

# *Divine Service*

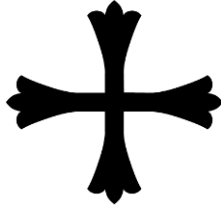
AD TE LEVAVI: FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF THE ASCENSION

DECEMBER 2, 2018 ✝ SUNDAY, 10:00A.M.





Welcome! Please fill out the Record of Fellowship, which is the red book at the end of your pew.

## PRELUDE

*Once He Came in Blessing*

Johann Sebastian Bach

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Please stand and face the processional cross.*

*Lutheran Service Book 343*

**“Prepare the Royal Highway”**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

*Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

**P** Beloved in the Lord, as we begin the season of Advent, let this wreath remind us that Jesus Christ came to conquer the darkness of sin and to lead us into the light of His glorious kingdom. As the prophet Isaiah says, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.” *Isaiah 9:2*

*At this time, the Advent wreath is lighted.*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with your spirit.

**P** Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, the true light who comes into the world to enlighten all people, bless us as we light the candles of this wreath in preparation for Your coming, and enkindle in our hearts the fire of Your love that we may receive You with joy and gladness and evermore remain steadfast in the faith; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

# CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*1 John 1:8-9*

*Kneeling or sitting forward*

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✝}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

*[John 20:19-23]*


*Standing*



# SERVICE OF THE WORD

Mark 10:47


## KYRIE ~ *Lord, Have Mercy*



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.




**G** Lord, have mer - cy.




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



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.




**A** 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.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



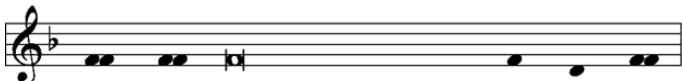
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



**G** A - men.

*During Advent, we show restrained joy by omitting the HYMN OF PRAISE until the jubilant season of Christmas.*

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

2 Timothy 4:22

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with your spirit.**

**P** Let us pray.

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.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sitting*

## OLD TESTAMENT

**Jeremiah 23:5-8**

**A** The Old Testament Reading for the First Sunday in Advent is from Jeremiah, chapter 23.

<sup>5</sup>“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’

<sup>7</sup>“Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when they

shall no longer say, ‘As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’ <sup>8</sup>but ‘As the LORD lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.’ Then they shall dwell in their own land.”

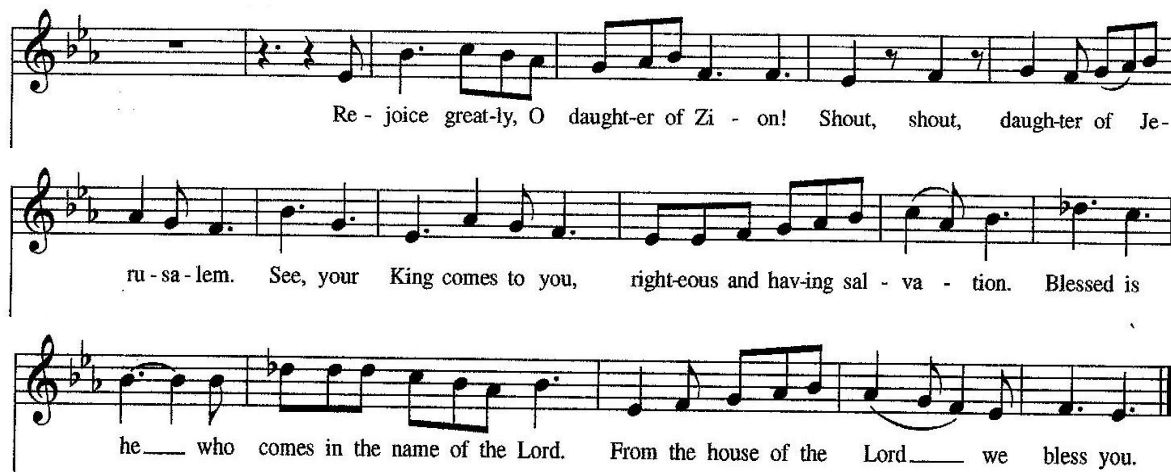
**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

