

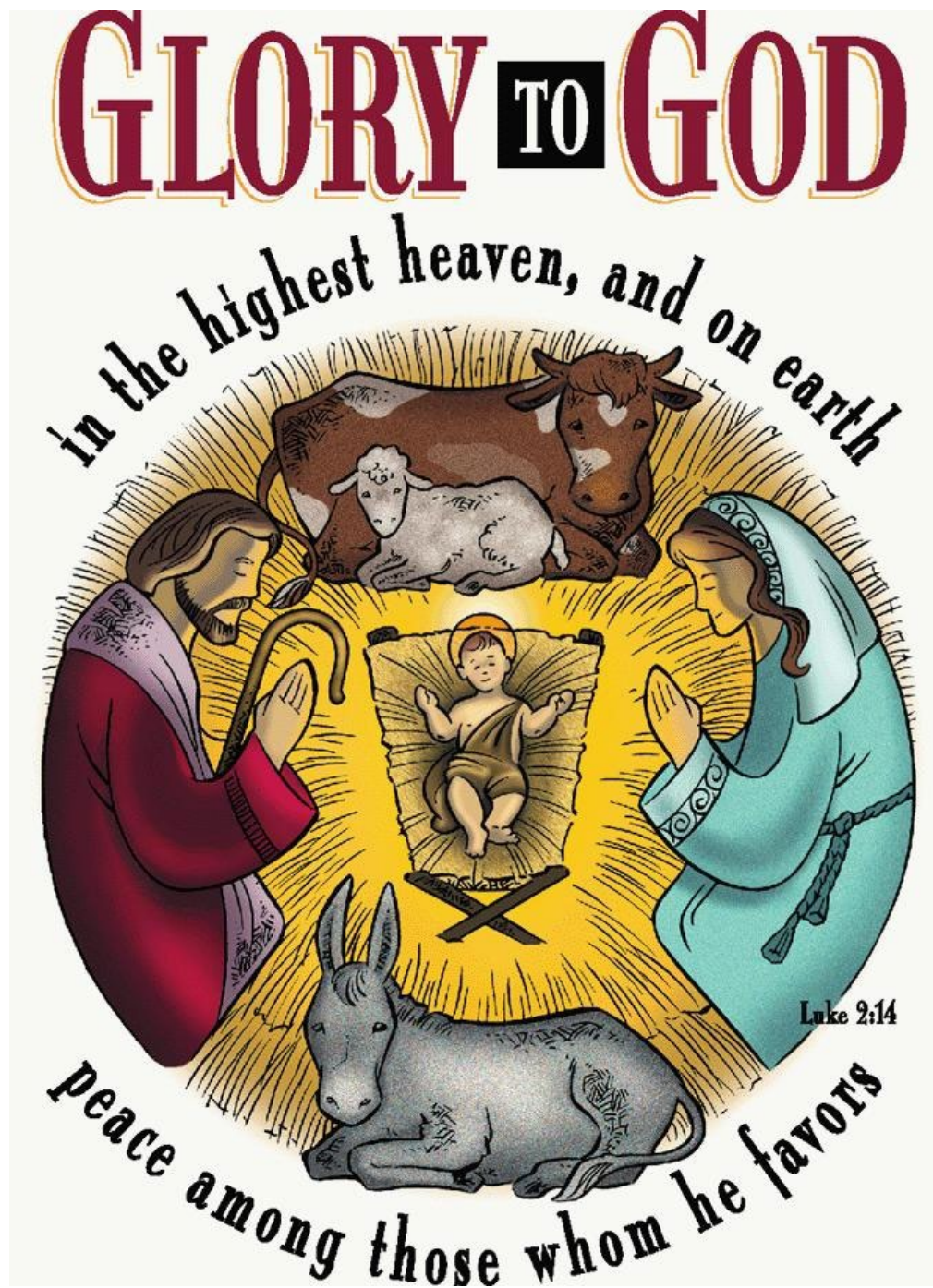
ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

Christmas Day

December 25, 2025

10:00 a.m.



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD—CHRISTMAS DAY

Good News

AS WE GATHER

“If it bleeds, it leads.” That’s the mantra of modern news media. Good news doesn’t seem to get the traction that destruction and division do. But good news is what God speaks through His Son, the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us. God publishes peace, salvation, and the good news of happiness through the Word and reminds us, “Your God reigns” (Isaiah 52:7) That’s good news!

✠ PREPARATION ✠

PRELUDE “Toccata on ‘Adeste Fideles’” arr. David Hegarty

PASTORAL GREETING

OPENING HYMN “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” *LSB 367*

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 26:8; 1 Kings 8:27; Matthew 1:23; John 1:14*

Pastor: O LORD, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

People: **Will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You; how much less this house that I have built!**

Pastor: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

People: **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Isaiah 52:7; John 1:12–13, adapt.*

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

People: **Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son, the Word, to become flesh and dwell among us. We confess we struggle to see His glory when life is difficult or when we are suffering. We look elsewhere for grace and truth instead of focusing on Your eternal Word. We have heard the Good News and struggle to share it. Forgive us, for the sake of You Son, Jesus Christ. Shine the light of Your love on us and dispel the darkness of our hearts.**

Pastor: People of God, I have good news for you, "Your God reigns." In the mercy of our almighty God, Jesus Christ was born to die for you, and for His sake, God forgives you for all of your sins.

People: **Alleluia! Amen!**

Pastor: To all who receive Him, who believe in His name, He gives the right to become children of God, who are born not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man but of God.

