



*Becoming Caring Servants Who Extend Life in Christ to  
Diverse People*

**Ascension Lutheran Church**  
Landover Hills, Maryland  
Church Phone: 301-577-0500  
[www.alutheranchurch.com](http://www.alutheranchurch.com)

**Christmas Eve**  
**December 24, 2025**

## *Prelude*

Brass Quintet

What Child Is This?

Arr. Jim Evans

The First Nowell

Arr. Stephen McNeff

Coventry Carol

Arr. Don Gillis

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Arr. Stephen McNeff

Lo' How A Rose E're Blooming

Arr. Jim O'Briant

O Come All Ye Faithful

Arr. Jim Evans

## *Welcome and Notices*

*(Please stand and face the back of the sanctuary)*

### *Opening Dialogue*

P: On this holiest of nights,

**C:** we come, joining the shepherds who are stunned by wonder.

P: On this most silent night,

**C:** we come, our hopes and dreams joining those of Mary and Joseph.

P: On this night of carols and candlelight,

**C:** we come, our glad songs joining with the choirs of angels.

*(As the processional cross passes your pew, please turn and face forward.)*

## *Processional Carol*

## **O Come, All Ye Faithful**

*ELW 283* Text: John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1,3-4, tr. unknown, st. 2

Music: John Francis Wade

- O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him,  
born the king of angels:**

### *Refrain*

**O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!**

- 2 The highest, most holy,  
light of light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father  
now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
in the highest: *Refrain*
- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

### *Invocation*

*Palm 96*

P: Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!

**C:** Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

P: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

**C:** For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.

P: For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

**C:** Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever. Amen

P: Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!

**C:** Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

### *Confession & Forgiveness*

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the

power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C:** Amen.

P: Amidst the darkness of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome the light of God's forgiveness.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

**C:** **Forgive our lack of faith and trust in your will.**

P: Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

**C:** **Forgive our neglect of the poor.**

P: The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

**C:** **Forgive our selfishness and complacency.**

P: The magi followed the star to find the Savior of the nations.

**C:** **Forgive our reluctance to seek you with all our hearts.**

P: The angel said, you shall call his name Jesus for he will save his people from their sins. With great joy, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

### ***Gathering Hymn***

### **“Angels We Have Heard on High”**

ELW 289 Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

Music: French Carol

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.**

#### ***Refrain***

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain***

- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain***

## *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*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

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

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

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.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

## *Prayer of the Day*

P: Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

P: Living God, on this holy night we gather to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory; to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work; to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise; to sit with Mary, cradling your love.

**C:** **May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy; for unto us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.**

*(Sit)*

**First Reading:**

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

R: A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied exultation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders,  
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Great will be his authority,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness

from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

### *Psalm*

### **Psalm 110:1–4**

*Read Responsively*

- <sup>1</sup> The LORD says to my lord,  
“Sit at my right hand  
until I make your enemies your footstool.”
- <sup>2</sup> **The LORD sends out from Zion  
your mighty scepter.  
Rule in the midst of your foes.**
- <sup>3</sup> Your people will offer themselves willingly  
on the day you lead your forces  
on the holy mountains.<sup>[a]</sup>  
From the womb of the morning,  
like dew, your youth<sup>[a]</sup> will come to you.
- <sup>4</sup> **The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind,  
“You are a priest forever according to the order of  
Melchizedek.”**

**C:** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen**

### *Second Reading*

### **1 John 4:7–16**

R: A reading from 1 John.

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen

God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup> So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

*(Stand)*

**Acclamation**

***“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”***

ELW 275 Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3;

Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4

Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

- 1 Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
once you sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.**
- 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant light.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.**
- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great desire of nations,  
you have seen his natal star.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**4 All creation, join in praising  
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

*The Gospel*

*Luke 2:1-14*

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

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

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

<sup>8</sup> Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Sit)*

# *Sermon*

*(Stand)*

## **Hymn of the Day**      **“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

ELW270 Text: Charles Wesley | Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy © Words and Music:

Public Domain

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

### *Refrain*

**Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

- 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain***
- 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth. *Refrain***

## *Nicene Creed*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and  
became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## *Prayers*

*(Kneel/Sit)*

A: God of glory, by your grace a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests on his shoulders, and in his name we pray.

