



WELCOME TO
ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Advent 3 December 14, 2014

For this is he of whom it is written:
'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,
Who will prepare Your way before You.'

Matthew 11:10

A Service of the Word

Setting adapted from TLH p.5 – the Order of Morning Service

VISITORS: TLH (hymns 1-660) is the RED book, WS (hymns 701-800) is the TAN book
(If you have difficulty standing, please feel free to remain seated as needed)

Preservice Devotion: Psalm 126, forepart of TLH p.153

OPENING HYMN

TLH 66

Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19

Minister (M) In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



Congreg. (C) A - - men

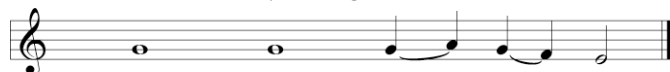
M Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.



C Who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

M I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.



C And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

Psalm 32:5

M Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will, and true obedience to

Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

M Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all. *Mark 16:16; John 1:12*



C A - - - men

INTROIT

Ps 85:8-9, 12-13 (antiphon: 85:7)

M I will hear what God the Lord will speak,
C For He will speak peace
M To His people and to His saints;
C But let them not turn back to folly.
M Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,
C That glory may dwell in our land.
M Yes, the Lord will give what is good;
C And our land will yield its increase.
M Righteousness will go before Him,
C And shall make His footsteps our pathway.
M Show us Your mercy, Lord,
C And grant us Your salvation.
M Glory be to God...

GLORIA PATRI ~ Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

KYRIE ~ Lord Have Mercy

Mark 10:47

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS ~ Glory to God in the Highest Luke 2:14; John 1:29

Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up - on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

M The Lord be with you.

Luke 1:28

C **And also with you.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

M Let us pray ... one God, now and forever;

C A - - - men.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61:1–4,8–11

“The Spirit of the Lord God *is* upon Me,
Because the Lord has anointed Me
To preach good tidings to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives,
And the opening of the prison to *those who are* bound;
2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord,
And the day of vengeance of our God;
To comfort all who mourn,
3 To console those who mourn in Zion,
To give them beauty for ashes,
The oil of joy for mourning,
The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;
That they may be called trees of righteousness,
The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”
4 And they shall rebuild the old ruins,
They shall raise up the former desolations,
And they shall repair the ruined cities,
The desolations of many generations.
8 “For I, the Lord, love justice;
I hate robbery for burnt offering;
I will direct their work in truth,
And will make with them an everlasting covenant.
9 Their descendants shall be known among the Gentiles,
And their offspring among the people.
All who see them shall acknowledge them,
That they *are* the posterity *whom* the Lord has blessed.”
10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
My soul shall be joyful in my God;
For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
As a bridegroom decks *himself* with ornaments,
And as a bride adorns *herself* with her jewels.
11 For as the earth brings forth its bud,
As the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth,
So the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring
forth before all the nations.

GRADUAL

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of
Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He *is* just and having
salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Blessed *is* he who comes in the name of the Lord! We have blessed
you from the house of the Lord. Hallelujah!



C Halle - lu - jah! Halle-lu-jah! Halle-lu - - jah!

GOSPEL LESSON *(rise)*

M And this is eternal life, that we know the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom He has sent.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord!

John 1:6-8,19-28

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John. ⁷ This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. ⁸ He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light.

¹⁹ Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?”

²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.”

²¹ And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.”

“Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”

²² Then they said to him, “Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?”

²³ He said: “I *am*

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

“Make straight the way of the Lord,” ’

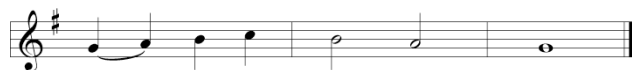
as the prophet Isaiah said.”

²⁴ Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. ²⁵ And they asked him, saying, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

²⁶ John answered them, saying, “I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. ²⁷ It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose.”

²⁸ These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

M These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, we may have life in His name.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

CREED ~ The Apostles’ Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty.
From there 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.

HYMN

TLH 59

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

SERMON

Psalm 126

A Song of Ascents.

- 1 When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion,
We were like those who dream.
- 2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
And our tongue with singing.
Then they said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”
- 3 The Lord has done great things for us,
And we are glad.
- 4 Bring back our captivity, O Lord,
As the streams in the South.
- 5 Those who sow in tears
Shall reap in joy.
- 6 He who continually goes forth weeping,
Bearing seed for sowing,
Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing,
Bringing his sheaves *with him.*

**In Your Dreams –
the LORD Brings Back the
Captivity of Zion**

M The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your
hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free Spir-it. A-men.

HYMN

TLH 62

Oh, Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel

GATHERING OF OUR THANK OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

Brief silence

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are held captive to unbelief, that the Lord would lead them to realize their bondage and so proclaim to them the liberty found only in His coming, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are held captive to fear, that the Lord would break down their false sense of self-refuge and build up a new refuge through faith in Jesus and the love and power of God which found in the cross and resurrection, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are held captive to grief, that the God of all comfort would be their consolation and turn their sorrow into the joyful hope of His promised harvest, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are held captive to drugs, alcohol, gambling, Internet pornography or any other kind of destructive addiction, that the Spirit would free them by the power of Jesus' blood for forgiveness and new life, and empower them to seek the appropriate support system to curb their sinful addiction, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are held captive to persecution in lands where the name of Christ is outlawed and for missionaries that serve abroad, that God would let their lips not be bound by physical threats, but that He would protect them and give them wisdom to carry on the proclamation of salvation found in Jesus alone, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those whose lives are held captive to isolation and loneliness, for those living alone, in long term care facilities, in prisons, in places where there is no

church within driving distance, in families where there are no other Christians, that God would extend the fellowship of His people to share their mutual burdens and encourage their faith in the Lord, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those whose bodies are held captive to sickness and the prospect of death, that the Lord of life would comfort them with the hope of the joy of the resurrection and, if it be His will, release them from the affliction, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those held captive to guilt, that the Word of God would break their bonds by the full and finished redemption that is in Christ Jesus and find their assurance in the gift of the Lord's body and blood found in the holy sacrament, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Trusting in His mercy, we leave these petitions to the good will of our Father in Jesus name, to whom we also join to pray,

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!

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

M The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



C **A - men, A - men, A - - men.**

CLOSING HYMN

WS 705

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

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Welcome! We wish a warm welcome to our guests this morning. It is our mission to share the good news that God gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him has eternal life (John 3:16-17). May that good news go with you. Feel free to sign our guest book in the entry way. For more information about our church see the visitor comment cards and brochures in the entry way or visit our website at AscensionBatavia.org. We hope to see you again!

Participating in this Service of the Word

Music Asst.: [] Lead Usher: []
Minister: Pr. David Pfeiffer