

Ascension Lutheran Church

The Nativity of Our Lord December 24, 2021

Welcome, All, In the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

WELCOME

Welcome to Ascension Lutheran Church and to our Christmas Eve service. We are glad that you have joined us on this very special evening to hear the Word of God and share in the Holy Communion. We pray that your life may again be transformed by the nativity of our Lord and God's loving gift of a Savior.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All baptized worshipers are invited to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

OUR MUSICIANS

Special music tonight is provided by Shelby Brass, Catherine Lilly, soprano, who is a sophomore at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, and organist and pianist Steve White.

Please join us Sunday morning December 26 at 10:30 a.m. for a traditional service of Lessons and Carols.

[P] Pastor [C] Congregation [A] Assisting Minister
*Congregation stands

PRELUDE

***PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST** (Please stand as you are able.)

[P] On the twenty-fifth day of December,
unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth
and then formed man and woman in his own image.

Several thousand years after the flood,
when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant.

Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;
thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt.

Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges;
one thousand years from the anointing of David as king;
in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel.

In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of
Rome.

The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;

the whole world being at peace,
Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,
desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming,
being conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and nine months having passed since his conception,
was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary.

Today is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

***HYMN #283** **“O Come All Ye Faithful”**

***CHRISTMAS GREETING AND PRAYER**

[P] The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, born of Mary, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

[C] And also with you.

[P] Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C] Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Please remain standing.

***HYMN #257** **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”, Verse 1**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

[A] Blessed are you, God of light and life, for you promised that a light would shine and a child would be born to us.

As we light these candles, God has been born among us. In every corner of the world, shine this night with your peace. In every corner of our hearts, shine this night with your grace.

[C] O beloved people of God, let us behold God's glory — full of grace and truth — and rejoice at Christ's nativity. Amen.

Silence for reflection while all of the candles are lit.

***HYMN #257 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” Verse 2**

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Please sit.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah’s king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God’s passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

[A] A reading from Isaiah.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in
blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

[A] The word of the Lord.

[C] Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11–14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity.

Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

[A] A reading from Titus.

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

[A] The word of the Lord.

[C] Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

***HYMN #289**

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

[P] The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

[C] Glory to you, O Lord.

***THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL (PART 1)**

Luke 2:1-7

[P] In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

***HYMN #277**

“Away In the Manger” Verses 1 & 3

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

***THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL (PART 2)**

Luke 2:8-20

[P] In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

[P] The Gospel of the Lord.

[C] Praise to you, O Christ.

***HYMN OF PRAISE #270 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

Please sit.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

[P] Holy God, We've heard this story a million times— Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds. We've heard it a million times, but we want to hear it like it's the first. So move among us. Circle back. Draw close. Crack open our hearts and fill them with your goodness. Help us to hear what it is you might be saying to us with curiosity, joy, and hope. This is an invitation. Come be here with us. Gratefully we pray, **[C] Amen.**

SERMON

The Rev. Christina Auch

SPECIAL MUSIC

Shelby Brass Ensemble
Catherine Lilly

Please stand.

***HYMN OF CELEBRATION #296**

“What Child Is This?”

***NICENE CREED**

[P] God has gathered his people into one Church through Christ. Together with sisters and brothers throughout the world, we confess our faith...

**[C] 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly
human.**

**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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

[A] Joining our voices with all in heaven and on earth praising the Word made flesh in Jesus, let us pray for the world to which Christ comes, the church whom Christ calls, and all people in need whom Christ loves.

Silence for reflection.

[A] We bring to the manger our longing for the visible unity of the church of Jesus Christ, that undivided it proclaim the one whose birth brings good news of glad tidings to all people. Lord, in your mercy,

[C] hear our prayer.

[A] We bring to the manger hope for the well-being of creation, that every valley be exalted and every rough place be made plain so that every living thing may flourish. Lord, in your mercy,

[C] hear our prayer.

[A] We bring to the manger a vision of the reign of the Prince of Peace, that the nations, tribes, and peoples of this world will see and cherish in each other the very image of Christ, whose scepter is mercy and whose judgment is love. Lord, in your mercy,

[C] hear our prayer.

