham, to grant us

⁷⁴that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve Him without fear,

⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.

⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways,

⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to His people
in the forgiveness of their sins,

⁷⁸because of the tender mercy of our God,
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high

⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of
death,

to guide our feet into the way of peace."

⁸⁰And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sing Praise To The God Of Israel (based on the Gospel) LSB 936



1 Sing praise to the God of Is - ra - el! Sing praise for His
2 God spoke by the proph - ets long a - go, His prom - ise on
3 You, child, will go on be - fore the Lord As proph - et, His
4 O bright, ris - ing Sun, now shine on us In need of il -

vis - i - ta - tion! Re - deem - ing His peo - ple from their sin,
oath re - call - ing— To A - bra - ham made in for - mer years:
way pre - par - ing; To speak on be - half of God Most High,
lu - mi - na - tion; Come scat - ter the shades of sin and death

Ac - com - pish - ing their sal - va - tion, Up - rais - ing a
Of van - quish - ing foes ap - pall - ing, That those He de -
His coun - sel of truth de - clar - ing: Rich - mer - cy and
And shat - ter their dom - i - na - tion. Be guid - ing our

might - y horn with - in The house of His ser - vant Da - vid!
liv - ered from their fears Might glad - ly and tru - ly serve Him.
grace for all where - by In - iq - ui - ty is for - giv - en.
foot - steps on the path Of peace, in Your pres - ence dawn - ing!

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SERMON
“THE SONG OF ZECHARIAH”

Pr. Jim Sprengle
Luke 1:67-80

While We Are Waiting, Come

While we are waiting, come; While we are waiting, come;
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel; While we are waiting, come.

With power and glory, come; With power and glory, come;
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel; While we are waiting, come.

Come, Savior, quickly come; Come, Savior, quickly come;
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel; While we are waiting, come.

While We Are Waiting, Come Claire Cloninger / Don Cason. CCLI Song No. 27525, © 1986 Word Music, Inc. (a div. of Word Music Group, Inc.), For use solely in accordance with the SongSelect Basic Terms of Agreement. All rights Reserved. CCLI License No. 759893.

PRAYERS

(following each petition):

- P** “Lord, in Your mercy,”
- C** “hear our prayer.”

LORD'S PRAYER

- 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.

CLOSING PRAYER

- P** Let us pray.

Accept, O almighty Lord, our praise for Your blessed Son, Jesus Christ, who came in the flesh to seek and to save us in our lost condition. Grant that at His second and glorious appearing He may find in us the fruits of the redemption that He has graciously accomplished for us; through the same, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

- C** Amen.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

- C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BENEDICTION

- P** The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless us and preserve us.
C Amen.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

tune: Hyfrydol

- 1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

- 2 Born Thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.

Text: Public domain

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1.

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Ascension Lutheran Church

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Church: 503-665-8821 · Web Site: www.alcportland.org

Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9am to 3pm

Our Mission Statement:

~Go and Share Jesus Christ~

Our Vision Statement:

“Take part...Join Jesus on His mission.”

The members of Ascension Lutheran Church are committed to being God’s witnesses in Gresham, and in all of Portland and the Northwest, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8):

With the universal Christian Church, we believe, teach and respond to the love of the Triune God—the Father, Creator of all that exists; the Son Jesus Christ, Who left His home in Heaven to become flesh and blood, to suffer and die for the sins of all peoples of the world, and Who rose from the grave, victorious over sin, death and the devil, that we too might live with Him in Heaven; and the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts in Christ Jesus through God’s Word and Sacrament. The three Persons of the Holy Trinity are one God, co-equal and co-eternal. The core teachings of our faith from the Lutheran perspective can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace alone, Scripture alone, Faith alone.

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