



WELCOME TO  
ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH!

**Christmas 1 December 28, 2014**

For my eyes have seen Your salvation,  
a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of Your people Israel. *Luke 2:30, 32*

## 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 95, forepart of TLH p.143

### OPENING PRAYER

Minister (M): O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your Holy Word. We pray You to open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit that by the preaching of Your Word we may be brought to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and in death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake. Amen.

### OPENING HYMN

**TLH 84:1-4**

*Christians, Awake, Salute the Happy Morn*

### 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.

**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

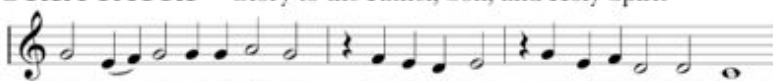
who believe on His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all. *Mark 16:16; John 1:12*




C            A        -        -        -        men

M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord,

# 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;



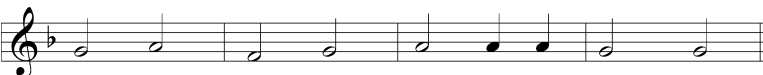
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

# 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.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

M O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored us to Your image. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - - - men.

FIRST LESSON

**Isaiah 52:7-10**

7 How beautiful upon the mountains  
 Are the feet of him who brings good news,  
 Who proclaims peace,  
 Who brings glad tidings of good *things*,  
 Who proclaims salvation,

Who says to Zion,  
 “Your God reigns!”  
 8 Your watchmen shall lift up *their* voices,  
 With their voices they shall sing together;  
 For they shall see eye to eye  
 When the Lord brings back Zion.  
 9 Break forth into joy, sing together,  
 You waste places of Jerusalem!  
 For the Lord has comforted His people,  
 He has redeemed Jerusalem.  
 10 The Lord has made bare His holy arm  
 In the eyes of all the nations;  
 And all the ends of the earth shall see  
 The salvation of our God.

## SECOND LESSON

### **Galatians 4:4–7**

<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son,  
 born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were  
 under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

<sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son  
 into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” <sup>7</sup> Therefore you are no  
 longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through  
 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 103**

*To Shepherds as They Watched by Night*

## SERMON

### Luke 2:17-18

Now when [the shepherds] had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

## How to Make Christmas Last

M The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:7*

## OFFERTORY

*Psalm 51:10-12*

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

**WS 713**

*Your Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We*

## GATHERING OF OUR THANK OFFERING

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

O Lord God, Father in heaven, in the fullness of time You sent forth Your Son to be the Light of the world and to offer Himself to redeem all people. We give You praise and thanksgiving for so graciously providing for us and our salvation.

We ask, Dear Father, that You would show us Your mercy, deliver us from all evil, and rescue us from the punishment that our sins deserve. Guide and lead us by faith in Your Son so that we trust in Him alone for our forgiveness. Make us sure and certain that salvation is now ours, not because of anything within us, but because of what our Lord Jesus has done. For He was born into this world as a child, He kept Your holy law perfectly for us, and He died in our place on the cross.

Dear Lord, we implore You to let Your grace rest upon our hearts by the working of Your Holy Spirit. Make the faith that you have created in us grow stronger and stronger. Let Your work of faith show itself by what we do in our lives day by day. Even as we have been reborn as children of light by Your Spirit, so lead us to live ever holier lives, for Your glory.

Dear Father, let the brightness of Your glory shine upon all in need of Your almighty aid. Shine brightly in those hearts which are filled with darkness and those homes which are overshadowed with sorrow or suffering. Give the light of Your truth to all in authority in our own land and elsewhere. Be present with the power of Your Word among all nations and peoples, and bring them to faith in the holy Child Jesus, whom You sent for the redemption of all mankind. Let the light of His life, death, and resurrection be that light of divine truth which shall brighten every land.

We pray for our sick, our hurt, our troubled, our fallen, and our absent fellow believers. Grant unto them whatever You in Your perfect wisdom know that they need: whether it be soundness of body, strength of faith, or security of hope; and grant them hearts of repentance over sin and assurance of salvation in Christ. Hear us, O Father, in these our petitions, and direct and govern our hearts that we may be preserved in the one Christian faith unto everlasting life. We ask this in our Savior's name, as 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.



Music Asst.: C. Hubbard  
Lead Usher: T. Louderman