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



**Antiphon**

Composer: Jonathan Mueller

*Cantor introduces first time, then congregation sings second time:*


Re - jice great-ly, O daught-er of Zi - on! Shout, shout, daugh-ter of Je-  
ru - sa - lem. See, your King comes to you, right-cous and hav-ing sal - va - tion. Blessed is  
he — who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord — we bless you.



- L** To you, O LORD, I lift | up my soul.\*  
O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame.
- C** Let not my enemies exult | over me.\*  
Indeed, none who wait for you shall be | put to shame.
- L** Make me to know your ways, | O LORD;\*  
teach me | your paths.
- C** Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my sal- | vation;\*  
for you I wait all the | day long.
- L** May integrity and uprightness pre- | serve me;\*  
for I | wait for you.
- C** Redeem Israel, | O God,\*  
out of all his | troubles.



**C** Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

**C** *Antiphon*

**EPISTLE**

**Romans 13:11-14**

**A** The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 13.

<sup>11</sup> Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup> The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of

light. <sup>13</sup> Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Standing*

**ALLELUIA AND VERSE**

*John 6:68*

**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



# HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-9

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

**P** <sup>1</sup>Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." <sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

<sup>5</sup>"Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you,

humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. <sup>7</sup>They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup>Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sitting*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Lutheran Service Book 341 (stanzas 1-4)*

**"Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates"**

## SERMON

*Standing*

## APOSTLES' CREED

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And 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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*After each petition:*

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** 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.

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

*Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3*

*Following the prayers, please greet one another in the name of the Lord by saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of forgiveness and reconciliation in preparation for worthy reception of the Holy Supper.*

*Sitting*

# OFFERING

## MUSIC

*Pastorale*

Jessica Luhrs, clarinet

Felix-Alexandre Guilmant

## MEDITATION

*Matt. 21:3 – “If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” Consider the faithfulness of that man who owned the donkey and colt. All he needed to hear was, “The Lord has need of it,” and he willingly gave. The Lord has given each of us various callings in life – in our homes, in the Church, and in our communities. In each calling we have good work to do, and that comes from the Lord’s hand. The Lord has need of us in each calling. How is He calling you to generous giving in each of your vocations?*

*Standing*

# OFFERTORY

*Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19*



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa-lem.

# SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

## PREFACE

*2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]*



**P** The Lord be with you.



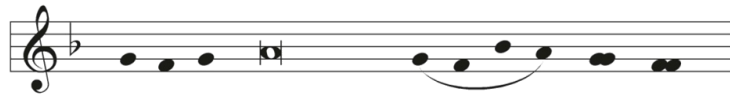
**C** And with your spirit.



**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 him thanks and praise.

**P** 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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:





**C** 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.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

**P** 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  $\text{✠}$  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  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

*1 Corinthians 11:26*

**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

*Revelation 22:20*

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

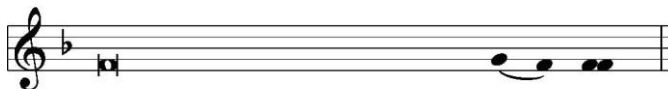
## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**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.

## PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

*John 20:19*



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**C** A - men.



# AGNUS DEI ~ *Lamb of God*

John 1:29

☐ 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.

*Sitting*

*About participation in the Lord's Supper:*

*The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.*

*Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor. [Those coming to the altar for a blessing rather than Holy Communion are asked to cross their arms over their chest.]*

*For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.*

*(Above is the "Model Communion Card Statement" from *Theology and Practice of the Lord's Supper*, a 1983 report by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.)*

## MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

*Lutheran Service Book 627*

**"Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior"**

Standing

## NUNC DIMITTIS ~ Song of Simeon

Luke 2:29-32



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have prepared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev - er. A - men.