A: Wonderful Counselor,

**C:** we pray for wisdom for the world's leaders, that they may use their power to lift burdens and break the bonds of oppression.

A: Mighty God,

**C:** we pray for the church of Jesus Christ our Lord, that you will multiply and increase our joy as we share in the harvest you have gathered.

A: Everlasting Father,

**C:** we pray for families, friends, and loved ones, that those who now walk in deep darkness may see the great light of your saving love.

A: Prince of Peace,

**C:** we pray for an end to violence and warfare, that your authority may continue to grow until there is endless peace in every land.

A: Almighty God, by the incarnation of Your eternal Son, You revealed that You are love. Give us true faith in Christ and His promise that by His conception, virgin birth, holy life, sacrificial death and victorious resurrection, our sins are forgiven and we are Yours. Fill us with joy, and lead us to proclaim Your glad tidings to all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C:** hear our prayer.

A: Lord God, by His birth in human flesh, Your dear Son took His place in the family of Mary and Joseph. Bless the families of our church and our country, that men and women would live faithfully as husbands and wives, loving and caring for their children and nurturing them in the grace of Baptism and all the truth of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C:** hear our prayer.

A: Heavenly Father, Your Son born in Bethlehem is the Son of David and the Lord of David, to whom every knee shall bow. Look upon all those whom You have placed in authority, and grant that they would govern in wisdom and justice. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C:** hear our prayer.

A: Heavenly Father, You love us and sent Your Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Strengthen us to love one another. As You have mercy upon all who are poor and troubled, so perfect

Your love in us, that we would gladly be Your instruments of help in time of need. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

A: Holy Lord, in the birth of Your Son, You have visited and redeemed Your people. Continue to visit those who are lonely, sick, recovering or near death especially \_\_\_\_\_. Let Your presence be a comfort to them and give them perseverance until the time You grant healing, relief, deliverance and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

A: Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who feeds us in body and soul, give true faith in Your promises to all who will receive Your Son's body and blood this night. Sustain Your people in humble repentance and godly living. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

A: We thank You, dear Lord, for the saints who received Your blessing of righteousness in Christ and now stand in the most holy place before Your throne. Preserve us by Your grace in the holiness of Christ, that we, too, may dwell in Your light and life for eternity; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

*(The prayers conclude:)*

P: Lord of hosts, establish your holy realm with justice and righteousness, from this time on and forevermore.

**C:** **Amen.**

*(Stand)*

## ***The Peace***

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

**C:** **And also with you.**

*All may greet one another with a word of peace:*

*"Peace be with you" ... "God bless you" ... "God loves you"...*

## ***The Gathering of Gifts***

*Any tithes or offerings may be placed into the offering plate by the entrance to the Sanctuary at the beginning or the end of service. For those who are worshipping with us via live-stream, please consider mailing your offering to the Church office or giving online through our website.*

### ***Choir Anthem***

### ***Of the Fathers Love***

Text: Aurelius Prudentius

Music: Barry Talley

*(Stand)*

### ***The Offering Hymn***

### **“From Heaven Above”**

ELW 268 Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship; © 1978

Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Music: Martin Luther

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**8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest Through whom this  
sinful world is blest You turned not from our needs  
away! How can our thanks such love repay?**

**12 O dearest Jesus, holy child, Prepare a bed, soft,  
undefiled, A holy shrine, within my heart, That you and  
I need never part.**

### ***The Offering Prayer***

P: Let us pray.

P: Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C:** Amen.

