



WELCOME TO
ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH!

THE CIRCUMCISION AND NAME OF JESUS

January 1, 2015

And you shall call His name Jesus,
for He will save His people from their sins *Mt. 1:21*

A Service of the Word

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 24, forepart of TLH p.25

INVOCATION AND OPENING LITANY

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

Congr. (C, spoken) Amen.

M O Lord, open Thou my lips.

C And my mouth shall show forth Your praise

M At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

C O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the Beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

♪ SING (w intro, from TLH 136:1-3):

**Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship,
Come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Shepherds in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light:
Come and worship:
Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Sages, leave your contemplations;
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star:
Come and worship,
Come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 100:1-5

M Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness;

C Come before His presence with singing.

M Know that the Lord, He is God;

C It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;

M We are His people

C and the sheep of His pasture.

M Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,

C And into His courts with praise.

M Be thankful to Him,

C and bless His name.

M For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting,

C And His truth endures to all generations.

M O come, let us worship the Lord.

C For He is our Maker.

♪ SING (w intro, from TLH 136:4):

**Saints, before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His Temple shall appear:
Come and worship,
Come and worship;
Worship Christ, the new-born King.**

M The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

THE COLLECT

M Let us pray,

Lord God, You made Your beloved Son, our Savior, subject to the Law and caused Him to shed His blood on our behalf. Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit that our hearts may be made pure from all sins; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Galatians 3:23-29

²³ But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was

our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:21

²¹ And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

CREED ~ The Athanasian Creed (Excerpts)

M It is necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.

M He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages;

C And He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age:

M Perfect God and perfect man,

C composed of a rational soul and human flesh;

M equal to the Father with respect to His divinity,

C less than the Father with respect to His humanity.

M Although He is God and man,

C He is not two, but one Christ:

M One, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh,

C but by the assumption of the humanity into God;

M one altogether, not by confusion of substance,

C but by unity of person.

M For as the rational soul and flesh is one man,

C so God and man is one Christ,

M Who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead,

C Ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

M At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds.

C And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.

M This is the catholic* faith;

C whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.

* catholic = universal, Christian

HYMN

TLH 116

To the Name of Our Salvation

THE SERMON

Numbers 6:22–27

²² And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ²³ “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, “This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:

²⁴ “The Lord bless you and keep you;

²⁵ The Lord make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;

²⁶ The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace.” ’

²⁷ “So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them.”

Words that Speak a Blessing into Being

OFFERING

PRAYERS

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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!

THE BENEDICTION

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 Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

TLH 123

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

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Welcome! We wish a warm welcome to our worshippers this morning. It was our pleasure to serve you with God’s Word of forgiveness and salvation through our Savior Jesus. Visitors: feel free to fill out a visitor comment card and sign our guest book in the entry way. We hope to see you again!

Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed,
Because His compassions fail not.

They are new every morning;
Great is Your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22–23

May His faithful goodness go with you in this New Year.

Ever in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