[A] We bring to the manger concern for those who have no place to lay their heads this night and for those who dwell in the shadow of loneliness, despair, illness, or death. We come begging that the child for whom there was no room will open the doors of our hearts to the needs of our neighbors and ourselves. We pray especially for those we name aloud now or silently in our hearts:

Kathy Backof (Donna Lilly's dear friend), **Martha** Beam (Eleanor Hendrick's friend), **Daniel** Botts (Ladley and Jane Burn's grandson), **Cody** Bryant (Bob Bryant's grandson), **Kathy** Callahan (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Mike** Callahan (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Chuck** Cook (Fred and Nancy DeBell's cousin), **Edna** Cooper (Bill Bridges' Aunt), **Phil** Costello (Donna Lilly's friend), **Sonya** Cress (Jenny White's friend), **Drew** Curtner (Bob Bryant's grandson), **The Davenport Family** (Dave and Priscilla Williams' friends), **Charles and Mary**

Degree (Karen Long's friends), **Saher** Degree (Gail Sherman's friend), **Tim** Farmer (Pastor Christina and Jamie's friend), **Ashton** Fields (Carol Berger's friend), **Avan** Fields (Carol Berger's friend), **Carol Ann** Forgas (Bill Bridges' friend), **Mike** Greene (Gail Sherman's friend), **Rev. Carl** Greenawald (DeBell's friends), **Wayne** Hector (Jim Wilson's friend), **Joe** Hutchinson (William Coyne's friend), **Debbie** Irvin (Bill Bridges' friend), **Patti** Jenkins (Priscilla Williams' friend), **Kay** Johnson (Eleanor Hendrick's cousin), **Steve** Jolly (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Mark** Kent (Majorie Olsen's son), **Rachel** Kidwell (Dave William's niece), **Bob and Mary Cook** Koontz (Dale Guffey's parents), **Jim** Lilly (Dick and Donna Lilly's son), **Matt** Lilly (Dick and Donna Lilly's son), **Roberto** Lopez (William Coyne's friend), **Sonya and Gerald** Lovelace (Bill Bridges' friend), **Brenda** Lowery (Gail Sherman's friend), **Eva** McCombs (Sandra Waldrop's mother), **Janice** McGoven (Eleanor Hendricks' sister), **Sheri Dawn** Mack (Relative of Karen Hubbard), **Ed** Marler (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Gay** Helms Melton (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Mary Bell** Moore (Lacy's neighbor and the Hubbard's and Johnson's granddaughter), **Pat** Mullen (Johanna Gillespie's friend), **Wanda** Mullinax (Edith Kelly's niece), **Teresa** Olsen (Marjorie Olsen's daughter-in-law), **Jeanne** Patterson (Karen Long's cousin), **Bob** Patzer (Carol Berger's brother-in-law), **Linda** Patzer (Carol Berger's sister), **Gerard** Peruzzi (Carol Berger's brother), **Margaret** Peruzzi (Carol Berger's mother), **Liz and Ron** Dal Poggetto (Judy Bridges' friends), **John** Reid (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Beth** Rhyne (Ladley and Jane Burn's friend), **Sue** Rippy (Donna and Dick Lilly's neighbor), **Fred** Ryan (Fred and Nancy DeBell's cousin in law), **Evan** Sealey (Eleanor Hendrick's friend), **Candace** Siddlow (Courtney Richard's mother), **Floyd** Tate, Jr. (John Lilly's friend), **Jean and Jim** Tesseneer (Bill Bridges friend), **Beth** Thomas (Carol Berger's daughter), **David** Tucker (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **David** Waldrop (Sandra Waldrop's husband), **Edith** Walker (Allen and Lisa Philbeck's friend's mother), **Freda Walker** (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Molly and Darryl** Waterstraat (Karen Hubbard's friends), **Alfie** Welch (Renee Buchanan's brother), **Christopher** Willever (David Williams' grandson), **Mary Ann** Woolley (Sandra Waldrop's aunt).

Members: **Dean** Davis, **Lin** Washburn, **Dot** Paul, **Bob** Bryant, **William** Coyne, **Jim** Wilson, **Bobbie** Johnson, **Gerald** Washburn, **Ann** Sipe, **Marjorie** Olsen and **Scott** Stone.