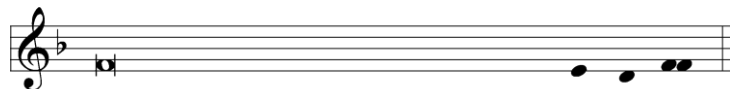
## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

- P** Let us pray.  
Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.



## BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26



**P** 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  $\dagger$  give you peace.



**C** A - - men.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Lutheran Service Book 331 (stanzas 1-4)*

**“The Advent of Our King”**

## POSTLUDE

*Saviour of the Nations Come*

Johann Sebastian Bach

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING ONE FROM *LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK* UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, ALL SCRIPTURE QUOTATIONS ARE FROM *THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION*®, *NIV*® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. CREATED BY LUTHERAN SERVICE BUILDER © 2006 CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE.

## SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP

### **Presiding Minister**

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

### **Lay Assistant(s)**

Justin Ledford, *Elder*

Penny Durden, *Acolyte*

### **Organist**

Debbie Dickensheets, *Director of Music*

### **Musician(s)**

Jessica Luhrs, soprano/clarinet

Laura Negus, soprano

Ginnie Little, alto

Kim Reagan, alto/flute

Zac Lavender, tenor/cello

Adrian Popescu, tenor

Evan LaVan, bass

### **Altar Guild**

Sarah Cadagin/Jill Drachenberg

### **Usher(s)**

Greg Ison/J.P. Morr

### **Greeter(s)**

Anne Bigelow

### **Fellowship Host(s)**

The Beckman family

## SERVING NEXT WEEK

### **Presiding Minister**

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

### **Lay Assistant(s)**

J.P. Morr, *Head Elder*

Edie Durden, *Acolyte*

### **Organist**

Debbie Dickensheets, *Director of Music*

### **Musician(s)**

Jessica Luhrs, soprano/clarinet

Laura Negus, soprano

Ginnie Little, alto

Kim Reagan, alto/flute

Zac Lavender, tenor/cello

Adrian Popescu, tenor

Evan LaVan, bass

### **Sunday School Choristers**

Edie Durden

Fred Durden

Hank Durden

Penny Durden

Eden Miller

Joy Negus

Emilie Schoellen

Katie Schoellen

### **Altar Guild**

Jeni Miller/Judy Russell

### **Usher(s)**

Brian Beckman/Martin Kunkel

### **Greeter(s)**

Richard & Jill Drachenberg

### **Fellowship Host(s)**

The Schoellen family



CALENDAR		
Sunday 12/2	<b>Ad Te Levavi: First Sunday in Advent</b> Nursery available LCA Ensemble Rehearsal Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>The Book of Malachi</i> * Divine Service with Holy Communion * Fellowship Hour	8:30 – 11:30 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM Following worship
Monday 12/3	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM Closed
Tuesday 12/4	Open Arms LCDC Church Office Adult Bible Study: <i>Martin Luther</i>	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM 10:45 – 11:45 AM
Wednesday 12/5	Open Arms LCDC Church Office Open Arms LCDC Chapel	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM 10:00 AM
Thursday 12/6	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Friday 12/7	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Saturday 12/8	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	Closed Closed
Sunday 12/9	<b>Populus Zion: Second Sunday in Advent</b> Nursery available LCA Ensemble Rehearsal Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>The Book of Malachi</i> * Divine Service with Holy Communion * Fellowship Hour Open Arms Board Meeting Advent Party	8:30 – 11:30 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM Following worship Following fellowship Following fellowship

\*Nursery available for young children

## WORSHIPING OUR GOD

### ✝ Service of Advent Lessons & Carols

Theme: Make ready the way of the Lord! Prepare your heart to meet the Savior with this annual service. Various prophetic readings and special music will announce His coming and pull us into the Advent season. Find comfort and joy through our promised Emmanuel! Holy Communion will also be celebrated.

