

# First Sunday in Advent



Ascension Lutheran Church

Landover Hills, MD

Phone: 301-577-0500

[www.alutheranchurch.com](http://www.alutheranchurch.com)



## FIRST WEEK IN ADVENT

December 3, 2023

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### *Welcome and Notices*

#### *Prelude*

“Carol of Hope”

Star of Promise: Ten Preludes on Advent Hymns  
Composer: Kenneth L DeJong

#### *(Stand) Lighting of the Advent Wreath*

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

#### *Psalm 130*

L: Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice;

**C: Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.**

L: If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C: But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.**

L: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his Word I put my hope.

**C: My soul waits for the Lord more than the watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.**

## ***Hymn***

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

ELW 240

Text: Wayne L. Wold; Tune: Yiddish folk tune, arr. Wayne L. Wold

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- 1. Light one candle to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He shall bring salvation to Israel,  
God fulfills the promise.**

L: O Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

**C: He himself will redeem Israel for all their sins.**

## ***Greeting***

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## ***Gathering Hymn***

“Fling Wide The Door”

ELW 259

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

- 1. Fling wide the door, unbar the gate;  
the King of glory comes in state;  
the Lord of lords and King of kings,  
the Savior of the world who brings  
his great salvation to the earth.  
So raise a shout of holy mirth  
and praise our God and Lord,  
Creator, Spirit, Word.**

- 2. He is the rock of our belief,  
the heart of mercy's gentle self.  
His kingly crown is holiness;  
his scepter is his loveliness;  
he brings our sorrows to an end.  
Now gladly praise our king and friend,  
and worship him with song  
for saving us from wrong.**
- 3. Oh, happy towns and blessed lands  
that live by their true king's commands.  
And blessed be the hearts he rules,  
the humble places where he dwells.  
He is the rightful Son of bliss  
who fills our lives and makes us his,  
creator of the world,  
our only strength for good.**
- 4. Come, Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ;  
our hearts are open wide in trust.  
Oh, show us now your lovely grace,  
upon our sorrows shine your face,  
and let your Holy Spirit guide  
our journey in your grace so wide.  
We praise your holy name,  
from age to age the same!**

## ***Salutation and Prayer of the Day***

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray:

**C: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*(Sit) The First Lesson*

**Isaiah 64:1–9**

<sup>1</sup>Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence— <sup>2</sup> as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup>From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. <sup>5</sup>You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? <sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. <sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us,

and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. <sup>8</sup>But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup>Be not so terribly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

R: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### *The Second Lesson*

### **1 Corinthians 1:3–9**

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—<sup>6</sup>even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup>who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

R: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Stand) The Gospel Verse*

ELW 264

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847

Tune: Bereden väg för Herran

- 1. 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!**

- 2. 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***

- 3. 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***

- 4. 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***

## ***The Gospel Lesson***

**Mark 13:24–37**

**R:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

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

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus said:] “In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. <sup>28</sup>“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. <sup>35</sup>Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will



come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning—<sup>36</sup>lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Sit) Message*

*(Stand) Hymn of the Day*

ELW244

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722

Tune: Haf trones lampa färdig

- 1. Rejoice, rejoice, believers,  
and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing,  
and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising  
and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;  
at midnight comes the cry.**
- 2. The watchers on the mountain  
proclaim the bridegroom near;  
go forth as he approaches  
with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting;  
the gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory;  
the bridegroom is at hand.**

3. **The saints, who here in patience  
their cross and suff'rings bore,  
shall live and reign forever  
when sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory  
the Lamb they shall behold;  
in triumph cast before him  
their diadems of gold.**
  
4. **Our hope and expectation,  
O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, O Sun so longed for,  
o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted,  
we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption  
that sets your people free!**

*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**

“Have You Thanked the Lord?”

ELW 829

Text: Bill LaMotta, 1919-1980

Text © Bill (Wilbur) LaMotta, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*Refrain:*

**Have you thanked the Lord?  
Have you praised God's name?  
Don't you know that no tomorrow is quite the same?  
Have you thanked the Lord?  
Have you knelt in prayer,  
and rejoiced that, rain or sunshine, our God is there?**

*(Kneel/sit) Prayers*

L: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,  
and for all people according to their needs. (after each  
portion of the prayers:)

L: Lord in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*(the prayers conclude:)*

L: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we  
pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus  
Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*(Stand) Sharing of the Peace*

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

**C: And also with you.**

*All may greet one another with a sign of peace.*

*(Sit) Anthem*

“Light One Candle”

Natalie Sleeth

***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.

*(Stand) Presenting our Gifts* “Creator of the Stars of Night”  
ELW245

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal 1940*, alt.

Tune: *Conditor alme siderum*

- 1. Creator of the stars of night,  
your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, redeemer of us all,  
we pray you hear us when we call.**
- 2. When this old world drew on toward night,  
you came; but not in splendor bright,  
not as a monarch, but the child  
of Mary, blessed mother mild.**
- 5. To God the Father, God the Son,  
and God the Spirit, Three in One,  
praise, honor, might, and glory be  
from age to age eternally. Amen.**

## *Offering Prayer*

L: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**C: in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you embrace our lives with your great love for humanity. With joy and gladness we ask that these gifts may be for many a sign of that love, and that we may continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

L: 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.**

## *Benediction*

L: Let us bless the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

L: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## ***Closing Hymn***

ELW 257

“Oh, Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel”

Text: Psalteriolum Cantionum, Kiln, Tune:  
French processional 15<sup>th</sup> Cent.