### ***Great Thanksgiving***

P: The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

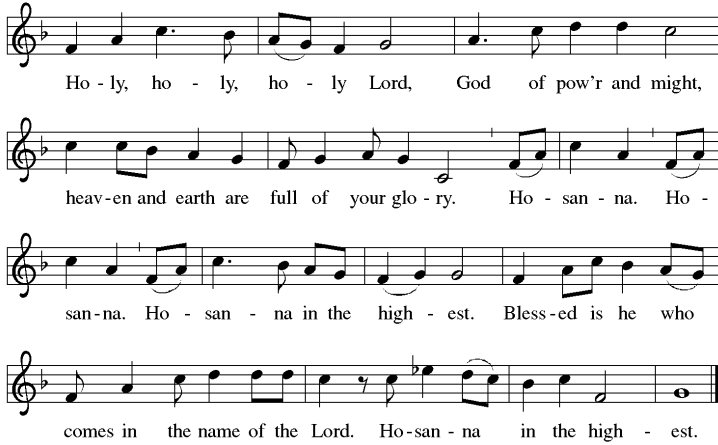
**C:** We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## *Preface*

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the witness of the saints you show us the hope of our calling, and strengthen us to run the race set before us, that we may rejoice with them in glory. And so, with all the saints, with all the choirs of angels and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## *The Eucharistic Prayer*

P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

P: 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

P: To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**C: Amen, amen, amen.**

### *The Lord's Prayer*

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

**C: Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

(Sit)

## Communion Distribution

Lutherans believe that in Holy Communion we are offered the Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. Baptized and Communicant members of all Christian denominations who share this belief with us are welcome to come forward to receive Holy Communion. Others, including children, may come forward to receive a blessing.

## Communion Hymns

“Lamb of God”

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Communion Hymn 1

“The First Noel”

ELW 300 "Text: English Traditional

Music: English Traditional, arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901"

- 1 The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

### *Refrain*

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!**

**Born is the King of Israel.**

- 2 They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain***
- 3 And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain***

- 5 Then entered in those wise men three,  
full rev'rently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

**Communion Hymn 2 “Go Tell It On The Mountain”**

ELW 290 Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925,  
stanzas, alt.

Music: African American spiritual

**Refrain**

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*
- 3 Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

(Stand)

**Post Communion Blessing**

P: May this, the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus  
Christ, strengthen you, keeping you steadfast in your faith for  
life everlasting.

**C:** Amen.

## ***Post Communion Hymn***

(Sung to the tune of "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen")

**C:** Oh, thank the Lord and sing His praise,  
What He has done proclaim!  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice  
And proudly bear his name  
Who leads His thankful people forth  
His promises to claim.  
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy,  
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!

Lord, let Your servant go in peace,  
Your word has been fulfilled.  
My eyes have seen the saving work  
Which for the world You willed:  
The glory of Your chosen race  
As Light for all revealed.  
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy,  
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!

## ***Post Communion Prayer***

A: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** Amen.

## ***Post-Communion Offering***

"O Holy Night"

Alexander Strachan  
Violin

## ***Lighting of the Candles***

*Light will be shared from the alter candles. Please carefully pass the light back. Un-lit candles should be tipped on their side to receive the flame, allowing the lit candle to not drip wax.*

P: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world..."

**C:** "Those who follow me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

P: If we walk in the light, as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.

**C:** **And the blood of Jesus, Gods Son, cleanses us from all sin.**

P: For in him is life, and that life is the light of all.

**C:** **We have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.**

P: So let your light shine before all, that they may see the good that you do, and give glory to your Father in heaven.

***"Silent Night, Holy Night"***

ELW 281 Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

Music: Franz Grüber, 1787-1863

- 1 **Silent night, holy night!**  
All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 **Silent night, holy night!**  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 **Silent night, holy night!**  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from your holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

## *Sending*

A: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C:** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

A: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**C:** **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

A: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**C:** **In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

P: May the One whom Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

**C:** **Amen.**

P: May the One whom Joseph cradled into his arms enfold you with love and strength.

**C:** **Amen**

P: May the One whom angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

**C:** **Amen**

P: And the blessing of almighty God - ✚ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – be upon you and remain with you always.

