

# Ascension Lutheran Church

**Third Sunday of Advent ..... December 12, 2021**

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

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

## **PRELUDE**

Please stand as you are able.

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

[P] A voice calls out in the wilderness.

**[C] It sings of a home for all. It speaks of justice and peace.**

[P] We could choose to ignore it.

**[C] We could drown out that song. We could choose not to listen.**

[P] Instead, we come into this space.

**[C] We let the world grow quiet. We listen.**

[P] A voice calls out in the wilderness. Do you hear it?

**[C] We hear it. In listening, we worship.**

[P] Let us draw near to God.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

[P] It takes courage to tell the truth.

John the Baptist knew it.

His job as a prophet certainly could not have been easy.

And you and I know it.

Our job as people of faith—to create a home for all—has never been easy.

In our prayer of confession, may we channel some of John the Baptist's courage to tell the truth about ourselves and our world. We do not do this to shame ourselves or guilt ourselves for being imperfect. We speak the truth out loud because we know that we cannot grow and change without first being honest.

So let us be brave. Let us be bold. Let us be truth-tellers as we confess together now to a God who couldn't love us any more than God already does. Let us pray...

**[C] Expansive God,**

**We know that the church is your house, and your house has room for everyone. Yet, too often, instead of setting the table for our neighbors, we block the door. Instead of welcoming all, we judge others by our own standards. Instead of sharing our second coat, we hide it in the attic, holding on to fear instead of letting go with love. Remind us that your home is a home for all, that truth requires hard work, that truth requires uncomfortable justice. Help us to be bold enough to see it and brave enough to live it. With hope we pray, amen.**

[P] Family of faith, God sent prophets like John the Baptist to us because this work is not easy. Helping create a world where all might have a home, and all might be loved, and all might know peace, is an audacious goal. Fortunately for us, when we mess up—when we lose our way or forget our call—we are met with grace. God could not love us any more or any less than God already does. So rest in this good news:

**[C] We are at home with God—forgiven, claimed, and loved. The door is always open for us. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*HYMN #593** ..... **“Drawn to the Light”**

**\*GREETING**

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

**[C] And also with you.**

**\*KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

**\*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

**\*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.

[P]: Joy is seeing people you love after months apart.

[A]: Joy is hearing, "Come on over, it has been too long!"

[P]: Joy is the stretches and giggles of a newborn child.

[A]: Joy is making it home when the journey is long.

[P]: Joy is your dog sliding to meet you at the door.

[A]: Joy is the energy of a new season.

[P]: Joy is feeling found when you thought you were lost.

[A]: So today we light the candle of joy, because the welcome God has for us  
is nothing short of joyful.

[P]: Rest in that good news. Let it wash over you.

[A]: Family of faith, we are close to home. Amen.

*Silence for reflection while the first, second and third candles are lit.*

**\*HYMN #257..... "O Come, O Come Emmanuel", Verse 4**

O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

[P] Let us pray.

**[C] Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who**

**lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.**

Please be seated.

**FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

[A] A reading from Zephaniah.

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing

<sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised

among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

[A] The word of the Lord.

**[C] Thanks be to God.**

**PSALMODY: Isaiah 12:2-6**

*In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Is. 12:6)*

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not <sup>1</sup> be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become <sup>1</sup> my

salvation.

<sup>3</sup>With joy you | will draw water  
from the wells | of salvation.

<sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call | on God's name;  
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that  
this name | is exalted.

<sup>5</sup>Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done | gloriously;  
let this be known in | all the earth.

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O | royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy | One of Israel.

**SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7**

[A] A reading from Philippians.

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

[A] The word of the Lord.

**[C] Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\*GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18**

[P] The holy gospel according to Luke, the third chapter.

**[C] Glory to you O Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup>He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

[P] The gospel of our Lord.

**[C] Praise to you O Christ.**

**\*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

[P] God, whose love is like the sun warming me from the inside, if you are my home, then your word is the street light guiding me there. So I want you to know — I am walking your way,

we are walking your way, and we are looking for a light.  
And our feet are dirty — we've lost our way a time or two.  
And our bags are heavy —  
we're carrying an array of grief and fear on our backs.  
But we're on our way.  
We're looking for your light.  
We're listening for your word.  
When you see us coming, when you feel our hearts move,  
we hope you'll run down the driveway and catch us.  
Leave the light on.  
We are on our way home.  
Gratefully we pray,  
**[C] Amen.**

Please be seated.

**SERMON**

**The Rev. Christina Auch**

Please stand.

**\*HYMN #293**

**"Hark, the Glad Sound"**

**\*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] In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

[A] Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news. Grant peace to congregations and seminarians in the midst of transition. Guide the work of candidacy and call committees. Hear us, O God.

**[C] Your mercy is great.**

[A] Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and the planet. Hear us, O God.

**[C] Your mercy is great.**

[A] Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who warn against captivity to greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity. Hear us, O God.

**[C] Your mercy is great.**

[A] Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, that we trust you and are not afraid. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill this day. 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] Hear us, O God.

