First Sunday of Advent
Holy Communion
Sunday, November 29, 2026



Ascension Lutheran Church
1053 Pinetree Drive
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Church Phone: (321) 773-1815
E-mail: ourchurch@ascensionlutheranihb.com
Website: AscensionlutheranIHB.com
Rev. Robert Cosmas, Pastor
Jim Rindelaub, Music Director
Ken Currie, Deacon & Matt Saab, Deacon

O that you would tear open the Heavens and come down - Isaiah 64:1

WELCOME! We hope that you find your worship experience meaningful and uplifting. If you are new to the community, we hope you will consider us in choosing your new church home.

Holy Communion – Where All Are Welcome Communion begins from the front in the center aisle. The Ushers will guide each row of communicants to the center aisle and then guide each individual to the Communion rail as space becomes available. Once at the rail, you should kneel (if able) and wait to receive Communion. You should leave once you have been served the body (wafer) and blood (wine – white grape juice is also available in the center section of the tray) of Christ. As you leave the rail, please exit down the side aisle and return to your seat for meditation.

AS WE GATHER

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

BELL

WELCOMING OUR GUESTS

PRELUDE *"Give Thanks"* Henry Smith/Joel Raney

ENTRANCE

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who calls out to the weary, whose word endures forever.

C Amen.

P A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord!" We are called to confess our sin and turn back toward God's love.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Comforting God,

C we are your people, but we have neglected to call on your name. We are your people, but we have not remembered your ways. We are your people, but we have forgotten your hold on us. We are your people, but now we fade like a leaf, and our sins, like the wind, take us away. Restore us as your people. Cleanse us from our sin, and clothe us in your righteousness. Amen.

P "Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God, who has clothed you with the garments of salvation and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness. God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. In the name of ☩ Christ, your sins are forgiven: Rejoice in the Lord! Rejoice in the Lord!

C Amen. [Thanks be to God!]

***ENTRANCE HYMN** *"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"* **ELW #244**

BLESSING THE ADVENT WREATH

D: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—

C: on them light has shined.

D: O Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
He is Emmanuel,

C: the hope of all peoples,
He is the great physician,

C: bearing healing and hope,

He the new Moses prophesied,

C: teaching the way of the Kingdom,

He is the Savior of every Nation,

C: Come Lord Jesus!

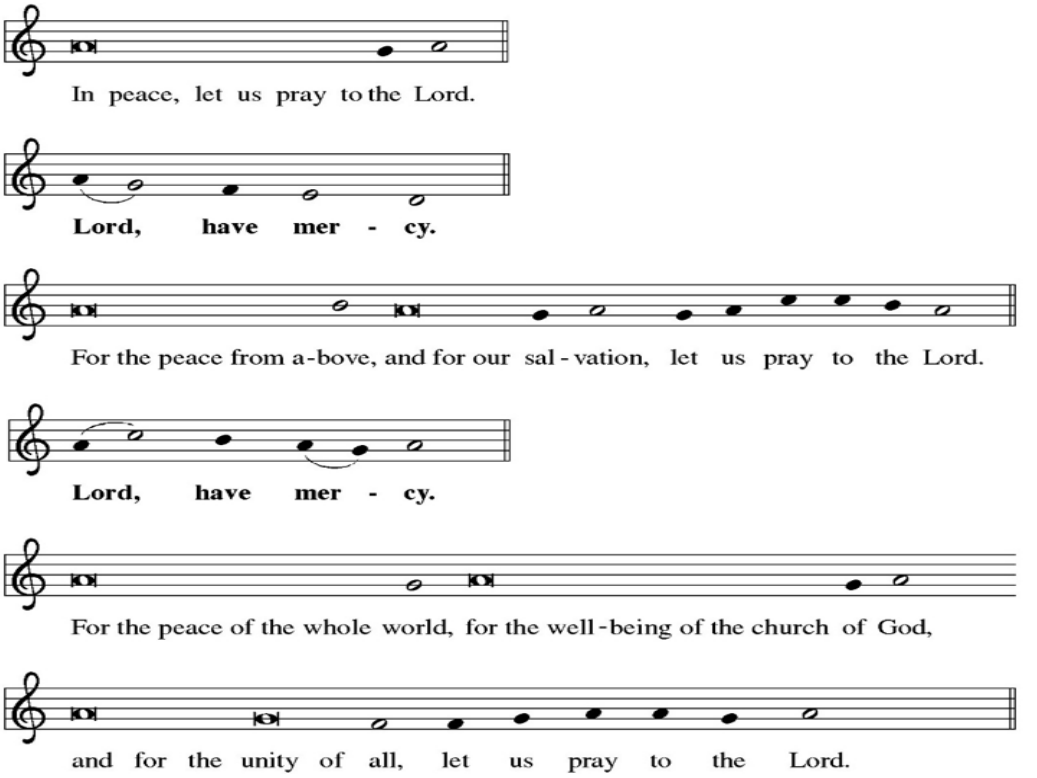
D: Lord God, let your blessing come upon us. As we light the candles on this wreath. May the wreath and its light Be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. **AMEN**