**C:** **Amen.**

*Candles may be extinguished and deposited at the rear of the sanctuary in the receptacles provided.*

## *Recessional Hymn*

## **“Joy to the World”**

ELW 267 Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: English melody, 18th cent.; Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

### **1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!**

**Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

### **2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!**

**Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

### *Sending*

A: Go in peace and serve the Lord

**C:** Thanks be to God!

### *Postlude*

*Brass Quintet*  
**Joy to the World**  
Arr. Todd Marchand

### **SERVING US IN WORSHIP**

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Chris Agne
<b>Assistant</b>	Mary Tipton
<b>Musician</b>	Ben Harris
<b>Reader</b>	Doakes Family
<b>Greeters</b>	Vivian Licorish
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Gloria Malachi, Kathy Garrett Roberta White, Barbara Thom
<b>Ushers</b>	John Corkill, Calvin Lee, Ekanem Ekanem
<b>Counters</b>	Dianne Yohe, Harry Sessums
<b>Violin</b>	Alexander Strachan
<b>Brass Quintet</b>	Grace Tifford – Tuba Marlia Nash – Trombone Allison Braatz – Trumpet Alex Wu - Trumpet Andrew Bures - Horn

## ***Acknowledgments***

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## ***Sunday @6***

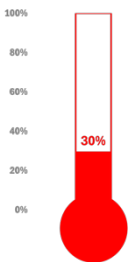
To the Homebound and Sick, we invite you to participate in Sunday @ 6, a weekly worship call. We have prayer, Scripture, a devotion and music. We invite, welcome and encourage you to join us in Christian fellowship every Sunday at 6:00 p.m. The call is toll-free:(267) 807-9601; Enter this code:773-431-475# For further information, call Dolores Prather (301) 459-7163 or Mary Tipton (301) 257-7585!

## ***Adult Bible Study***

Sunday morning Bible study is in full swing! We are continuing to work our way through the book of Esther. *It's Tough Being a Woman* by Beth Moore. We will continue to meet throughout the summer. Please join us! 10:30 a.m. following the worship service.

## ***Faith to Move Mountains***

*“If you have faith as small as a mustard seed... you can say to this mountain, ‘Move,’ and it will move.” – Matthew 17:20*



The 2025-year budget is currently operating at a **\$65,000** deficit. This deficit limits our ability to fully focus on ministry, outreach, and the future growth God is calling us toward. We believe it’s time to come together in faith and eliminate this burden. That’s why we’ve launched our “*Faith to Move Mountains*” campaign — a focused effort to cover this deficit for this year. *\*updated 12/21/2025*

*Please send your check to Ascension Lutheran Church. You may also make your donation electronically at our website at <https://alutheranchurch.com> → (Giving). Place “*Faith to Move Mountains*” in the memo section.*

# Poinsettias are Presented for The Glory of God

## In Memory Of

*Agnes Brown Jones*

*Pat Broady*

*Bette Carpio*

*Bette Carpio*

*Bette Carpio*

*Bette Carpio*

*The Demones Family*

*The Doakes Family*

*Lois Fulford & Family*

*Clay Goldston*

*The Hymes Family*

*Calvin & Ginny Lee*

*Vivian Licorish*

*The Crazy Moms*

*Leola Motley*

*Harry & Kathy Sessums*

*Harry & Kathy Sessums*

*The Sims Family*

*Theresa Snuggs*

*Dianne Yohe*

*Loved Ones*

*Loved Ones*

*Parents, & Sister Louise & Laurence*

*Truver & Nancy Folger*

*Ralph's Parents, Jose & Sofia Carpio*

*Victoria & Vicente Chiriboga*

*Douglas & Anthony Brault*

*Loved Ones*

*Dad, Calvin Hackley*

*Loved Ones*

*Jannie*

*Loved Ones*

*Loved Ones*

*My Father*

*Jenny DeMaio*

*Judson Motley*

*John Helbert*

*Harry's Family*

*Ludie Sims*

*Husband*

*Gene Card, Father*

## In Honor Of

*The Doakes Family*

*Leola Motley*

*Harry & Kathy Sessums*

*Theresa Snuggs*

*Mike & Kathy Walker*

*Dianne Yohe*

*Dianne Yohe*

*Mother, Julia Hackley*

*Grandchildren*

*Rebecca Helbert*

*My Family*

*Children & Grandchildren*

*Mary Card, Mother*

*Family*



## ***Prayer Requests***

To keep the prayer list current, Pastor Chris will edit the list once a month. If you have the name of a loved one that you would like to keep on the prayer list permanently, please contact Pastor Chris, [pastor@alutheranchurch.com](mailto:pastor@alutheranchurch.com) or 301-577-0500

