

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

December 27 - 28, 2025

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



FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

IT'S STILL CHRISTMAS

AS WE GATHER

The stores are processing gift returns, but we dare not return our greatest Christmas gift—our Lord Jesus! God is gracious and forgiving, remembering His promises. He leads us, as we hear He did for the Israelites in the Old Testament Reading. We need no one else, as we are God's dear children, which Paul reminds us in the Epistle. It is not that we do not have enemies—even Joseph had to figure out what to do—but we have Jesus with us. It is still Christmas.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Prelude "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" arr. Johann S. Bach

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" *LSB 386*

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING PSALM *Psalms 111:1–6*

Pastor: Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,

People: **in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**

Pastor: Great are the works of the LORD,

People: **studied by all who delight in them.**

Pastor: Full of splendor and majesty is His work,

People: **and His righteousness endures forever.**

Pastor: He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered;

People: **the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

Pastor: He provides food for those who fear Him;

People: **He remembers His covenant forever.**

Pastor: He has shown His people the power of His works,

People: **in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Galatians 4:4; Isaiah 63:14*

Pastor: O Lord God, we confess that although we usually prepare for, as Paul put it, "the fullness of time," that is not true in our personal lives.

People: **Forgive our impatience for taking matters into our own hands, forgive our not trusting that You are in control of all things, and forgive our failing to acknowledge You above all else.**

Pastor: We confess, O Lord, that unlike obedient Joseph, we have not always listened to Your commands and instructions.

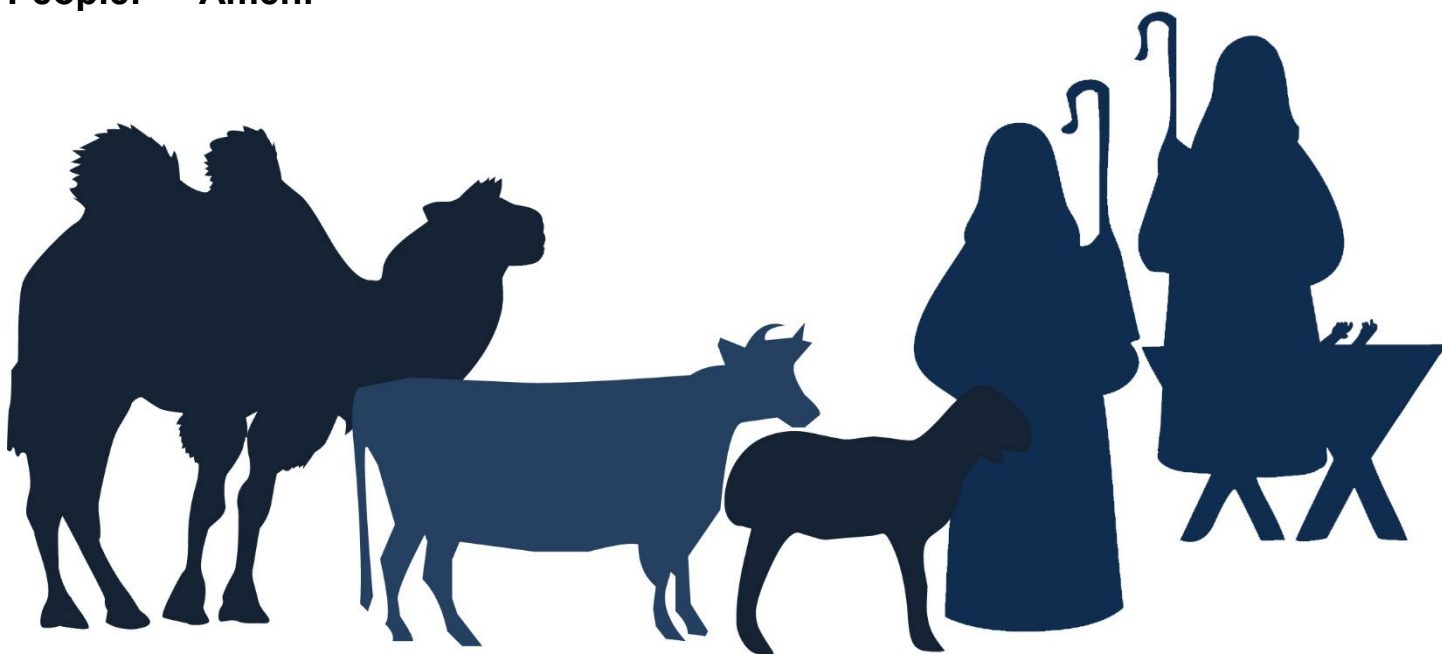
People: Forgive our desire to be in control, forgive our avoiding difficult decisions, and forgive our thinking that we are able to arrange all things for our own benefit.

Pastor: We confess, O Lord, that we have kept our faith to ourselves.