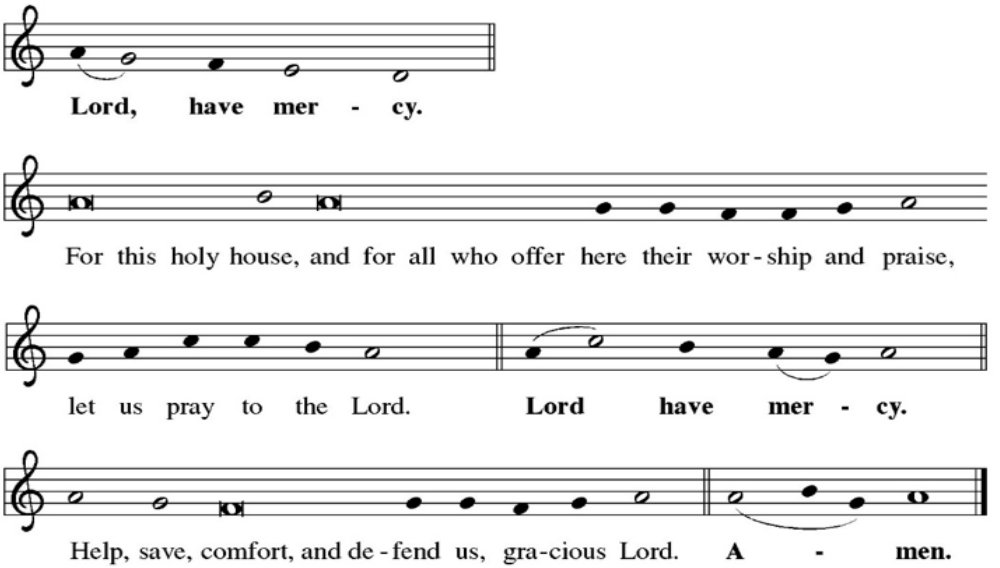
***GREETING**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

***KYRIE – S138 ELW**





***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

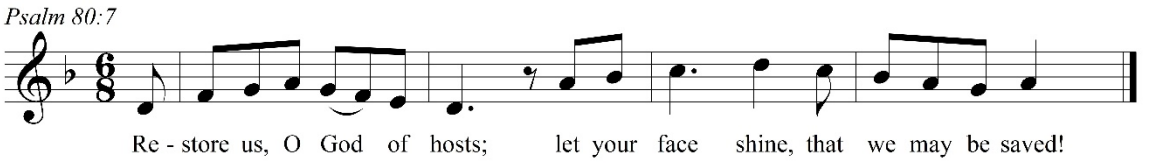
O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for

him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself, we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 *(The assembly sings the refrain and the bold verses)*



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Music: © 2011 Cynthia Holden

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and | come to help us.**

3 Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

4 **O Lord| God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray? R**

5 You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

6 **You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.**

7 Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

**17 Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,
the one you have made so strong | for yourself. R**

18 And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
19 **Restore us, O Lord| God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. R

***SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

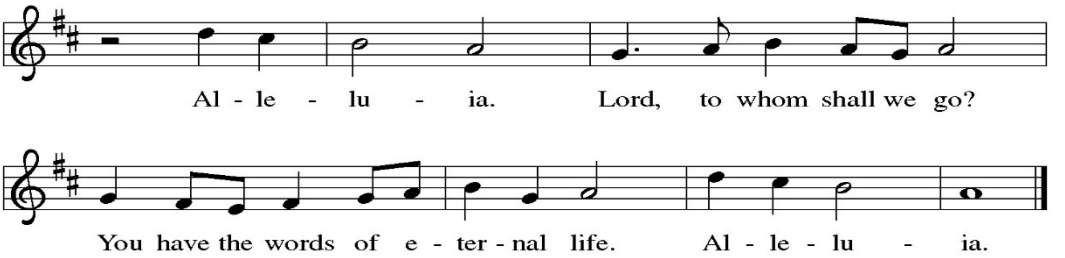
As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION S142a ELW**



***THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 13th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:] "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the

heavens will be shaken. "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON "Tear Open The Heavens"

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns* **ELW #260**

***APOSTLES' Creed**

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of Heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again. He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A Let us come before the throne of grace with our prayers and petitions.

A brief silence is kept.

A Holy God, we long for Your salvation; make haste and help us. Come quickly to Your people, O strong Deliverer of Israel and Redeemer of the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Tear open the heavens, O Lord, and adorn Your Church with holiness, compassion, and faithfulness. Fill it with hope as it awaits the coming of Your Son in power and great glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Tear open the heavens, O Lord, and grant strength and faith to Your persecuted servants. Fill them with steadfast hope. Give the grace of repentance to their enemies and draw all people to Yourself. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Tear open the heavens, O Lord, and anoint this congregation with Your Holy Spirit. Make us generous in sharing the grace given to us in Christ. Use us to lift the heads and cheer the hearts of neighbors in need. Help us lead them to the cradle of Jesus their Savior. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Tear open the heavens, O Lord, and grant wisdom and prudence to the leaders of all nations. Make them good stewards of authority and power. Bless this land with peace, prosperity, and justice. Teach us all to care for one another until Your Son comes as our great Lord of Might. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Tear open the heavens, O Lord, and give courage and prudence to all who stand in harm's way to protect the innocent. Grant healing to the wounded, patience and hope to their loved ones, and honor to their service and sacrifice. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Tear open the heavens, O Lord, and lift the hearts of all who suffer, including: [List]. Bring them comfort and healing. Give their caretakers patience and compassion. Bestow on them the presence of Your Son, the Dayspring who puts death's shadows to flight. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Tear open the heavens, O Lord, and visit Your people with salvation. We give You thanks for the lives of all whom You have given victory over the grave. Disperse the clouds of gloom and grief that overshadow us. Lead us to our heavenly home opened to us by the Key of David, Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Lord in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Graciously answer our prayers for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit reigns, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