**1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear**

*Refrain:* **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel.**

**2. O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay;  
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain***

**6. O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain***

**7. O come, O King of nations, come,  
O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for you;  
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain***

**8. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain***

## ***Sending***

L: Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## ***Postlude***

“Besançon”

Gloria! Organ Music for Advent and Christmas  
Composer: Barbara Harbach

## **SERVING US IN WORSHIP**

**Assistant** Annette Singletary

**Musician** Ben Harris

**Reader** Vivian Licorish

**Greeters** Mike & Kathy Walker

**Altar Guild** Wells Family, Ernestive Bivins,  
Vivian Licorish, Dianne McGill

**Ushers** Dan Fulford, Jr., Carl Wilhoit  
Darrell Dockery

**Counters** Vivian Licorish, Morris Hymes, Jr.

### ***Maui Wildfires Donations Update***

We are very grateful to everyone who donated to and/or prayed for our Maui Wildfires donation drive. Thanks to your generosity and prayers, Ascension sent \$1,425 to the Southeastern District - Lutheran Church Missouri Synod to aid Maui. We pray that God will bless our gift and use it to reach those in need.

### ***Church Decorating***

Come out on Saturday morning on December 2 to help put up Christmas decorations in our sanctuary and narthex. This is a fun annual gathering and it never feels like work! Trees, wreaths, garland, ribbons and bows! Join us at 9 am, on December 2.



## *The Spirit of Compassion!*

Sharing a very generous bounty today in advance of Thanksgiving. The Ascension family donated food, clothing, and shoes to offer to The Lutheran Mission Society's Compassion Place Center at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Hyattsville. From left to right, our delivery team: Ade, John, Stephany, Annette, Carl and Mike. Marj Nilsson helped at the church as well.



## Acknowledgments

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## Prayer List

In order to keep the prayer list current the **Board of Elders** 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 Marj Nilsson.



## *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**

**Sunday @ 6**

**Enter this code:773-431-475 #**

For further information, call Alice Gaither at (301) 459-4194!

## SAVE THE DATE



**The Senior Vision Team is hosting a Holiday Concert in person and live streamed.**

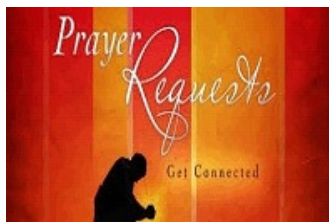
**Saturday, December 9, 2023**  
at 1 pm at  
**Ascension Lutheran Church**



**The Senior Vision Team** is collecting monetary donations for the Holiday Homebound Baskets.

You may donate online, through your offering marked Holiday Baskets or give directly to Mr. Goldson, Mrs. Lee, Ms. McGill or Mrs. Demones.





## ***Ascension Lutheran Church Prayer Request***

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

*Calvin Lee*, Prayers for healing.

*Lewis Powell*, Prayers for healing

*Agnes Brown*, Prayers for healing and recovery.

*Herman McNeil*, Prayers for comfort and healing.

*Ludie Sims*, Prayers for healing.

*Jessica & Germond Oatneal*, prayers for a healthy pregnancy journey.

*Maria Doakes*, Prayers for continued healing.

*Lois Fulford*, Prayers for continued healing.

*Zachary Plue*, Prayers for continued healing.

*Susie Nilsson*, Prayers for continued healing.

*Robin Sands*, Prayers for healing.

*Joyce Bailey*, Prayers for continued healing.

*Helen Bell*, Prayers for healing

*Alice Gaither*, Prayers for healing.

*Kent & Walt Nilsson*, Prayers for improved vision.

### ***Ascension Shut-Ins:***

*John DellaGatta; Lois Flemming; Samuel Malachi,*

*Olivia Powell; Arthur & Mildred Smith, Helen Riley.*

# Ascension Weekly

Ascension Lutheran Church  
7415 Buchanan Street  
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Phone: 301-577-0500

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
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Fax: 301-577-9558

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**Information & Notices**

**Dec. 3, 2023**

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## Services

### 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

## Please Note

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

### Staff:

Gwen Neal      Office Mgr.  
Ben Harris      Parish Musician

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

Send your **email address**  
to the Church Office at  
[ascenluth@aol.com](mailto:ascenluth@aol.com).

## This Week at Ascension

**Sunday, December 3**

**Advent I**

9:00 am

Worship

6:00 pm

Sunday @ 6

**Sunday, December 10**

**Advent II**

9:00 am

Worship

6:00 pm

Sunday @ 6

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### Altar Flowers Presented By



Altar Flowers

*Please Note* that flowers will only be provided when they are sponsored by members. Sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board in the Church Office Wing.

***Altar Flowers*      \$50.00**

***Sanctuary Lights*    \$ 5.00**

**Ascension Lutheran Church: Becoming Caring  
Servants who Extend Life in Christ to Diverse people**

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**Call Committee Prayer Vigil:**

Our designated prayer time for the Call process is 7 pm. Please remember to set some kind of an alarm for this time daily for the remainder of the call process. I know many of us are already praying, so let's have this one time daily when we do it all together.

For the Call Committee and Pastoral Candidates, please pray for...

\*The Lord's Guidance

\*The Lord's Discernment

This is not an exhaustive list so please add any other prayer that comes to mind

Thank you!

Ascension Board of Elders

## Birthdays & Anniversaries This Week



## Celebrating We Name In Our Hearts



### SERVING US IN WORSHIP, Next Sunday, Dec. 10

<b>Pastor</b>	Jon Diefenthaler
<b>Assistant</b>	Mary Tipton
<b>Musician</b>	Ben Harris
<b>Reader</b>	Leola Motley
<b>Greeters</b>	Barbara & David Thom
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Cheryl Townsend, Carolyn Plue, Mary Tipson, Bose Osho
<b>Ushers</b>	Calvin Lee, Ronnie Townsend, Cris Bonner
<b>Counters</b>	Andy House, Adam Kampia, Dwight Mitchell