Day & Time: Sunday, December 16 at 10 A.M.

Location: Church sanctuary

### ✝ Christmas Divine Service Schedule

Sunday, December 23 at 10:00 A.M.:	Fourth Sunday in Advent
Monday, December 24 at 7:00 P.M.:	Christmas Eve (with carols by candlelight)
Tuesday, December 25 at 10:00 A.M.:	Christmas Day

## GROWING IN HIS WORD

### ✝ Bible Study: Malachi

Theme: Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament. Then . . . 400 years of silence . . . before God spoke loud and clear by the Word made flesh! As we study this final minor prophet, we will learn what the Lord's concluding message was to His people of old. What were His last words to them? Does He hint at what's coming next? Come, and find out!

Day & Time: Sundays from December 2 – 23 at 9:00 A.M.

Location: Church fellowship hall

### ✝ Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist

Theme: The arrival of Christ at Christmas and our hopeful expectation of His Second Coming on the Last Day reminds us that not only has He come to us in the past and will come again in the future, but that He is here with us presently in the Sacrament. This new fascinating and provocative DVD-based study on the Lord's Supper (or Eucharist) will give all participants a greater appreciation for the miracle that happens every Sunday and its meaning for our everyday lives.

*From the producer: Although the Eucharist appears to be simple bread and wine, it is actually the "source and summit" of the Christian life. Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist explores the truth and beauty of Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist, from its origins in Sacred Scripture, to its profound role in the life of the Church and its members. It is the crescendo of the entire story of salvation.*

Day & Time: Sundays, beginning January 6 at 9:00 A.M.  
Tuesdays, beginning January 8 at 10:45 A.M.

Location: Sundays in church fellowship hall  
Tuesdays in church overflow room

# SERVING IN HIS NAME

## ✝ Christmas Poinsettias for Purchase

**Theme:** Poinsettias are available for purchase to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. If you would like to dedicate your poinsettia(s) in memory of a loved one(s) please fill out the green form and we will print this information in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletins. The cost for each poinsettia is \$16.00. If you would like to make a purchase, please note in the memo line that it is for Christmas poinsettias. The checks may be placed in the offering plates along with your other contributions. Each poinsettia will be available to take home after the Christmas Day service.

**Day:** Contributions and memorials due by Sunday, December 9

## ✝ Open Arms Christmas Program

**Theme:** It's time again for the Open Arms Christmas Program! This annual event fills the sanctuary with parents and grandparents who are excited to see their little ones sing and dance, as they share the good news of our Lord's birth. LCA is hosting a reception in the narthex afterwards and we need your help! Would you please assist by providing cookies, bars, or some other yummy treats? Feel free to drop them off any time the week of the Program. Please leave them on the secretary's desk in the church office. We also welcome anyone to attend the program and/or help out serving at the reception as we share Christ's love with the Open Arms families. Please look for the signup sheet in the narthex. Thank you!

**Day & Time:** Refreshments for reception need to be received before Friday, December 14  
Christmas Program on Friday, December 14 at 5:00 P.M.

**Location:** Refreshments drop-off in church office  
Christmas Program in church sanctuary

## ✝ LWML YarnWorks Display

**Theme:** Ascension's YarnWorks Ministry has a display in the Narthex of the many items that we've made for charitable giving this year. The items were made by Ascension members and their friends and family members and all of the items will be given to local charities. Thank you, especially, to our knitters of green squares, which were made from donated yarn and stitched together to make the afghans.

Everyone is invited to contribute items for next year's gifts. For the types of things we need and further information, please see our YarnWorks Ministry flyer on the handout display or ask Kati Durden or Judy Russell for details. We have free yarn for your projects. We always welcome donations of yarn and completed items from your family, friends, and neighbors, so please encourage everyone to become involved by knitting, weaving, or crocheting!