*Please put your prayer requests in the Prayer Diary at the rear of the Sanctuary so we can add your need to our prayers.*

The Family of Alice Gaither, upon her recent passing.

Ernestine Bivins and son, Terrell Bivins, prayers for healing & comfort.

The family of Jenny DeMaio, upon her recent passing.

The family of Ludie Sims, upon her recent passing.

Clay Goldston and Family, upon the recent passing of Jannie Goldston.

Joan Prather, sister of Dolores and Alice, Prayers for healing.

Dianne McGill, Treatment for breast cancer

Olivia Powell, Prayers for healing.

Rob Garrett, Prayers for healing.

Dolores Prather, Prayers for healing and comfort.

Alice McNeil, Prayers for comfort and healing

Helen Riley, Prayers for strength and healing.

Ernestine Hayes, Prayers for healing.

Calvin Lee, Prayers for healing.

Herman McNeil, Prayers for comfort and healing.

Zachary Plue, Prayers for continued healing.

Susie Nilsson, Prayers for continued healing.

Joyce Bailey, Prayers for continued healing.

Helen Bell, Prayers for healing.

Kent & Walt Nilsson, Prayers for improved vision.

### ***Ascension Homebound:***

John DellaGatta; Lois Flemming; Olivia Powell;  
Arthur & Mildred Smith; Helen Riley

# *Ascension Weekly*

Ascension Lutheran Church  
7415 Buchanan Street  
Landover Hills, MD 20784  
Phone: 301-577-0500

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
Email: [office@alutheranchurch.com](mailto:office@alutheranchurch.com)  
[www.alutheranchurch.com](http://www.alutheranchurch.com)  
Fax: 301-577-9558

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Information & Notices

Dec. 24, 2025

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## Services

## Please Note

### **Divine Worship**

Sunday at 9:00 am

**Holy Communion** is celebrated in most services.

### **Holy Baptism**

Arrangements for Baptism can be made with the Church Office.

### **Weddings**

Weddings for active Ascension members are arranged with the Church Office.

**Adult Bible Study:** Bible study meets on Sundays after worship, at 10:30 am.

### **Staff:**

Rev. Chris Agne.....Pastor  
Gwen Neal.....Office Mgr.  
Ben Harris.....Parish Musician

Office open Mon-Fri., 8-4:30  
Closed Holidays

Please allow us to share Church News with you via email. Send your email address to the Church Office at [office@alutheranchurch.com](mailto:office@alutheranchurch.com)

# This Week at Ascension

## Sunday, December 28

## The Holy Innocents

9:00 am	Worship
10:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
11:00 am	Youth Bowling
12:00 pm	Lamb of God Worship Service
6:00 pm	Sunday @ 6

## Sunday, January 4

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas

9:00 am	Worship
10:30 am	Bible Study
12:00 pm	Lamb of God Worship Service
6:00 pm	Sunday @ 6

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## Coming Events

### Wednesday, Jan. 7

Bible Study @ Noon Music Room

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## Serving Us in Worship, Sunday December 28

<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Stephen Mentz</b>
<b>Assistant</b>	Adam Kampia
<b>Musician</b>	Ben Harris
<b>Reader</b>	Mike Walker
<b>Greeters</b>	Melanie Demones
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Pat Broady, Ginny Lee, Kathy Walker
<b>Ushers</b>	Ade Ojurongbe, David Thom, Ekanem Ekanem
<b>Counters</b>	Harry Sessums, Roberta White