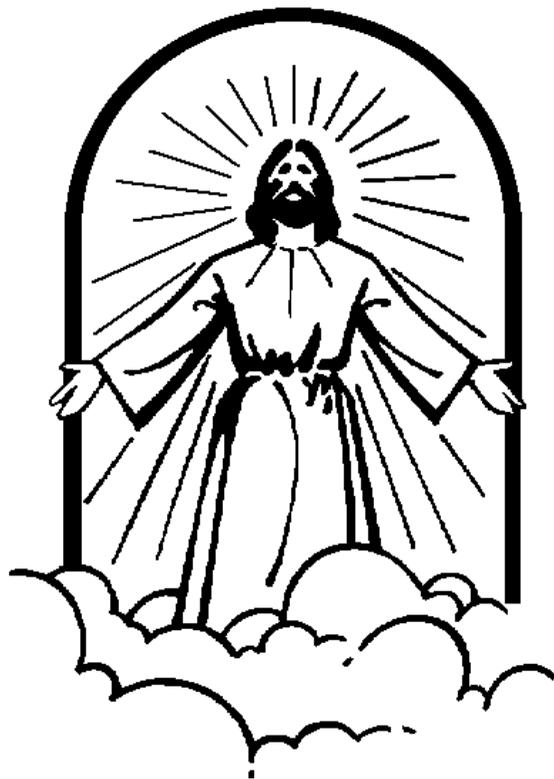


December 17, 2017



Ascension Lutheran Church
A member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession
(clclutheran.org)

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Ascension Lutheran is a family of Christians intent on sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and His victory over death

The Third Sunday In Advent

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)

VISITORS: It is a blessing to have you join us for worship today. We want you to be aware that because God’s Word urges us to be instructed and agreed in faith before taking the Lord’s Supper together, we kindly ask those who are not in fellowship with the CLC to first meet with the pastor before coming to Communion. We want to share in this blessing with you and do so on the basis of a united understanding of Christ and His teachings. If you would like more information, the pastor would be happy to meet with you. You can read more about our practice of “Close Communion” in the blue trifold pamphlet in the entryway. Thank you for your understanding. *1 Cor. 1:10; 10:16-17; 11:18-29*

PRESERVICE MEDITATION: Psalm 4 (page 123 in The Lutheran Hymnal)

HYMN 706 (Worship Supplement) *“Go Tell It On The Mountain”*

A Service Of The Word, page 22 (Worship Supplement)

FIRST LESSON: Hebrews 1:1-12

¹ God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by *His Son*, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; ³ who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. ⁵ For to which of the angels did He ever say: “You are My Son, today I have begotten You”? And again: “I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son”? ⁶ But when He again brings the Firstborn into the world, He says: “Let all the angels of God worship Him.” ⁷ And of the angels He says: “Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire.” ⁸ But to the Son *He* says: “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.” ¹⁰ And: “You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. ¹¹ They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; ¹² like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail.”

PSALM OF THE DAY (*responsively*) – Psalm 98

L: Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things;

C: HIS RIGHT HAND AND HIS HOLY ARM HAVE GAINED HIM THE VICTORY.

L: LORD has made known His salvation;

C: HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS HE HAS REVEALED IN THE SIGHT OF THE NATIONS.
L: He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;
C: ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH HAVE SEEN THE SALVATION OF OUR GOD.
L: Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth; break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.
C: SING TO THE LORD WITH THE HARP, WITH THE HARP AND THE SOUND OF A PSALM,
L: with trumpets and the sound of a horn; shout joyfully before the LORD, the King.
C: LET THE SEA ROAR, AND ALL ITS FULLNESS, THE WORLD AND THOSE WHO DWELL IN IT;
L: let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills be joyful together before the LORD,
C: FOR HE IS COMING TO JUDGE THE EARTH. WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS HE SHALL JUDGE THE WORLD, AND THE PEOPLES WITH EQUITY.

SECOND LESSON – the Gospel: John 1:29-34 *rise*

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' ³¹ I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water." ³² And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. ³³ I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

THE NICENE CREED (page 5, Worship Supplement)

HYMN 95 (The Lutheran Hymnal) "*Savior Of The Nations, Come*"

SERMON: Haggai 2:6-9

GOD GIVES US OUR HEART'S DESIRE

⁶ For thus says the LORD of hosts: "Once more (it *is* a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; ⁷ and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory," says the LORD of hosts. ⁸ "The silver *is* Mine, and the gold *is* Mine," says the LORD of hosts. ⁹ "The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former," says the LORD of hosts. "And in this place I will give peace," says the LORD of hosts.

OFFERTORY (page 16, Worship Supplement)

Psalms 51:10-12

The Offering from grateful hearts

HYMN 94 (The Lutheran Hymnal) "*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*"

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH, & THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT (page 17, Worship Supplement)

O LORD, NOW LET YOUR SERVANT – *Nunc Dimittis sung* (page 20, WS) Luke 2:29-32

THANKSGIVING (page 21, Worship Supplement) *sung* Luke 7:50; Psalm 100:2

BENEDICTION Numbers 6:24-26

HYMN 105:1, 5-8 (The Lutheran Hymnal) "*Praise God The Lord, Ye Sons Of Men*"

WELCOME, VISITORS! We're very happy that you are here today! You are always welcome.

Please leave a record of your visit in our guest book in the narthex.

TODAY our usher is Rick Louderman. After our BIBLE STUDY there will be a WEDDING SHOWER for MOLLY KOMON.

FRIDAY: North Aurora Bible study: 10:00 AM.

SUNDAY: WORSHIP SERVICE: 10:00 AM; SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE STUDY: 11:15 AM.

NEXT SUNDAY our usher is Greg Suwanski. Next Sunday, Christmas Eve, our morning service will be a reading and carol service (no evening service). Immediately afterwards we will have a POTLUCK DINNER. There will be a NORTH AURORA CARE CENTER SERVICE at 3:00 PM, and a BATAVIA REHAB CENTER SERVICE at 4:00 PM. CHRISTMAS DAY we have a SERVICE at 10:00 AM.

WE'RE ALL INVITED to the WEDDING of David Windsor and Molly Komon on Sunday, DECEMBER 31, at 4:00 PM here in our church.

CLC NEWS: Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer of Trinity Lutheran Church in Spokane, WA, has returned the call to be co-pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mankato, MN.

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH STRIVES TO BE:

A church which exists to proclaim, to preserve, and to spread the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

A church which values faithfulness to the Word above any seeming organizational advantage.

A church which has but one Master, Christ, bowing to no human authority or tradition in any matter of faith.

A church which fosters Christian unity by combating error even while teaching the revealed truth of the Bible.

A church which gives priority to Christian education on all levels of age.

A church which respects your privacy in giving.

A church which refuses to become a political pressure group.

A church which motivates people to function in matters of social concern as individuals, each according to his or her judgment.

A church which seeks people in order to serve them.