MEAL

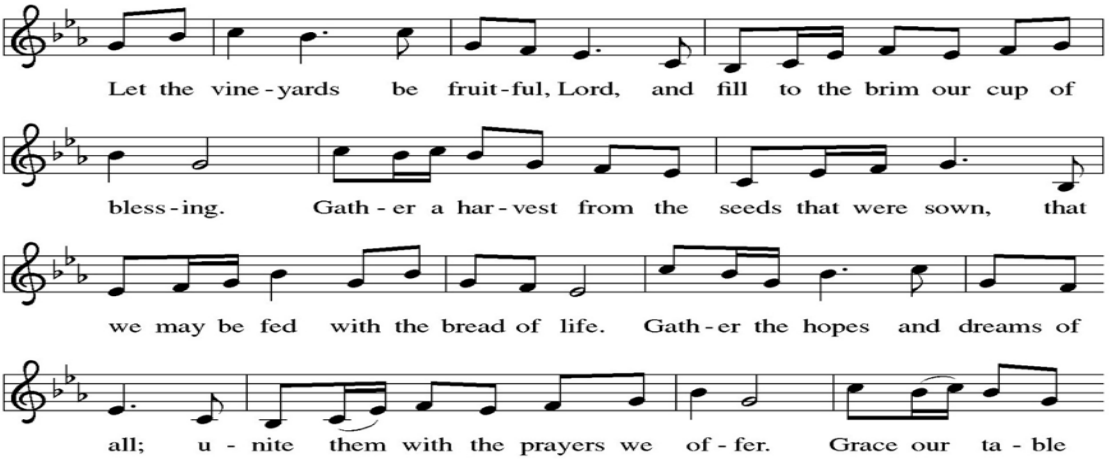
SHARING THE PEACE

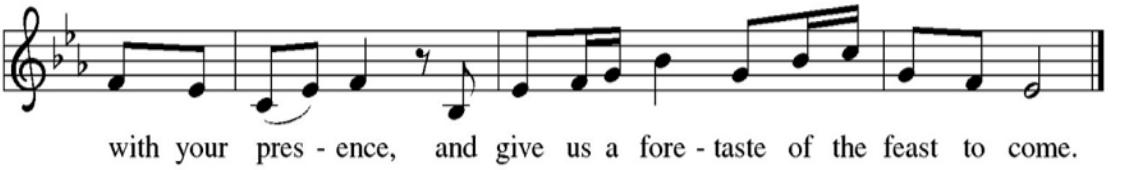
OUR STEWARDSHIP – TITHES AND OFFERINGS

The promise of Advent is that God is always at work in the world, bringing new beginnings and a new creation to people and powers long bent on destruction. Yet, because we live in the generation that exists between the "already" of Christ's resurrection and the "not yet" of God's full restoration of the creation, we cannot know when that final day will arrive. Instead of becoming preoccupied with the end times, we are counseled to live our lives in a state of preparedness—trusting that our home is God's home and that God is coming once again to dwell with us. That trust is the strength that sustains us as we "wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 1:7).

