



Advent Midweek 2

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wednesday, December 11, 2024

ADVENT MIDWEEK 2

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!

ADVENT MIDWEEK 2

THEME: “THE SONG OF ELIZABETH”

As We Gather: A word used in many of the hymns of the Advent and Christmas season is “glory.” Both people and angels give glory to God in response to the fulfillment of the promised birth of the Savior. Glory is associated with the presence of God throughout the Scriptures. In Exodus, Moses records, “The glory of the Lord dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it” (Exodus 24:16) and in the Book of Revelation, a vision of the heavenly Jerusalem is shared with these words: “And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb” (Revelation 21:23). God has great glory and continues to share it with His people—including us! In his Advent hymn text “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers,” Laurentius Laurenti, a noted Danish-German musical educator born in 1660, calls God’s people His “heirs of glory” who are finally to be gathered “around the throne of glory” in God’s eternal kingdom (*LSB* 515:2–3). Filled with hope and expectation, we respond to that Advent **call!**

TITHES AND OFFERINGS (place them in the basket 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.)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing,
And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising
And soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
At midnight comes the cry.
- 2 The watchers on the mountain
Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go forth as He approaches
With alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
The gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
The Bridegroom is at hand.
- 3 The saints, who here in patience
Their cross and suff'rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever
When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
The Lamb they shall behold;
In triumph cast before Him
Their diadems of gold.
- 4 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, O Sun so longed for,
O'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption
That sets Your people free!

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers, Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt.,
Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

OPENING SCRIPTURE Psalm 108:1–6

- P** My heart is steadfast, O God! I will sing and make melody with all my being!
- C** **Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn!**
- P** I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the peoples; I will sing praises to You among the nations.
- C** **For Your steadfast love is great above the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.**
- P** Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let Your glory be over all the earth!
- C** **That Your beloved ones may be delivered, give salvation by Your right hand and answer me!**

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.

[silence for reflection and confession]

- 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.

O Jesus, Sun of Righteousness, may Your divine glory enlighten us with the brightness of Your coming. Teach us Your ways, O Lord, that we may grow in true wisdom and may reflect Your glory into our darkened world until that day when, by Your grace, we come to the glorious inheritance that You have prepared for those who love You. In Your blessed name we pray.

C Amen.

+ THE WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING

2 Chronicles 29:25-30 (ESV)

²⁵And he stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, harps, and lyres, according to the commandment of David and of Gad the king's seer and of Nathan the prophet, for the commandment was from the LORD through His prophets. ²⁶The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. ²⁷Then Hezekiah commanded that the burnt offering be offered on the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song to the LORD began also, and the trumpets, accompanied by the instruments of David king of Israel. ²⁸The whole assembly worshiped, and the singers sang and the trumpeters sounded. All this continued until the burnt offering was finished. ²⁹When the offering was finished, the king and all who were present with him bowed themselves and worshiped. ³⁰And Hezekiah the king and the officials commanded the Levites to sing praises to the LORD with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed down and worshiped.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 29 (tune: Holy, Holy, Holy)
(congregation sings hymn phrases in **bold**)

P Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.

C Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!

P The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders, and His voice echoes over the oceans. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars, even the cedars of Lebanon; He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

C All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.

P The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.

C Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

P The voice of the Lord flashes forth in flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord shakes the oaks, and strips the forest bare, while everyone in His temple shouts, "Glory to God!"

C God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

P The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as King forever.

C Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our songs shall rise to Thee.

P May the Lord give strength to His people!

C Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

P May the Lord bless His people with peace!

C God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

EPISTLE READING

1 Peter 4:7-11 (ESV)

⁷The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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

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

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

P The text of the next hymn, "When All the World Was Cursed," was written by Johann Olearius, a German hymn and devotion writer who lived in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Originally written for June 24, the day designated for The Nativity of John the Baptist, it is an appropriate Advent hymn as well. As the son born late in life to Elizabeth and Zechariah, John had a singular calling to prepare the way for Jesus, the Messiah. His message was filled not only with a call to repentance but also, as the hymn reminds us, with "words of consolation" that indeed God's plan of salvation was soon to be realized in Jesus, the Savior, to whom John zealously pointed. Celebrating the Advent unfolding of God's gracious plan, together we sing the hymn.

When All the World Was Cursed

LSB 346

1 When all the world was cursed
 By Moses' condemnation,
 Saint John the Baptist came
 With words of consolation.

With true forerunner's zeal
 The greater One he named,
 And Him, as yet unknown,
 As Savior he proclaimed.

- 2 Before he yet was born,
 He leaped in joyful meeting,
 Confessing Him as Lord
 Whose mother he was greeting.
 By Jordan's rolling stream,
 A new Elijah bold,
 He testified of Him
 Of whom the prophets told:
- 3 Behold the Lamb of God
 That bears the world's transgression,
 Whose sacrifice removes
 The devil's dread oppression.
 Behold the Lamb of God,
 Who takes away our sin,
 Who for our peace and joy
 Will full atonement win.
- 4 O grant, dear Lord of love,
 That we receive, rejoicing,
 The word proclaimed by John,
 Our true repentance voicing,
 That gladly we may walk
 Upon our Savior's way
 Until we live with Him
 In His eternal day.

When All the World Was Cursed, Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Paul E. Kretzmann, 1883–1965, alt., Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

SERMON
“THE SONG OF ELIZABETH”

Pr. Jim Sprengle
 Luke 1:39-45

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

- 1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
 I want to follow Jesus.
 God set the stars to give light to the world.
 The star of my life is Jesus. Refrain

**Refrain In Him there is no darkness at all.
 The night and the day are both alike.
 The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
 Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

- 2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father. **(refrain)**
- 3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus. **(refrain)**

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light, Text: Kathleen Thomerson, 1934, Text: © 1970, 1975 Celebration.
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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.

Almighty God, Judge and King, You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Your coming. Come, Lord Jesus, with Your grace, and fill us with Your Holy Spirit. Inhabit our lives and our dreams so that we may live as Your people in the world; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

G 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 and preserve you.

G Amen.

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

LSB 348

- 1 The King shall come when morning dawns
And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills
And life to joy awakes.
- 2 Not as of old a little child,
To bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun
That lights the morning sky.
- 3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn
When Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lonesome place of death
Despite the rage of foes.
- 4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes
And we shall see His face.
- 5 The King shall come when morning dawns
And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings!

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt., Text: Public domain

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Ascension Lutheran Church

1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233
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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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