People: Forgive us for not giving You leading us “a glorious name,” forgive our failure to ask You for guidance each day, and forgive our seeking to be like everyone else, rather than trusting You.

Pastor: Forgiveness has been won for you! The babe born in Bethlehem is the only-begotten Son of God and your elder Brother. The Spirit urges you to cry, “Abba! Father!” As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.



KYRIE

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.

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, Here on
scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the
earth our food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! Here the
tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry day a - lone. day.
sin - ful Flee to You from day to day.
Hark! The songs of peace - ful of Zi - on Thun - der
In - ter - ces - sor, Friend of sin - ners, Earth's Re -
like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of
deem - er, hear our plea Where the songs of
ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."
all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.

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✂ WORD ✂

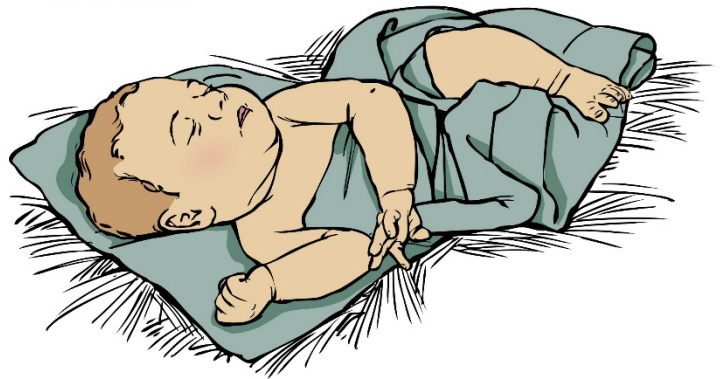
Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 63:7-14*(Although the Israelites have rebelled, God will help them.)*

**I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord,
the praises of the Lord,
according to all that the Lord has granted us,
and the great goodness to the house of Israel
that he has granted them according to his compassion,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.
For he said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely."
And he became their Savior.
In all their affliction he was afflicted,
and the angel of his presence saved them;**

in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
 he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.
 But they rebelled
 and grieved his Holy Spirit;
 therefore he turned to be their enemy,
 and himself fought against them.
 Then he remembered the days of old,
 of Moses and his people.
 Where is he who brought them up out of the sea
 with the shepherds of his flock?
 Where is he who put
 in the midst of them
 his Holy Spirit,
 who caused his glorious arm
 to go at the right hand of Moses,
 who divided the waters before them
 to make for himself
 an everlasting name,
 who led them through the depths?
 Like a horse in the desert,
 they did not stumble.
 Like livestock that go down into the valley,
 the Spirit of the Lord gave them rest.
 So you led your people,
 to make for yourself a glorious name.

“A little child will lead them.”

Isaiah 11:6, NIV



Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7

(All God's promises are sure because we are God's children.)

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman,
 born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might
 receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of
 his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but
 a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please rise for the Gradual and the Gospel.

GRADUAL *Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a*

Pastor: To us a child is born, to us a son is given;

People: and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

Pastor: And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

People: Mighty God,

Pastor: Everlasting Father,

People: Prince of Peace.

Pastor: Sing to the LORD a new song,

People: for He has done marvelous things!

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

(The Holy Family is protected from Herod.)

Pastor: When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,

People: “Rise, take the child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy Him.”

Pastor: And he rose and took the child and His mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet,

People: “Out of Egypt I called My son.”

Pastor: Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

People: “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

Pastor: But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying,

People: “Rise, take the child and His mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.”

Pastor: And he rose and took the child and His mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message (10:00)

Pastor Larson

Hymn of the Day

"Son of God, Eternal Savior"

LSB 842

Sermon

"The Days After Christmas"

Pastor John Larson
Text: Matthew 2:13-23

CATECHISM

The Second Article

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,

that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

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 pm - collected in back;
10:00 am – collected in the pews)**

Offering Music (10:00)

"What Child Is This?"

Dorothy Wells



✠ 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 good, 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; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. 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

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 (Divine Service, Setting One)

LSB 163

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Special Organ Music	"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"	arr. Lani Smith
Hymn	"What Child Is This?"	LSB 370
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	"Go My Children with My Blessing"	LSB 922 Verses 1-4
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Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude	"Angels We Have Heard on High"	arr. Humphrey Turner
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OFFICIANT / PREACHER

Pastor John Larson

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP

Michael Zehnder

ORGANIST

Linda Olsen

ELDERS

4 p.m. Jeff Dunker; 10:00 a.m. Bob Olsen

ACOLYTES

10:00 a.m. Lizzie Wilson

LECTORS

4 p.m. Anita Baresel; 10:00 a.m. Roland Scott

COMMUNION SERVERS

4:00 p.m. Anita Baresel; 10:00 a.m. Roland Scott

ALTAR GUILD

Charmaine Rohde, Gloria Mielke, Tanya Schmitt



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