MUSIC AT THE OFFERING *"Hark! A Thrilling Voice"* Thomas Keesecker

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**



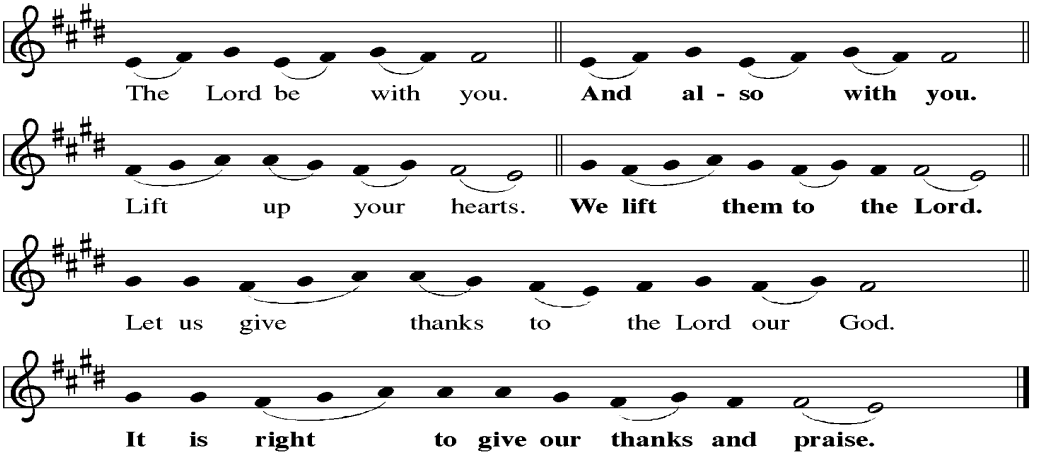


***OFFERING PRAYER AND CONSECRATION**

A Savior of nations,

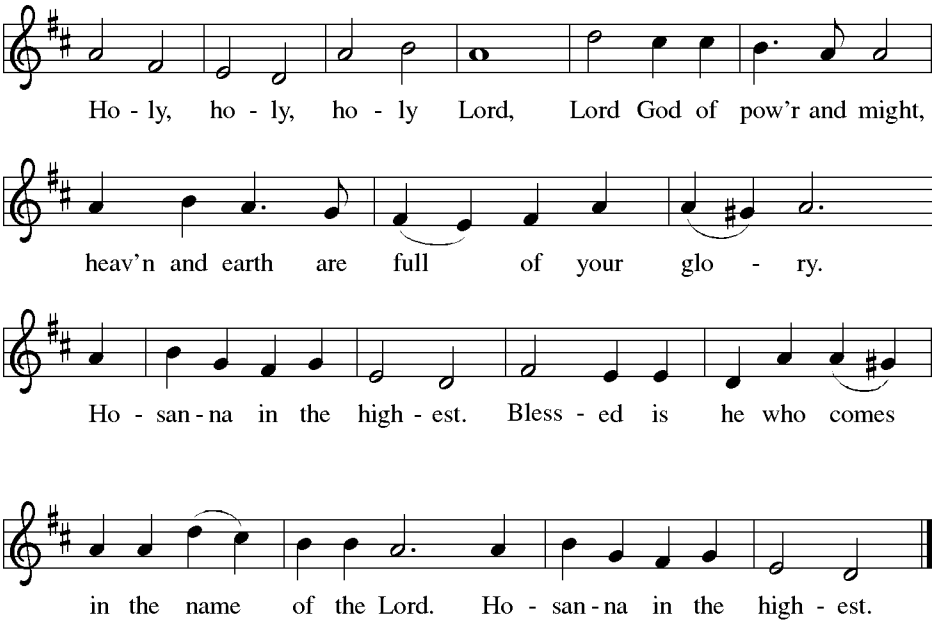
C come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen

DIALOGUE & PREFACE



It is indeed right and salutary … - … we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

SANCTUS S144 ELW



***THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

The prayer concludes with the words of institution
In the night in which he was betrayed,
Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks,
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

When the presider invites the congregation to "proclaim the mystery of faith", the congregation responds:

Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again!

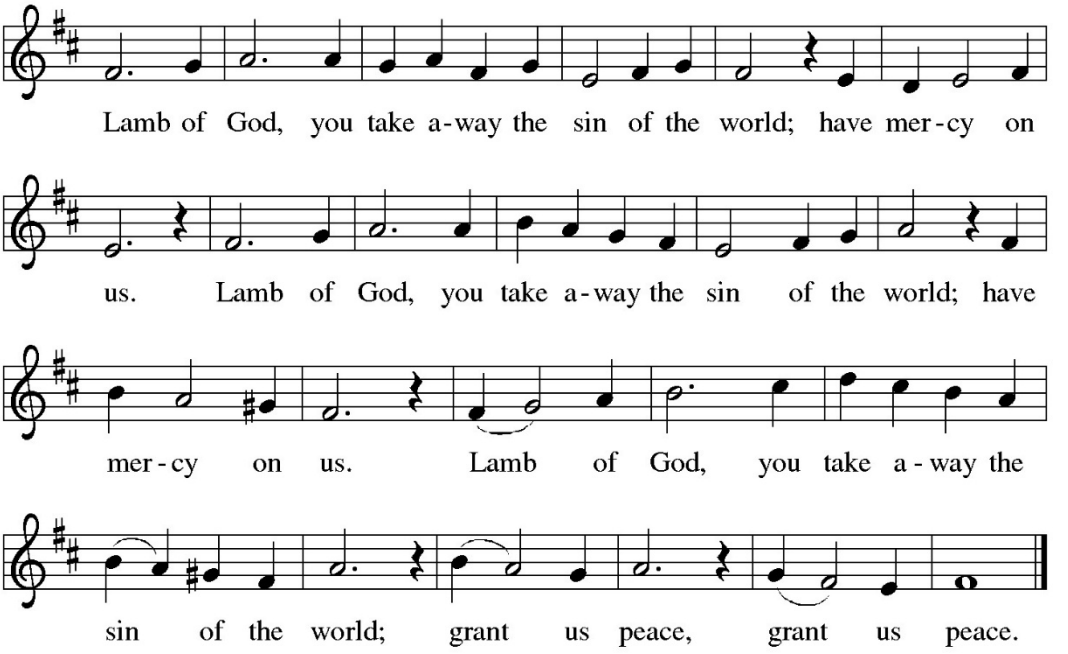
***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

INVITATION

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Let us share in the feast of salvation.