**[C] Your mercy is great.**

[A] Rejoicing God, you exult over us in singing. Enliven the song of this assembly and bless the ministry of church musicians. With instruments and dance, join our voices to the song of all creation. Hear us, O God.

**[C] Your mercy is great.**

[A] We give you thanks for your servants who showed us your goodness and grace. By the power of your Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith until we make our home with you. Hear us, O God.

**[C] Your mercy is great.**

[A] God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

**[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] The peace of Christ be with you always.

**[C] And also with you.**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

[P] The people asked John, “What should we do?”

I’ve asked myself that a million times in my life.

How do I make a difference?

Can I really do anything that could help this hurting world?

Is it already too late? Is it already too big?

It can feel overwhelming at times, but John says, “If you have two coats, give one away.” It’s all that easy, and it’s all that hard.

So friends, let us give our tithes and our offerings now, knowing that these gifts help build a world where all have a home—where all are welcomed, fed, loved, and known.

What should we do? We should give what we have.

It’s all that easy and all that hard.

*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.<sup>2</sup> Click the registration link and enter your payment information.<sup>3</sup> 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.

**\*OFFERTORY 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] Let us pray.

God who welcomes us home,  
who creates space, who leaves a chair with our name on it—  
we have two coats and we are giving one away.

That's what this offering is.

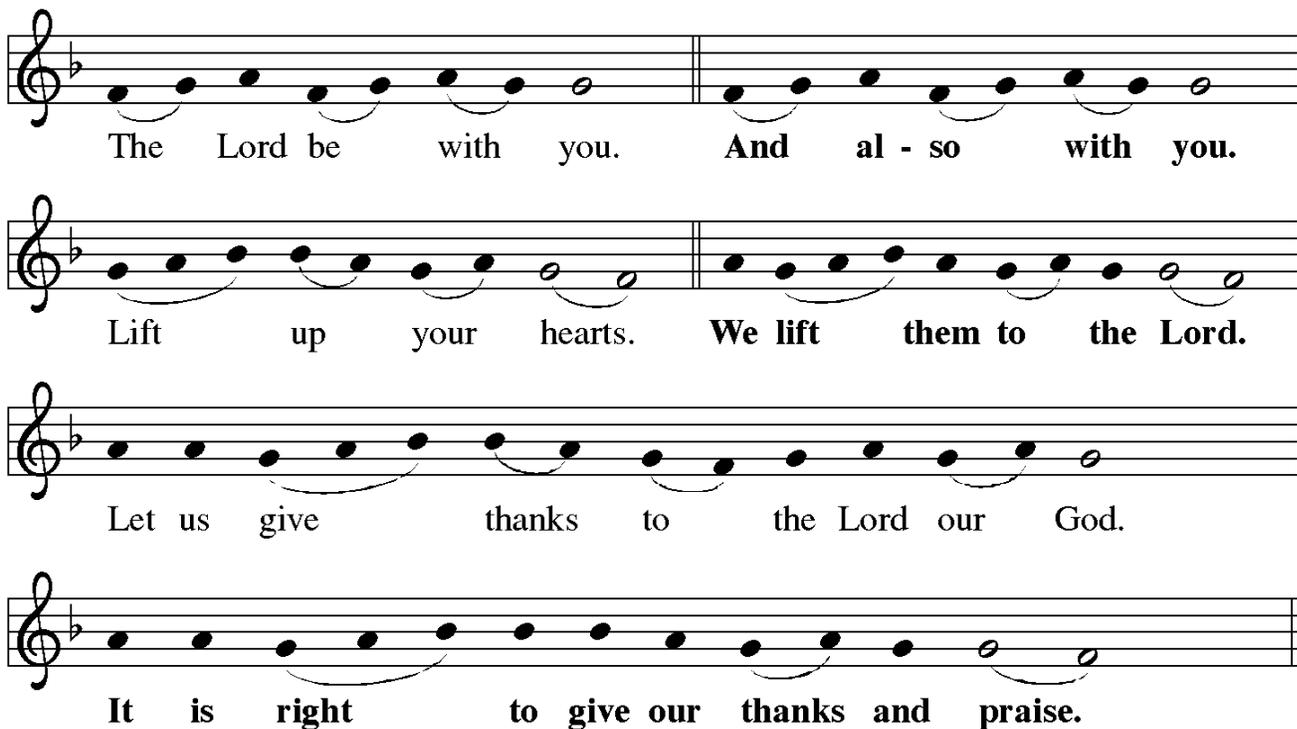
It's our second coat.

It's our hearts on our sleeves.

It's our audacious hope that there can indeed be a better world than this  
one. So take these gifts and use them to move us closer to that promised  
day. Gratefully we pray,

[C] Amen.

