



“...in my Father’s house ...”

Ascension Lutheran Church

Landover Hills, MD

Phone: 301-577-0500

www.alutheranchurch.com



December 29, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome and Notices

Prelude

“Away in a Manger”
Michael Hassell

(Stand) Invocation & Confession

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: Praise, honor, and glory to You, O Lord our God.

C: With angels and archangels we magnify Your name. Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, goodwill towards all people.

L: Forgive us, O Lord, if we rejoice more in earthbound gifts than in Your Heaven-sent Gift.

C: Forgive us, O Lord, if we are more eager to tell others about earthly treasures than about the heavenly Word made flesh.

L: Forgive us, O Lord, if we have made Christmas more important than Christ.

C: Forgive us, O Lord, and accept our thanks for this eternal gift conceived out of Your love for the world.

L: With a heart full of mercy and compassion, God saves us and forgives us all our sins. Christ, the dawn from on high, shines upon us, and the light of the Holy Spirit guides our feet into the way of peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

ELW 269

“Once In Royal David's City”

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895

Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876

- 1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.**

- 2. He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.**

- 3. And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heav'n above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.**

- 4. Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
there his children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned.**

Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray:

C: O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. 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. Amen.

(Sit) Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

¹The Lord said to Moses, ²“Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.” ³Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the Lord brought you out from this place. . . .

¹¹“When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, ¹²you shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the Lord’s. ¹³Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go

, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 111; antiphon: v. 9a, b

¹Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. ²Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them. ³Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. ⁴He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and merciful. ⁵He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever. ⁶He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations. ⁷The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy; ⁸they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. ⁹He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!

¹⁰The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

¹²As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

(Stand) The Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia”

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C: O Glory to you, O Lord.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.” ³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting

for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

R: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Sit) Message



(Stand) Hymn of the Day “Jesus, What a Wonderful Child”

ELW297

Text: African American Traditional, alt.

Music: African American Traditional, arr.

Jeffrey Radford, 1953-2002: © 1992 Pilgrim Press

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Je - sus, Je - sus, oh, what a won - der - ful child.



Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly, meek, and



mild; new life, new hope the child will bring.



Lis - ten to the an - gels sing: “Glo - ry, glo - ry,



glo - ry,” let the heav - ens ring!

Text: African American traditional, alt.

Music: WONDERFUL CHILD, African American traditional

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from
Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from
the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

(Kneel/Sit) **Prayers**

ELW 691

“Accept O Lord, The Gifts We Bring”

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957; © 1990 Augsburg Fortress
Music: English folk tune; arr. Alice Parker, b. 1925; © 1995 Augsburg Fortress
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L: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

(After each portion of the prayers:)

L: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

(The prayers conclude:)

L: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, the Word made flesh and the Light of the world.

C: Amen

(Stand) **The Peace**

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

All may greet one another with a word of peace:

“Peace be with you” ... “God bless you” ... “God loves you”...

(Sit) **The Gathering of Gifts**

Any tithes or offerings may be placed into the offering plate by the entrance to the Sanctuary at the beginning or the end of service. For those who are worshiping with us via live-stream, please consider mailing your offering to the Church office or giving online through our website.

(Stand) **Presenting our Gifts**

“Give Thanks”

TFF292

Text and Tune: Henry Smith; © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

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Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One,
give thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ, his Son.

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One,
give thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. And
now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Last time

The Offering Prayer

L: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C: in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you embrace our lives with your great love for humanity. With joy and gladness we ask that these gifts may be for many a sign of that love, and that we may continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

L: Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread; forgive us our
sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;**

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

(Sit) The Benediction

L: Let us bless the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

L: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

ELW 275

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3;

Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4

Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

- 1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

- 2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

- 3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

- 4. All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

The Sending

L: Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude Regent Square (Angels, from the Realms of Glory)
Edwin C. Johnson

SERVING US IN WORSHIP

Assistant	Morris Hymes, Jr.
Musician	Ben Harris
Assistant	Andy House
Reader	Mike Walker
Greeters	Melanie Demones
Altar Guild	Pat Broady, Ginny Lee, Jannie Goldston, Kathy Walker
Ushers	Ade Ojurongbe, David Thom, Ekanem Ekanem
Counters	Harry Sessums, Roberta White



Acknowledgments

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ELW Setting #4Agnus Dei liturgy (c) 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #8221.

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OneLicense A

Welcome Pastor and Lori Agne!

We invite you to offer a Christmas Card to our new future Pastor and his wife, Pastor Chris Agne and Lori Agne. We will collect these in a basket in the Narthex. We will send these all together to arrive at their Missouri home in time for Christmas. We want them to feel welcomed in advance of their arrival here.

Important Dates

January 12, 2025 Voters Meeting 2025 Budget

Prayer List

In order to keep the prayer list current the Board of Elders will edit the list once a month. If you have the name of a loved one that you would like to keep on the prayer list permanently, please contact Marj Nilsson @ 301-442-6253
marjorienilsson@hotmail.com.

Sunday @6

To the Homebound and Sick, we invite you to participate in Sunday @ 6, a weekly worship call. We have prayer, Scripture, a devotion and music. We invite, welcome and encourage you to join us in Christian fellowship every Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

The call is toll-free:(267) 807-9601

Sunday @ 6

Enter this code:773-431-475 #

For further information, call Alice Gaither at (301) 459-4194!

Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible study began again on September 1st. All participants are meeting in the music room following service.

We are studying the book of Esther. If you are awaiting a miracle that has not come, feel inadequate, threatened, or pushed into overpowering situations, this is the study for you. We will explore the history of the Persian empire, the diaspora, and the plight of Israel during this period. We will look at other scriptures in both the old and new testaments that support and expand our understanding of Esther's story. We will learn how Esther's story has contemporary applications for our lives today. To include the most people possible, we will be meeting on Sundays when choir is not in rehearsal.

Adult Bible Study Schedule -Esther

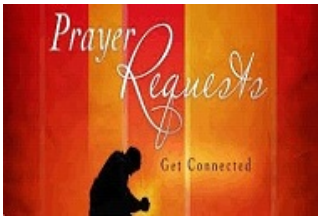
January 12, 26; February 16; March 2, 16

April 13; May 4, 18; June 1, 15

Special Prayer Request

Both Pastor Gary and his wife Tracy have suffered major medical issues in the past weeks. Tracy has broken 2 bones in her leg and Pastor Gary has had numerous issues that resulted in surgery. They are both recovering at home but could surely benefit from our prayers and cards of support and encouragement. Pastor Gary was one of Ascension's visiting pastors during the late summer. He also served as the Chaplain for LWML for several years.

Rev. Gary and Tracy Pomrenke
8719 McKibbin Dr.
Chesterfield, VA 23838



***Ascension Lutheran Church
Prayer Request***

Please put your prayer requests in the Prayer Diary at the rear of the Sanctuary so we can add your need to our prayers.

Pastor Gary Pomrenke and wife Tracie, prayers for comfort and healing.

Ed Neibling, son-in-law of Russ and Ruth Ford, prayers for healing

Ginny Raft, former Ascension teacher, missionary and Daughter of former members Ruth and Russell Ford.

The Ojorongbe /Osho Family, upon the recent passing of Abidemi "Demi" Ojorongbe

Ernestine Hayes, Prayers for healing.

Jannie Goldston, prayers for healing.

Bonnie Garrett, Sister-In-Law, of Rob Garrett, prayers for healing

Jenny DeMaio, Prayers for healing.

Marj Nilsson, Prayers for healing.

Calvin Lee, Prayers for healing.

Herman McNeil, Prayers for comfort and healing.

Lois Fulford, Prayers for continued healing.

Zachary Plue, Prayers for continued healing.

Susie Nilsson, Prayers for continued healing.

Joyce Bailey, Prayers for continued healing.

Helen Bell, Prayers for healing

Alice Gaither, Prayers for healing.

Kent & Walt Nilsson, Prayers for improved vision.

Ascension Shut-Ins:

John DellaGatta; Lois Flemming;

Olivia Powell; Arthur & Mildred Smith, Helen Riley.

Ascension Weekly

Ascension Lutheran Church
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Information & Notices

Dec. 29, 2024

Services

Divine Worship

Sunday at 9:00 am

Holy Communion is
celebrated in most services.

Holy Baptism

Arrangements for Baptism
can be made with the
Church Office.

Weddings

Weddings for active
Ascension members are
arranged with the Church
Office

Please Note

Adult Bible Study: Bible
study meets on Sundays
after worship, at 10:30 am.

Staff:

Gwen Neal Office Mgr.
Ben Harris Parish Musician

Office open Mon-Fri., 8-4:30
Closed Holidays.

Please allow us to share
Church News with you via
email. Send your **email
address** to the Church
Office at
ascenluth@aol.com.

Sunday, December 29,

Christmas 1

9:00 am

Worship

6:00 pm

Sunday @ 6

Sunday, January 5

Epiphany

9:00 am

Worship

6:00 pm

Sunday @ 6



Altar Flowers Presented By

Please Note that flowers will only be provided when they are sponsored by members. Sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board in the Church Office Wing.



Altar Flowers

***Altar Flowers* \$50.00**

***Sanctuary Lights* \$ 5.00**

**Ascension Lutheran Church: Becoming Caring
Servants who Extend Life in Christ to Diverse people**

Call Committee Prayer Vigil:

Our designated prayer time for the Call process is 7 pm. Please remember to set some kind of an alarm for this time daily for the remainder of the call process. I know many of us are already praying, so let's have this one time daily when we do it all together.

For the Call Committee and Pastoral Candidates, please pray for...

- *The Lord's Guidance
- *The Lord's Discernment

This is not an exhaustive list so please add any other prayer that comes to mind

Thank you!
Ascension Board of Elders

Birthdays & Anniversaries This Week



Kadzo West



Bill & Melanie Demones
Aarom & Camile McNeil

SERVING US IN WORSHIP, Next Sunday, Jan. 5

Assistant	Annette Singletary
Musician	Ben Harris
Message	Mike Walker
Reader	Vivian Licorish
Greeters	Melanie Demones
Altar Guild	Wells Family, Ernestine Bivins, Vivian Licorish, Dianne McGill
Ushers	Dan Fulford, Jr., Carl Wilhoit, Darrell Dockery
Counters	Vivian Licorish, Morris Hymes, Jr.