AGNUS DEI



DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION *[For Direction Please See page 1 of bulletin]*

COMMUNION MUSIC *"The Gift of Love"* Hal H. Hopson

***THE POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

P Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make

us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C Amen

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

A Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

CHILDREN'S SHARING TIME: Big Question. What does Advent Mean?!?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

***BENEDICTION** {Hebrews 13:20-21]

P God our provider, God our feast, God our companion, ☩ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** *Soon and Very Soon* **ELW #439**

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Bring good news the brokenhearted.

C Thanks be to God.

Congregation may be seated

POSTLUDE *"O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide"* Helmut Walcha

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Congregational Meeting on December 6! We will be voting on the budget.

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Presiding Minister: Pastor Rob Cosmas
Assistant Minister: Ken Currie, Deacon
Music Director: Jim Rindelaub
Cantor: Joe Simonides

David and JoAnn Harman Choir Scholar: Alexa Banks
Flute: Marie Gerlach
Piano: Roy Lash
Crucifer: Sam Smith
Communion Assistants: Sue Kiebler and Matt Saab, Deacon
Reader: Karin Larsen
Ushers: *Rick Lozano, Carol Gillett, Dani Meeks, Bruce Dvorachek
Altar Care: Bev Semovoski and Bev Galloway
Sound, Media and Camera: Phil Niosi and Wayne Savold
Flower Angel: Lona Burnett

Altar Flowers: Altar Flowers for this Sunday are given by the Showman's in honor of Adrienne's birthday and by Linda & Mario Amaral in honor of their wedding anniversary.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY will be Friday, Dec. 4th, here at Ascension at 6 pm. This will be a catered event in the Fellowship Hall with delicious Mediterranean choices from *Al Baik Kabob & Gyro House* in Melbourne. All are welcome, please sign up on the insert and let us know by **TODAY** if you will be attending. The price will be between $20-$25 per person. Special guests will be Mr. & Mrs. Clause!

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Hospitalized this week: Ken McGlothlin

Members: Gordie Anderson, Dr. Janet Brockwell, Anna Simpson, Lillian Strozier, Richard Cosmas, Julie Mall, Jim Brevard, Dan Gravereaux, Sally Hall, Skylar Zentner, Jon Davis, Harold Fish, Candice Dvorachek, Tim Thomas, Norma McGlothlin, John & Pat Steckowich.

Homebound Members: Art & Joyce Straehla, Mary McCarty, Ralph Cox, Mary Campbell, Ann Downey, Larry Cullen, Chris Ferrara, Fred & Jan Michaela, Jon Davis.

Family & Friends of Members: Andy Durkee, Little Ozi and his parents, Beth L., Agnes Owens, June Kuhns, Jim Hale, TJ, John McKinley, Stacey McGlothlin, Brian Goldsmith, Josh Semovoski, Jean Gravereaux, Melissa Fagan, Barbara Robbins, Kim & Gary C., Tom Palmero, Helen Coolidge, Chris, Erycka Snyder, Karin Chapman, Keegan Murphy, Connie Meeker, Vicki Purvis, Deanie Horne, Don & Jane Hansen, June Showman, Dave Theisen, Ben Horak, Vicki Head, Jennifer Mitchell, Michael Slansky, Stacey Testa, Kim Miller, Mallory, Crystalline Hoffman, Alan Chaney, Mark Swenson, Shavon, Gladys, Mary Goodwin, Brendan Banks, Karin Chapman, Christine, Tania Whyte. These names will also be added to the prayer chain.