**\*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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.' The second staff has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff has one long measure: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff has one long measure: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

**\*PREFACE**

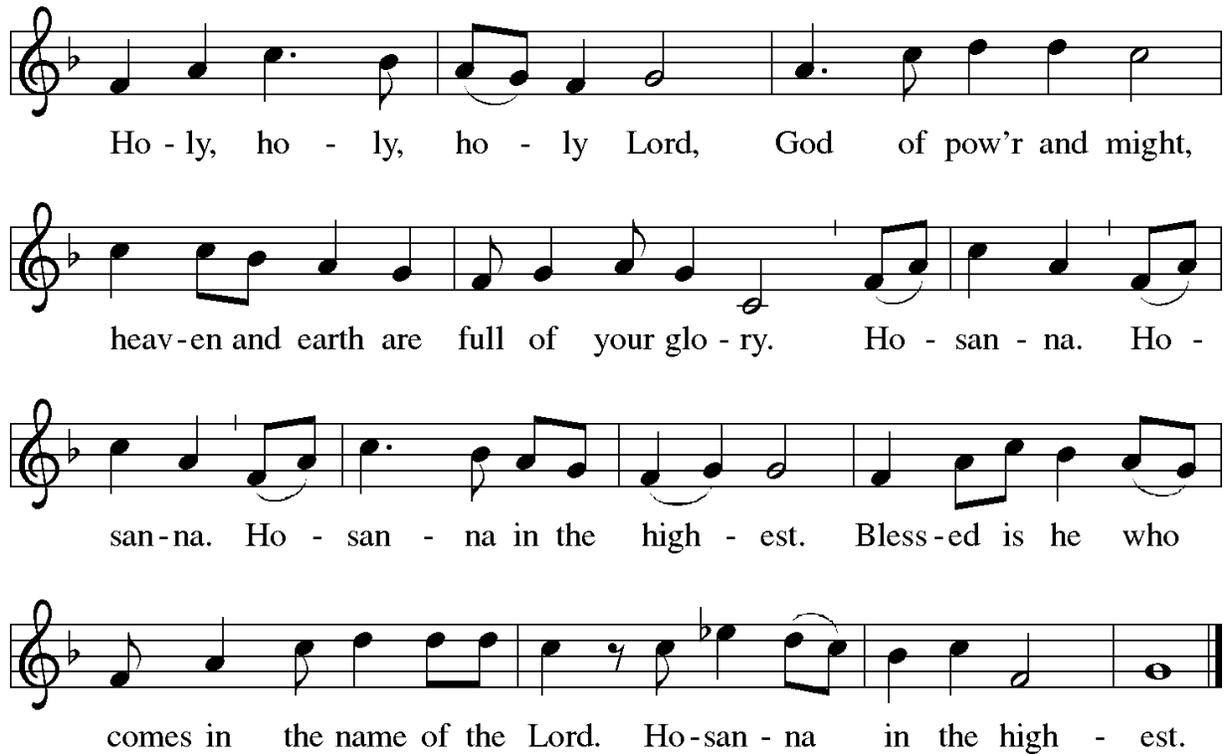
[P] Blessed are you, O God, ruler of the universe!

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.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

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] Bread of Life, be Light in our darkness.

**[C] Christ is the Light of the world.**

Cup of Salvation, be Strength for our journey.

**[C] Christ is the Hope of the world.**

The gifts of God

**[C] for the people of God.**

Let us come for all things are now ready.

Please be seated.

**DISTRIBUTION**

[P] This is the body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you.

**[C] Amen.**

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



Please stand.

**\*POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

[P] 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.

Most High God, you have come among us at this table.

By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

**[C] Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

[P] As you leave *this* service, *your* service begins:

Comfort the homesick.

Open your doors to others.

Seek sanctuary.

Be brave enough to go home by another way.

And remember that here in God's house, are welcomed—so come back soon.

**[C] Amen.**

**\*HYMN #542 ..... "O Living Bread from Heaven"**

**\*DISMISSAL**

[P] In the name of our Foundation—God, Spirit, and Son—  
✠ go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**[C] Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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| sanctifiedart.org. Communion Liturgy: Advent 2021, Year C written by Pastor Sarah Van  
Zetten Bruins*

## **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:** Please call or email the office or text Pastor Christina at 704-472-7783 to update prayer requests. You may leave a voicemail but please provide the spelling of any names, and your relationship to the person being prayed for.

**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**

### **Thursday, December 16**

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

### **Sunday, December 19 — Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

after worship Christmas potluck & fellowship (Fellowship Hall)

### **Tuesday, December 21**

7:00 p.m. Longest Night Service

### **Thursday, December 23**

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

**Friday, December 24** — 7:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

### **Sunday, December 26 – First Sunday of Christmas**

No Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Lessons and Carols

**December 27-28** – Church offices are closed

### **Thursday, December 30**

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

**Assisting Today**

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Christina Auch, Pastor  
Organist: Steve White  
Assisting Minister: Sandra Waldrop  
Ushers: Greg Blalock and Mike Hubbard

**Assisting December 19, 2021**

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Christina Auch, Pastor  
Organist: Steve White  
Assisting Minister: Lisa Philbeck  
Ushers: Allen Philbeck and Robert Buchanan





# **Ascension Lutheran Church**

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Ascensionlutheranshelby.com

Facebook.com/ascensionlutheranshelbync

704-487-5679

**The Rev. Christina Auch, Pastor ..... 704-472-7783**

**Debby Chaffin, Secretary**

**Steve White and Cathy Hubbard, Organists**

**Rose Cook, Financial Secretary**

**Ludy Wilkie, Council President ..... 704-487-4269**