In Undergraduate College: Emma Auch, Brooke Buchanan, Samantha Hoffman, Jacob Stone, Catherine Lilly, Matthew Lilly.

[A] Lord, in your mercy,
[C] hear our prayer.

[A] We bring to the manger all people who, like the holy family, gather with children in the splendor of this most holy night, that the gift of faith be lavished on another generation. Lord, in your mercy,
[C] hear our prayer.

[A] We bring to the manger the hopes and dreams of all the years, that with Mary and Joseph, angels and archangels, saints and martyrs, loved ones of every time and every place, our prayers and praises join in a common song uniting heaven and earth in a single peace. Lord, in your mercy,
[C] hear our prayer.

[P] Into your outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world.
[C] Amen.

THE PEACE OF CHRIST (We are not “passing” the peace in any physical way. Online you are invited to share a greeting of peace in the comments.)

[P] Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and his name is Prince of Peace. The peace of the Lord be with you all.
[C] And also with you.

OFFERTORY Shelby Brass Ensemble

OFFERING

*Make a one time or recurring gift using **the website or the GivePlus app** on iPhone or Android. You can give using ACH (bank account), Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.*

*Or **text 844-906-2283** and enter the amount you wish to donate.² Click the registration link and enter your payment information.³ Receive a verification text as well as an email receipt. For future giving, simply send a text to the same number with the amount you wish to give, and your donation will process automatically.*

*Or **mail your regular tithe or offering** to PO Box 266, Shelby, NC 28151.*

Please stand.

***OFFERING HYMN #884**

"Doxology"

**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.**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

[A] God with us:

[C] You came as a baby to a manger.

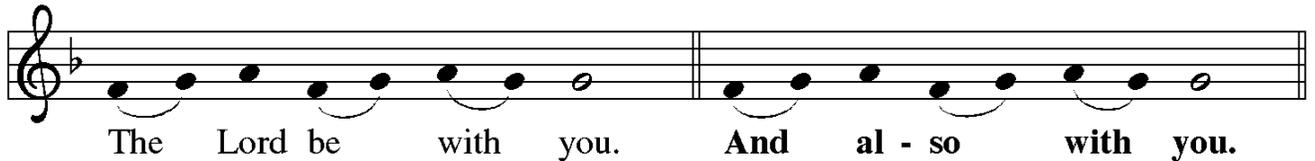
You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.

You come again in bread and wine.

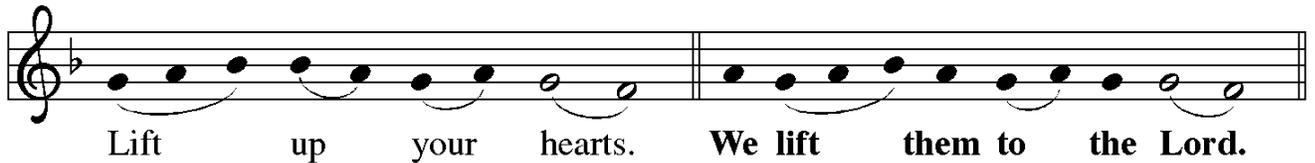
Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things.

And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others
in the strength of your holy name.

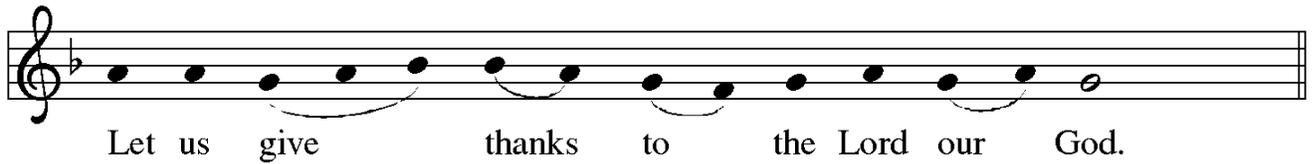
***GREAT THANKSGIVING**



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE**

[P] Blessed are you, O God, ruler of the universe!