Remember in prayer our members, friends & family serving in the military: LS2(SW/AW) Robert L. Massena, nephew of Bev Semovoski, Chaplain (Capt) Joshua

Semovoski, son of David & Beverly Semovoski. SRA Stephanie Ferrara, SSGT Gilbert Lozano, 1st Lt. Melia Brocious, Major Rose McIntyre, daughter of Sue McIntyre, Major Cassie Alexander granddaughter & Major Andy Alexander & Major Ryan McDaniel, grandsons in law of Joe Simonides, TSGT Tierney A. Bendix & A1C Joey Bendix, daughter & grandson of Chuck Helm.

Our prayer chain regularly prays for members and friends who are ill or facing serious difficulties. If you or someone you know, need prayers, please contact the church office or go to our website and click on the prayer request icon on the homepage. Once on the prayer list, please keep us updated on your request so as to keep the prayer chain current.

Adult Bible Study on Sundays: Pastor Rob and Deacon Ken continue to lead our study of the Old Testament prophets.

Ladies Bible Study LIFT: Every 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 9:30 am. We will be working on Christmas in December. There will be NO LIFT Bible Study on Dec. 1.

Men's Bible Study 1st and 3rd Thursday at 8 am. Charlie Goodrich will lead us in further study of the Book of Daniel . All men are welcome to join the program.

Sharing Center donations: We are continuing to collect non-perishable food items for The Sharing Center. You can bring in any foods (*no glass jarred foods, please*) and put on the long white table in the narthex. Items will be delivered weekly

Needles- The Knitting Group "Needles" meets every Wednesday at 10:00 am in the Quilting Room (CR2).

The Ascension Quilters welcome ALL who would like to come join the fun on Tuesday mornings from 9:30-12:00 (or whatever suits your timing!) when we work on quilts!

Midweek Advent Services will start next week, December 2 @ 7 pm with the **Soup & Sandwich Suppers** @ 6 pm. Please sign up for Supper in the Narthex.

Men's Breakfast: We meet at La Loma Coney Island Restaurant on Aurora in Melbourne on Saturday, December 12, at 8:00 am. Y'all come!

Ladies Luncheon to be Monday, December 21, 11:30 am at Shells, 1490 W New Haven Ave, Melbourne, by the Melbourne Square Mall.

Sunday School: Classes are held in Classroom #4 from 10:45-11:15 each Sunday after

Children's Sharing Time for all children grades K-6. Lessons are paused as we rehearse during class time for the Christmas Pageant on Dec. 13th.

Flower Angels are needed to deliver the beautiful altar flowers to those who are homebound, or in need of cheer and encouragement. Can you help? If you can volunteer, please contact the church office or Lona Burnett (LonaGB@aol.com or 321-773-6420). Thanks!

Nativity Display on December 13. Everyone is encouraged to bring theirs. We can keep them safe in the office if needed.

CALENDAR
November 29 – December 6

Today	Holy Communion	9:30 am
	Sunday School	10:45 am
	Adult Sunday School	11:15 am
Monday	Bailiwick's	9:00 am
	Girl Scouts	5:45 pm
Tuesday	No LIFT Bible Study	
	Church Decorating	9:30 am
	Quilting	9:30 am
Wednesday	Needles	10:00 am
	Soup & Sandwich Supper	6:00 pm
	Midweek Advent Service	7:00 pm
	Choir	7:30 pm
Thursday	Men's Bible Study	8:00 am
	TOPS	10:00 am
Friday	Ascension Christmas Party	6:00 pm
Next Sunday	Holy Communion	9:30 am
	Sunday School	10:45 am
	Congregational Meeting	after service
	Adult Sunday School	11:15 am

OFFICE HOURS: Tue – Fri 8:30 am – 2:30 pm

LIVE STREAM VIEWING OF OUR WORSHIP SERVICE BEGINGS AT 9:30 AM

In Church Attendance Last Sunday 118

Online-viewers Last Sunday 127