



WELCOME TO  
ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH!

**Epiphany 4    January 31, 2016**

Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

*John 16:24b*

## 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 51, forepart of TLH p.134

### OPENING HYMN

**TLH 387:1-4** (red hymnal)

*Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice*

### 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, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

M Have mercy upon me, O God,

*Psalm 51*

**C According to Your lovingkindness;**

M According to the multitude of Your tender mercies,

**C Blot out my transgressions.**

M Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

**C And cleanse me from my sin.**

M For I acknowledge my transgressions,

**C And my sin is always before me.**

M Against You, You only, have I sinned,

**C And done this evil in Your sight—**

M That You may be found just when You speak,

**C And blameless when You judge.**

M Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,

**C And in sin my mother conceived me.**

M Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts,

**C And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.**

M Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

**C Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

M Make me hear joy and gladness,

**C That the bones You have broken may rejoice.**

M Hide Your face from my sins,

**C And blot out all my iniquities.**

M Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
**C And renew a steadfast spirit within me.**  
M Do not cast me away from Your presence,  
**C And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.**  
M Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,  
**C And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.**  
M Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,  
**C And sinners shall be converted to You.**  
M Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation,  
**C And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.**  
M O Lord, open my lips,  
**C And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.**  
M For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it;  
**C You do not delight in burnt offering.**  
M The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit,  
**C A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.**  
M Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion;  
**C Build the walls of Jerusalem.**  
M Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, With burnt offering and whole burnt offering;  
**C Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.**  
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 Amen.**

♪ Sing (a cappella, no accompaniment):

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

M The Lord be with you.  
**C And also with you.**

*Luke 1:28*

#### COLLECT OF THE DAY

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



**C A - - - men.**

#### FIRST LESSON

##### 2 Corinthians 6:1–10

<sup>1</sup> We then, *as* workers together *with Him* also plead with *you* not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup> For He says:

*“In an acceptable time I have heard you,  
And in the day of salvation I have helped you.”*

Behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.

<sup>3</sup> We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. <sup>4</sup> But in all *things* we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, <sup>5</sup> in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; <sup>6</sup> by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, <sup>7</sup> by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, <sup>8</sup> by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and *yet* true; <sup>9</sup> as unknown, and *yet* well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and *yet* not killed; <sup>10</sup> as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and *yet* possessing all things.

### GRADUAL

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For consider Him who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 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 16:20–24**

<sup>20</sup> Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. <sup>21</sup> A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. <sup>22</sup> Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.

<sup>23</sup> “And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. <sup>24</sup> Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

**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 387:5-8 (red hymnal)

*Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice*

SERMON

**Psalm 51:10-13\***

- <sup>10</sup> Create for me a clean heart, O God,  
And renew a steadfast spirit within me  
<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from Your presence,  
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.  
<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of Your salvation  
And may You support me with a willing spirit

*\* translation by Professor John Pfeiffer*

**RESTORE TO US  
THE JOY OF SALVATION**

*Annual Pastor's Letter – January 2016*

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.

SONG

*Down in My Heart*

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart.  
 Down in my heart, down in my heart.  
 I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart.  
 Down in my heart to stay.

REFRAIN And I'm so happy, so very happy.  
 I have the love of Jesus in my heart.  
 And I'm so happy, so very happy.  
 I have the love of Jesus in my heart.

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus down in my heart.  
 Down in my heart, down in my heart.  
 I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus down in my heart.  
 Down in my heart to stay. [REFRAIN]

I've got the peace that passeth understanding down in my heart.  
 Down in my heart, down in my heart.  
 I've got the peace that passeth understanding down in my heart.  
 Down in my heart to stay.

I've got the wonderful love of my blessed Redeemer way down  
 in the depths of my heart.  
 Down in the depths of my heart, down in the depths of my  
 heart.  
 I've got the wonderful love of my blessed Redeemer way down  
 in the depths of my heart.  
 Down in my heart to stay. [REFRAIN]

GATHERING OF OUR THANK OFFERING



## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us 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

**TLH 387:9-10** (red hymnal)

*Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice*

Liturgical settings from The Lutheran Hymnal ©1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. License #000013678. Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations taken from the New King James Version ©1982 Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

**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](http://AscensionBatavia.org). We hope to see you again!

### Participating in this Service of the Word

Music:           M. Kuehne           Lead Usher:    G. Suwanski  
Minister:        Pastor D. Pfeiffer