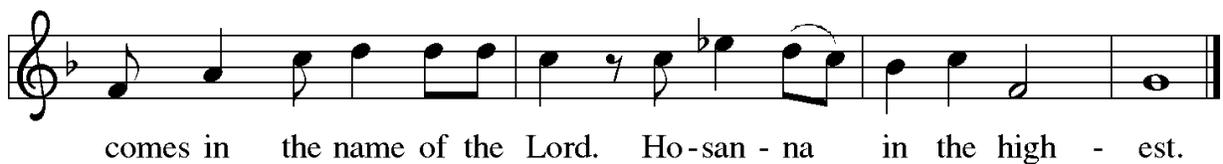
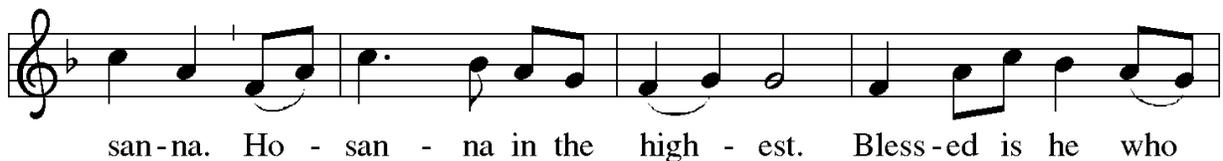
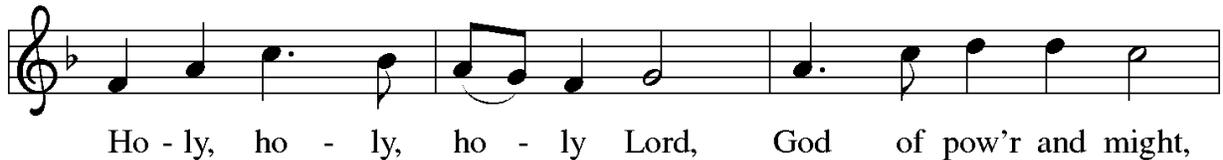
You draw your people to you
with the promise of salvation.

In your goodness,
every promise you make is fulfilled.

You delivered your people from bondage and exile,
bringing them home and renewing their song.

When your creation was captive to sin,
you sent Christ to restore the whole world.

In your love and by your Spirit,
you have invited us in and welcomed us home
and so we thank you with the faithful of every time and place.



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Gathering God, as grain is collected from the fields,
in Christ, you draw us to yourself;
and as grapes are brought together in one cup,
in this holy meal, you make us one family.

Send your Spirit upon your church
that we may welcome the lost and the lonely,
into the household of Christ,
who at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave thanks,
broke the bread, and gave it to them saying,
“This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup
and he gave it to them saying,
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Great is the mystery of faith.

**[C] Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

God of justice,
you have promised to make your home among us:
come quickly to those who wait for you.
Raise up every head that is bent low in sin.
Lift up every heart that is bowed down in shame.
Uphold every soul that is made heavy by oppression.
Inspire every weary throat to sing of the day when justice and mercy
will find their home in you.

Even so, come Lord Jesus.

[C] Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

[P] Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**[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.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

[P] Joy to the world! The Lord is come.
Let every heart receive your Savior.

Please remain seated.

If you are not communing, please receive this blessing for you:
"Jesus loves you and keeps you all the days of your life."

"LAMB OF GOD"

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please stand.

***COMMUNION BLESSING**

[P] May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

[C] Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

[A] Let us pray.

O gracious God, you came to Bethlehem as the baby Jesus. You come to us this night in the simple gifts of the Word and bread and wine. May we celebrate Your presence with us this night and always in the name of Jesus the Christ Child.

[C] Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING

Please remain standing.

As we begin the candle lighting service, Pastor Christina will take light from the Christ candle and pass it to the ushers, who will light the first candle in the front row of each section while the lights are lowered. Please tilt your UNLIT candle when passing the light and once lit, hold your candle upright.

When all the candles are lit, we begin to sing...

***HYMN 281**

“Silent Night”

- 1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

- 2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

***BENEDICTION**

[P] May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

[C] Amen.

Please extinguish your candles and drop them in the baskets by the door as you leave.

POSTLUDE

**† A blessed Christmas to all who joined us this evening at Ascension †
to celebrate the birth of the Christ child.**

The Chrismons Proclaiming our Lord Jesus Christ

As we await the birth of Jesus during Advent and celebrate this wondrous gift from God at Christmas, beautiful trees flank our altar.