# FELLOWSHIPPING WITH THE SAINTS

## ✠ Advent Party: Christmas Decorating & Seasonal Fellowship

Theme: The Savior is coming, the Savior is coming! Let's get this place ready for Him. There's plenty of decorating to do and fun to be had. Please join us as we pull out the boxes of Christmas decorations and get the sanctuary "spruced up" before the Open Arms Christmas Program. But before we begin, we need energy for the task! You are invited to bring a dish to share. See you there!

Day & Time: Sunday, December 9 following the Divine Service

Location: Refreshments in church narthex  
Decorating in church sanctuary

# LIFTING UP ONE ANOTHER IN PRAYER

## In Celebration

### Birthdays

✝ None this week

### Rebirthdays (Baptismal Anniversaries)

✝ Amy Balog, 12/5

### Wedding Anniversaries

✝ None this week

### Membership Anniversaries

✝ None this week

## In Need

### Recent Requests

- ✝ Janet Evans (stepmother of Kati Durden), for health and healing.
- ✝ John Kateen (former member of the congregation), for health and healing.
- ✝ Kerstin Popescu (mother of Adrian Popescu), for health and healing.
- ✝ Persecuted Christians in India, where Hindu radicals attempted to burn a pastor alive.

### Ongoing Requests

- ✝ Jack and Carolyn DeLong, for health and healing.
- ✝ Hannibal (Hank) Durden, for growth and development.
- ✝ Tom Lawton, for health and healing.
- ✝ Willard and Wilma Meyer (grandparents of J.P. Morr), for continued health and adjustment to new living conditions.
- ✝ Heidi Schnakenberg (niece of Clara Smith), for health and safety.
- ✝ Rhonda Zacharias (friend of the Millers), for health and healing.
- ✝ Rev. Dr. Jonathan & Dcs. Cheryl Naumann, missionaries to the Dominican Republic, & all synodically deployed missionaries.
- ✝ Lutheran Church of the Ascension & Pastor David Miller
- ✝ Open Arms Lutheran Child Development Ctr & Director, Barbara Collins
- ✝ LCMS President Matthew Harrison & all synodical officials
- ✝ English District Bishop Jamison Hardy & all district officials
- ✝ President Donald Trump & all U.S. government officials



THE LUTHERAN  
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RESTROOMS

Restrooms are located to the right of the church entrance, down the hallway. Please see an usher if you need assistance.

NURSERY

Children are always welcome and encouraged to be in worship! For those who need it, however, we have a staffed nursery located down the hallway in the preschool. It is intended for children from birth to age 5. Hours of operation are 8:30 – 11:30 A.M.

BABY CHANGING STATION

For your convenience, a baby changing station is located in both the men's and women's restrooms on this level, just down the hall. For further privacy, a mother-infant station, which includes a rocking chair and changing table, is available in the enclosed lounge of the women's restroom downstairs.

BUSY BAGS

Each Sunday your child may pick up a "busy bag" from the stand in the Narthex. Each busy bag has different books and activities for your child to keep them busy during the Divine Service when they are unable to focus. Please return the pouch and its contents to the stand in the Narthex at the end of the service. This way the pouches will be clean and ready for the next Sunday's service.

PRINT RESOURCES

Resources for personal devotions as well as understanding Lutheran faith and worship, are available to anyone gratis in the narthex by the bulletins:

- *Portals of Prayer*: Quarterly devotional resource for private prayer.
- *A Simple Explanation of the Christian Faith*: Luther's Small Catechism in convenient booklet form.
- *A Simple Explanation of the Church Service*: Easy to understand guide to Sunday's liturgy in the Divine Service.
- *What About . . . Fellowship in the Lord's Supper*: An explanation of one of the Lutheran church's most misunderstood doctrines. Learn more about the biblical, historic, and loving practice of closed Communion.