People: **Alleluia! Amen!**

✂ WORD ✂

HYMN OF PRAISE "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

LSB 380



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be-hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir-gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec-ond birth.



Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!"



OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 52:7-10

(The Lord's coming salvation)

How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace,
who bring good tidings,
who proclaim salvation,
who say to Zion,
"Your God reigns!"

Listen! Your watchmen lift up
their voices;
together they shout for joy.

When the LORD returns to Zion,
they will see it with their own eyes.

Burst into songs of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The LORD will lay bare his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see
the salvation of our God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL “Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn”
(Tune: “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”)

LSB 391

Re - joice, re - joice this hap - py morn, A Sav - ior un -
to us is born, The Christ, the Lord of glo - ry!
His low - ly birth in Beth - le - hem The an - gels from
on high pro - claim And sing re - demp - tion's sto - ry!
My soul, ex - tol God's great fa - vor; Bless Him ev - er
For sal - va - tion; Give Him praise and ad - o - ra - tion!

Text and tune (“Wie Schön Leuchtet”: Public domain)

EPISTLE: Hebrews 1:1-6

(The supremacy of God's Son)

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;
today I have become your Father”?
Or again, “I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son”?

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregation, please rise for the Alleluia verse and the Holy Gospel.

GOSPEL VERSE *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* (St. 1: LSB 338)

*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.*

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt. Public domain



HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:1–14

(The Word became flesh.)

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

People: **He was in the beginning with God.**

Pastor: All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.

People: **In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Pastor: There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.

People: **He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.**

Pastor: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him.

People: **He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him.**

Pastor: But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

People: **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

LSB 358

Verses 1-2, 8, 13, 15

SERMON

"Did You Get What You Wanted?"

Pastor John Larson

Text: Isaiah 9:2-7

A CHRISTMAS STATEMENT OF FAITH

All: I believe in God the Father, Creator of all things, who sent his Son as my Savior.

I believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, announced by angels, worshipped by the Wise Men. He lived to suffer, die and rise again to free me from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who has brought me to faith in Christ and by whose continuous work in my heart I am ever led to kneel before the manger and cross of Christ to worship, to pray, to praise and thank Him, and to live under him as my King and Master, now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Holy Lord, almighty God and Father, You laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. You nourish us and all creatures through Your created world. Guide us in being good stewards of Your world. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, the world we live in was created through You. In these last days, our Father has spoken to us through You. Give us ears to hear Your voice and willing hearts and minds to not only receive grace and truth but also live them out in our homes, neighborhoods, and communities. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Holy Spirit, we thank and praise You for the feet of those who brought us the Good News. We ask for Your blessing on all pastors, parents, grandparents, and servants in Christ's church that they may continue to share the good news of peace and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Great physician and healer, comfort all who are struggling physically, emotionally, or spiritually, [*especially* . . .]. Give them healing and hope. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Gracious God, we thank You for the gift of family. Knit families together with Your love, mercy, and grace. Give parents and children calm minds and quiet hearts focused on Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

(Special intercessions may be added here.)

Pastor: O God, we boldly and confidently lift these prayers to You, trusting in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
People: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "O Holy Night" Adolphe Adam
Rachel Becker, soloist



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

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for You have done marvelous things. Your right hand and Your holy arm have worked salvation. You send good news—peace and salvation—and have spoken to us through Your Son, through whom You also created the world. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the heavenly host, we praise and honor Your glorious name and join in their unending hymn.



SANCTUS

Joy to the World Sanctus

Andrew R. Jones ANTIOCH
George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.

Joy to the world, the Lord is born, The Lord of hosts is
He! He comes to bring, great joy this
morn, For all the world to see, For all the world to
see, For all, for all the world to see.

Text: Andrew R. Jones. Copyright © 2019 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

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

Joy to the World

Agnus Dei

ANTIOCH
Andrew R. Jones George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.

Joy to the world, the Lamb of God, Is born for us to -
day! He comes to spread His joy a -
broad, The light, the peace, the way, The light, the peace, the
way, The light, the light, the peace, the way.

;Text: Andrew R. Jones. Copyright © 2019 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Special Music “Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow” Dave Olsson, guitar and solo
Hymn “Away in a Manger” LSB 364 and 365
Special Organ Music “Still, Still, Still” and other Christmas music Paul Manz
(as time permits)

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING



CLOSING SENTENCES *Matthew 1:22–23; John 1:14; Isaiah 52:10*

Pastor: All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

People: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

Pastor: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

People: The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.



BENEDICTION *Isaiah 9:6, adapt.; Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: Unto us

People: a child is born!

Pastor: Unto us

People: a son is given!

Pastor: And the government shall be upon His shoulder.

People: And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

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.

HYMN “Go Tell It on the Mountain” *LSB 388*

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Toccata on ‘Good King Wenceslas’”

arr. Gordon Young



Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and PREACHER

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP / ORGANIST

GUITARIST and SOLOIST

SOLOIST

ELDER

ALTAR GUILD

Pastor John Larson

Michael Zehnder

Dave Olsson

Rachel Becker

Jim Wert

Gloria Mielke

Tanya Schmitt

Charmaine Rohde

✠ ✠ ✠

Ascension Lutheran Church

1701 West Caley Avenue, Littleton, Colorado 80120

www.alutheran.org

(303) 794-4636 office@alutheran.org

Extended Day Preschool

303-730-2514 director@alcpreschool.com