Ornaments, lovingly made by members of the congregation over many years, decorate each tree. These ornaments are known as Chrismons (CHRIST-MONograms). They are symbols from Christian history that refer to our Lord Jesus Christ. Their meaning is rooted in Scripture.

The earliest Christians used these symbols on doors, buildings, utensils, jewelry, catacombs and on other places and objects to reveal their faith. The symbols were always created in gold and white to communicate majesty and purity.

The Chrismon Tree originated at Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Danville, Va., in 1957, and in the half-century since has been widely adopted by many denominations around the world.

Here is a description of some Chrismons found on our trees:

Anchor Cross – Known as the Cross of Hope. The child, Jesus, is the hope of the world. Christ is our anchor

Latin Cross – The cross upon which Christ was crucified.

Greek Cross – The symbol for Christ used by early Greek artists.

Cross over the World – Christ reigns over the entire world.

IHS – The first three letters of “Jesus” in Greek.

Crown – The kingship of Christ; his victory over sin and death.

Fish – One of the most ancient symbols for Jesus. The Greek word for “fish” is an acrostic on the first letters of “Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Savior”

Butterfly – Symbol of Jesus’ resurrection.

Rose – The nativity of our Lord and Jesus’ human mother Mary.

Stars – Formed by crosses set at various angles, symbolizing the close relationship between the birth and death of Jesus. Five-pointed star Epiphany Star; six-pointed star – Creator’s Star; seven-pointed star seven gifts of the Spirit; eight-pointed star – man’s regeneration through baptism.

Circle – The symbol of eternity, our eternal life with God in His kingdom.

Intertwined Circles – The trinity, the triune God.

Alpha and Omega –The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet and a symbol of divinity. God is before and after all.

Shell – The symbol of Holy Baptism.

Wheat and Grapes – The symbols of bread and wine: the body and blood of Jesus.

The Chrismon trees in our sanctuary are given by Gail and Dale McKillop to the Glory of God and in honor of their children and grandchildren – Colin and Will, children of Jordan and Suzanne McKillop, and Mollie and Hannah, children of Ian and Kristen McKillop.

The large wreaths in our sanctuary are given by J.L. Setzer, Lisa, Rick and Jenna Washburn to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Frankie Setzer and their dear friends Maryland and Buck Dover.

The new greenery adorning our columbarium has been given by the Lacy and Smolzer families to the Glory of God and in memory of all Ascension saints who have entered the Church Triumphant throughout the past 98 years.

The candles in the sanctuary windows are given by Carol and Charlie Berger to the Glory of God and in loving memory of family members who have joined the Church Triumphant.

The greenery around the processional cross and torches is given by the Hanging of the Greens team to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our beloved team member Otto Olsen.

The wreaths on the front of the church are given by Lin and D.P. Washburn to the Glory of God and in celebration of the birth of our Savior.

The greenery in the prayer garden is given by Lisa and Allen Philbeck to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Hanging of the Greens team members Elizabeth Drum and Bruce Long.

POINSETTIAS

In Memory of:

Marvin Allen
Marty Allen
John Backof
Family we have lost
Dennis Bowen
Henry and Pauline Bridges
Harold and Joann Cook
Elizabeth Drum
Brady Kelly
Brady Kelly, Jr.
Gary Kelly
Judy and Al Lambert
Azilee and Paul London
Bruce Long
Lola Ritchie
Lola Ritchie
Ruth and Manie Wilkie
Frankie Wilson

In Honor of:

Bill Bridges Family
The Lilly Children, Grand and
Great Grand Children
Margaret Peruzzi

Given by:

JoAn Allen
JoAn Allen
Dick and Donna Lilly
Carol and Charles Berger
Sandra Waldrop
Bill Bridges
Daryl and Rose Cook
Dave and Jennie Lambert
Edith Kelly
Edith Kelly
Edith Kelly
Dave and Jennie Lambert
Dave and Jennie Lambert
Dave and Jennie Lambert
Daryl and Rose Cook
William Coyne
Ludy Wilkie
William Coyne

Given by:

Bill Bridges

Dick and Donna Lilly
Carol and Charles Berger

GREENERY

In Memory of:

The Rev. Albert J. Bell
Dorothy M. Bell
Dot and Calvin Blalock
John and Anna Burn
Don Galloway
Roy and Alice Gray
Bonnie Fisher Johnson
C.P. Johnson, MD
Tony Jordan
Margie and Jack Riviere
Ruth and Manie Wilkie

In Honor of:

The Hanging of the Greens Team
Lee Barry
Greg Blalock
The Blalock Children and Grandchildren
The Burn Children and Grandchildren
Debby Chaffin
Jennie and Dave Lambert
Donna and Dick Lilly
Dot Paul
J.L. Setzer
My Loving Family

Given by:

Gordon and Bobby Johnson
Gordon and Bobby Johnson
Chrys and Greg Blalock
Jane and Ladley Burn
Chris and Vicky Galloway
Jane and Ladley Burn
Gordon and Bobby Johnson
Gordon and Bobby Johnson
Chris and Vicky Galloway
Chrys and Greg Blalock
Ludy Wilkie

Given by:

Dave and Jennie Lambert
Anonymous
Anonymous
Chrys and Greg Blalock
Jane and Ladley Burn
Anonymous
Edith Kelly
Chris and Vicky Galloway
Anonymous
Anonymous
Karen Long

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Communion When you are worshiping at home, you are encouraged to set up a temporary altar called a tabernacle at home. Find a small table or bench, place on it a nice plate and a cup or goblet. Find a slice or loaf of bread and use either wine or grape juice in the cup. When the time comes for communion, lift the bread and wine with the pastor, giving thanks to God for the gift of communion that offers us forgiveness, community, and new life in Christ.

In person Bible study, led by Pastor Christina, is meeting in the classroom across from the office on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. We are using Augsburg Fortress quarterly materials.

Prayer Concerns: With the New Year, we will renew the prayer list that is included in worship each week. Names of members will carry over. **Please submit names of friends or family who have given you permission to name them.** Prayer requests will be lifted up by name **for three weeks.** Requests can be extended by contacting the church office at 704-487-5679 or by email at ascensionsecof@bellsouth.net or by filling out the form again. Thank you.

Please continue your tithes and offerings. Make a one time or recurring gift using **the website** or **the Vanco Mobile app** on iPhone or Android. You can give using ACH (bank account), Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.

Or **text 844-906-2283** and enter the amount you wish to donate. Then click the registration link and enter your payment information. You will receive a verification text as well as an email receipt.

Or **mail your regular tithe or offering** to PO Box 266, Shelby, NC 28151.

A LOOK AHEAD

Sunday, December 26 – First Sunday of Christmas

No Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Lessons and Carols
(also on Facebook and Zoom)

December 27-28 – Church offices are closed

Thursday, December 30

9:00 p.m. Thursday Night Prayer (Facebook & Zoom)

Sunday, January 2 — Second Sunday of Christmas

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
and Installation of Congregation Council
(also on Facebook and Zoom)

Sunday, January 9 — Baptism of Our Lord

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
(also on Facebook and Zoom)

Assisting Today– Christmas Eve

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Christina Auch, Pastor
Organist: Mr. Steve White
Assisting Minister: Mr. Ludy Wilkie
Soloist: Miss Catherine Lilly
Shelby Brass Ensemble: Mr. Rob Shell, 1st Trumpet
Jessica Proper, 2nd Trumpet
Mrs. Lucinda MacArthur and daughter Allie, French Horn
Mr. Willis Ledbetter, Trombone
Mr. Garry Cabaniss, Trombone
Mr. Colt Cooper, Tuba
Ushers: Dave Lambert and Daryl Cook

Assisting December 26, 2021– Lessons and Carols

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Christina Auch, Pastor
Organist: Cathy Hubbard
Assisting Minister: Sandra Waldrop
Ushers: Max Smolzer and Jake Smolzer

Ascension Lutheran Church

PO Box 266 Shelby, NC 28151

Ascensionlutheranshelby.com

Facebook.com/ascensionlutheranshelbync

704-487-5679

The Rev. Christina Auch, Pastor704-472-7783

Debby Chaffin, Secretary

Steve White and Cathy Hubbard, Organists

Rose Cook, Financial Secretary

Ludy Wilkie, Council President704-487-4269

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