

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

December 28-29, 2024

4:00 p.m. Saturday and 10:00 a.m. Sunday

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

REMEMBER

AS WE GATHER

Did you already forget Christmas? The department stores have begun selling the leftovers for a discount because “Christmas is over.” For the same reason, formerly decorated Christmas trees already line the streets as refuse for disposal. Even though Christmas songs speak joyously of “the twelve days of Christmas,” many, if not most, people seem to think of them as a countdown rather than an extended celebration. Remember? Today, December 29, is but the fifth day of the twelve! We are not done yet. Or did you forget?



To “forget” is the opposite of the biblical word we hear today: “remember.” But in Scripture, to remember means much more than merely recalling a past event as something that has no real, lasting effect on today; rather, the opposite is true. For instance, God remembers His promises by acting to fulfill them in each believer. For us, to remember means to bring a past promise or act to take effect in the present. Today we hear how the newborn Jesus, as the firstborn of Mary, was presented in the temple according to God’s law, a command to remember the Lord’s deliverance of His people from slavery in Egypt. Every firstborn was to be a reminder that the Lord still delivers His people from the slavery of sin and death. So to remember that it is still Christmas is to believe that the Christ Child who came to free us comes now to each believer. Remember, that is, believe that Christ was born for you to save you. Remember, that is, believe that the forgiveness He won for us on the cross is actually given to us in the Sacrament of the Altar when, as He commanded, we do in remembrance of Him.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Prelude "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" Paul Manz

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn "Sing Praise to the God of Israel" LSB 936

Invocation

OPENING SENTENCES *Exodus 13:14; Isaiah 9:6a; Hebrews 8:12; Psalm 111:4a*

Pastor: By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery.

People: **For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.**

Pastor: For I will be merciful, . . . and I will remember their sins no more.

People: **He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Genesis 3:19; Isaiah 43:25*

Pastor: God our Creator said to Adam and to us all to remember that "you are dust, and to dust you shall return." But now He calls all to repentance of sin and faith in His Son, who is the remembrance of God's mercy and who came to destroy sin and death and restore us to life. Before the newborn Redeemer of the world, let us repent and receive His forgiveness.

People: **O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, remember not our sins of thought, word, and deed, the sins of our youth or of our old age. Because we often forget Your mercy toward us, we ask for Your forgiveness. Remember Your gracious will that whoever calls on Your name will be saved. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us always to remember Your mercy and Your steadfast love that we may live as Your own children, now and forever. Amen.**

Pastor: Thus says the Lord, "I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins." Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word made flesh, announce the grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

BAPTISM OF EVERLEE INDIANA EICKMANN (4:00) LSB 268

Spoken Kyrie (10:00 only)

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: 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.

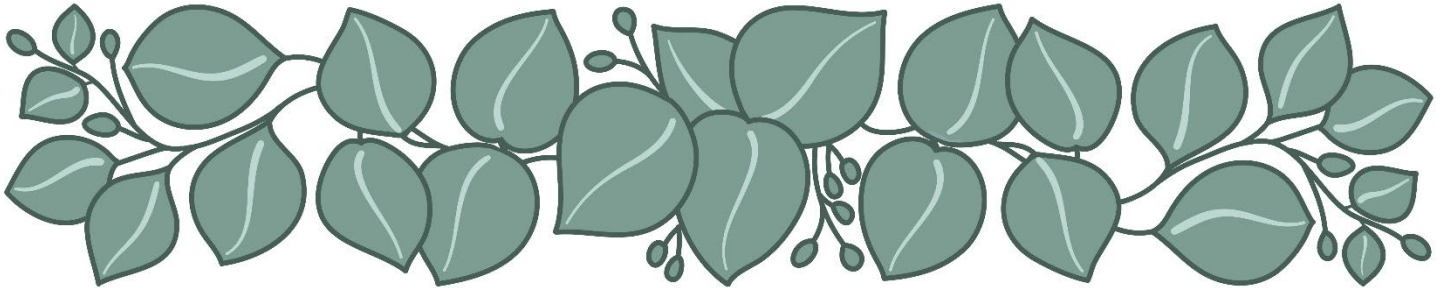
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: **Amen.**



Hymn of Praise (10:00 only) “Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart”

LSB 806

✘ **WORD** ✘

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

(Sanctifying of the firstborn)

The Lord said to Moses, “Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.”

Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the Lord brought you out from this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten.

When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, you shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the Lord's. Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Colossians 3:12-17

(The new nature of love and peace)

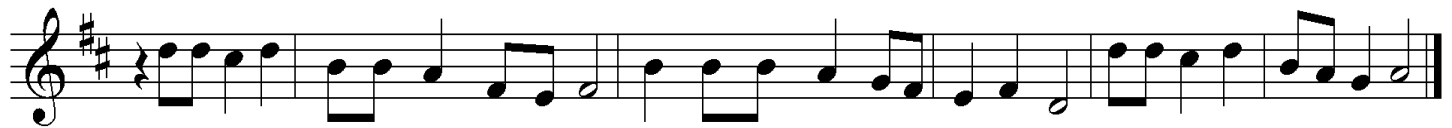
Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please rise for the Verse and the Holy Gospel.

VERSE *John 6:68*



Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter-nal life. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

(Jesus presented at the temple)

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

**"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;**

for my eyes have seen your salvation
that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.



And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day "Let Us All with a Gladsome Voice"

LSB 390

Sermon "Therefore ..."

Pastor John Larson

Text: Colossians 3:12-17

Apostles' Creed (10:00 only)

(found in the back of the hymnal)

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy ...

People: Hear our prayer.

Sharing of the Peace

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

You may now greet one another in the name of the Lord using...Peace be with you!

Offering (4:00 - collected in back; 10:00 am – collected in the pews)

Offering Music (8:00) “Sing Praise to the God of Israel” Kimberly Kondal Patterson

✠ HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION ✠

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface (Divine Service, Setting One)

LSB 160

Proper Preface

Pastor: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. By the presentation of Your Son in the temple, You caused the remembrance of Your promises of peace, light, and the glory of Your salvation to be sung throughout the ages in the words of Simeon of old, for which, with the saints and believers of all time, we give You thanks. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus (Divine Service, Setting One)

LSB 161

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer (10:00 only)

People: **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.

Agnus Dei (Divine Service, Setting One)

LSB 163

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Special Guitar Music “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

David Olsson, guitarist

Hymn “God Loved the World So That He Gave”

LSB 571

Hymn “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

LSB 621

General Communion Blessing

Benediction

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

Closing Hymn “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

LSB 386

Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

Johann Sebastian Bach

SERVING IN WORSHIP

OFFICIANT

Pastor John Larson

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP

Michael J. Zehnder

ORGANIST

Linda Olsen

GUITARIST / VOCALIST

Dave Olsson

ELDERS

4:00 pm Jeff Dunker; 10:00 am Arvin Michel

LECTORS

4:00 p.m. Anita Baresel; 10:00 a.m. Jeannette Nelson

ALTAR GUILD

Tanya Schmitt, Charmaine Rohde, Gloria Mielke





Joy to the World

✠ ✠ ✠

Ascension Lutheran Church
1701 West Caley Avenue
Littleton, Colorado 80120
www.alutheran.org
(303) 794-4636 **office@alutheran.org**