



Complete Worship Folder

December 8, 2024 - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

8695 Gratiot Road Saginaw, MI 48609 (989)781-2170

Email address: [ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net)

Julie Bailey, Pastor

Sunday Worship 8:00am & 10:30am

Wednesday Worship 7:00pm

## Second Sunday of Advent

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### Welcome and Announcements

Hymn: "Advent Song" (CCLI 216714 *verse 2 & chorus*)

Light the Advent candle two  
Think of humble shepherds who  
Filled with wonder at the sight  
Of the Child of Christmas night

Candle candle burning bright  
Shining in the cold winter night  
Candle candle burning bright  
Fill our hearts with Christmas light

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P: Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

**C: Amen.**

Hymn: "All Earth Is Hopeful" (ELW 266)

All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!  
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:  
this, the labor of people who struggle to see  
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.

People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:  
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";  
she conceived him, "God with us," our brother, whose birth  
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;  
new highways opened, new protocols declared.  
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!  
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!

We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.  
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live  
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see  
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

### 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.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray... **Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Children's Message (10:30 a.m.) & Dismiss to Christmas Program Practice

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

- <sup>1</sup> Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,  
and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.
- <sup>2</sup> Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;  
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;
- <sup>3</sup> for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.
- <sup>4</sup> For God will give you evermore the name,  
"Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."
- <sup>5</sup> Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;  
look toward the east,  
and see your children gathered from west and east  
at the word of the Holy One,  
rejoicing that God has remembered them.
- <sup>6</sup> For they went out from you on foot,  
led away by their enemies;  
but God will bring them back to you,  
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.
- <sup>7</sup> For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low  
and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,  
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.
- <sup>8</sup> The woods and every fragrant tree  
have shaded Israel at God's command.
- <sup>9</sup> For God will lead Israel with joy,  
in the light of his glory,  
with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Psalm: From the Gospel of Luke 1:68-79 (Read Responsively)

- <sup>68</sup> Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.
- <sup>69</sup> **You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.**
- <sup>70</sup> Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
- <sup>71</sup> **from the hands of all who hate us,**
- <sup>72</sup> to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.
- <sup>73</sup> **This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:**
- <sup>74</sup> to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship you without fear,
- <sup>75</sup> **holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**
- <sup>76</sup> And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
- <sup>77</sup> **to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.**
- <sup>78</sup> In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- <sup>79</sup> **to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation: "Celtic Alleluia" (ELW 174)

Gospel Acclamation  
*Celtic Alleluia*



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P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the third chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; <sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

P: This is the gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "Prepare the Royal Highway" (ELW 264)

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!  
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:

**Refrain** Hosanna to the Lord,  
for he fulfills God's word!

God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! **Refrain**

Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring.  
All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing: **Refrain**

His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: **Refrain**

Apostles' Creed

**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.**

The Prayers of the Children of God

Each petition ends...Lord, in your mercy,  
**Congregation responds...receive our prayer.**

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

Offering

Offering Song: "We Are Waiting for Jesus" (ACS 905)

We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.  
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.  
Sun of justice, shine upon us;  
we are trusting in your promise.  
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.  
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.  
Loving Shepherd, walk beside us;  
stir our hearts, and gently guide us.  
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

#### Offering Prayer

A: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

#### Thanksgiving

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.

#### Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray

**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.**

#### Invitation to Communion / Distribution of Holy Communion

P: God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

Communion Songs: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” (ELW 631)

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit  
into ev'ry troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit;  
let us find thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver;  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee!  
Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heav'n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

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“Sanctuary” (CCLI 24140)

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
Pure and holy, tried and true;  
With thanksgiving,  
I'll be a living sanctuary for You. (*repeat as needed to finish communion*)

Post-Communion Blessing

P: And now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

### Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray. Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

**C: Amen**

### Blessing

P: God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, † bless and keep you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Song: “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” (ELW 249)

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;  
make straight the way for God within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare  
for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without your grace we waste away  
like flow'rs that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
and make us rise to fall no more;  
oh, let your face upon us shine  
and fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son,  
whose advent has our freedom won,  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

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### Dismissal

A: We work together to spread Christ's love with our community

**C: Through an Open Heart, Open Mind, and an Open Table.**

A: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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