



**We Open the Door**

**1st Sunday of Christmas**

*December 26, 2021*



## Ascension Lutheran Church

1105 N. Washington Blvd.

Ogden, UT 84404

801.782.2810

### Welcome to Worship...

Welcome to all God's guests, including those who call themselves "members" of this church named Ascension Lutheran Church more than 50 years ago.

A special welcome to guests who are here for the first time or who call yourselves "visitors" among the people of this community. It is at God's invitation, through worship, the Holy Spirit calls each of us to come to a place of **community, communion** and **commitment**. Each of us brings a different lens to worship, and yet, in a worshiping community, these differences become celebrations of diversity.

**Children are always welcome in worship services;  
however please know  
a nursery is provided for children under 4 years of age.**

### Introduction

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.

# A Room with a View— LOVE

## Welcome to Worship

*P* Developed in the 14th century, the word “dwell” became known as a “lingering” or “abiding.”

It had connections to “in-habit”—another word developed at that time.

After an Advent/Christmas season of focusing on housing the holy, how will we linger and abide in this habit of hospitality?

What habits did you invite into your heart in this season that you desire to take with you into the new year?

How might we sustain the dwelling places that  
feed — house — clothe  
those who need it most?

*Cantors*

**Love comes to us at Christmas  
Love comes to heal our souls.  
Love brings an invitation  
that our hearts might be made whole.  
As we gather at the stable  
in the darkness, glad and grateful  
for the sacred in our midst,  
for wonder and delight,  
Christ is born in us this night.**

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*WA* Today we celebrate the Christ Candle that illumines the Door of Welcome.

May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church.

May Christ’s Light awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality.

There *IS* room in this Inn, a House for the Holy.

## Opening Song

**All**



Love comes to us at Christ-mas. Love comes to heal our souls. Love brings an  
in - vi - ta - tion that our hearts might be made whole. As we gath - er  
at the sta - ble in the dark-ness, glad and grate-ful for the sa - cred in our midst, for  
won - der and de - light, Christ is born in us this night.

## Sharing the Peace

Amanda Udis-Kessler

*In our continued physical distancing out of love for the health of one another, we will share the peace of our risen Lord by “speaking” that peace through sign language.*

**P** Christ become Hope with you.

**All** And also with you.

## Confession and Forgiveness

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who sends the word with angels,  
who is made flesh among all peoples,  
and who breathes peace on all the earth.

**All** Amen.

*P* In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**All we confess our sin before you.**

**We replace compassion with competition.**

**We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.**

**We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.**

**We have not put on love in harmony with you.**

**Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.**

**Swaddle our hearts with your peace,**

**that all we do, in word or deed,**

**may reflect your love born among us. Amen.**

*P* I bring you good news of great joy for all people:

God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord.

✝ In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.

**All Amen.**

## A Reading from 1st Samuel, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter

*Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband Elkanah come to the temple to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.*

<sup>18</sup>Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup>His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup>Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home.

<sup>26</sup>Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

*1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26*

*L* Word of God, Word of Hope.

**All Thanks be to God**

## A Reading from Colossians, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter

*Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.*

<sup>12</sup>As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear 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. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let 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. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

*Colossians 3:12-17*

*L* Word of God, Word of Joy.

**All Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation

*Please stand as you are able.*

♪ ♪ Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel ♪ ♪  
God with us revealed in us. His name is called Emmanuel

CCLI Song # 12949 Bob McGee  
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## Gospel Reading

*P* The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.*

<sup>41</sup>Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." <sup>49</sup>He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup>Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

*P* The Gospel of our Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

[You may be Seated](#)

Sermon

Pr. Debra Jimenez

## Go Tell it on the Mountain

### Refrain

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. Refrain**

**2 The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain**

**3 Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain**

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

## Prayers of Intercession

**L** Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Make of my heart a sta-ble, a house for the Ho-ly, a warm and stur-dy  
place for Love to live and grow.

The image shows two staves of musical notation. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a whole rest, followed by a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) and then a sequence of eighth notes: C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F6, G6, A6, B6, C7. The lyrics 'Make of my heart a sta-ble, a house for the Ho-ly, a warm and stur-dy' are written below the notes. The second staff begins with a treble clef and a quarter note (G4), followed by a sequence of quarter notes: A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F6, G6, A6, B6, C7. The lyrics 'place for Love to live and grow.' are written below the notes.

(each prayer petition ends with)

**L:** Merciful God

**All:** You hear our prayer.



## Offering

### *You may be Seated*

*While we still will not physically pass the offering plates we will continue to have the plates available at the entrance to receive your offerings and will lift them up in thanksgiving before the throne of grace.*

## Love Has Come

***Love has come— a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
Hear how their song of Joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high!***

## Offertory Prayer

*P* Gracious God,  
your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.

***All*** As we offer ourselves and these your gifts,  
prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table  
and renew in us the song of your salvation,  
in Jesus Christ our Savior.

## The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

*P* The Holy One be with you

***All*** And also with you.

*P* Lift up your hearts

***All*** We lift them up to our God.

*P* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

***All*** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Birthing God,  
creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in our mother's womb, house of the holy,  
growing us in your image.

Our hearts and lungs became a place of opening and welcoming,  
doors for the Spirit of Life that you breathed into us.

We have not always understood ourselves as sacred creation,  
a place for the dwelling of the Holy inside of us.

We have not always seen that in others.

When we turn away from each other and from you,  
your love remains steadfast.

You deliver us from the captivity of isolation and fear,  
make covenant to be our steadfast, indwelling God,  
and continue to speak to us through prophetic utterance,  
in the Spirit and through the people.

P And so,  
with your people on earth, and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**All**

*(Tune: Hark, the Herald Angels Sing, words below)*

***Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might adored,  
heaven and earth are shining bright  
with the glory of your light.  
Loud hosannas now we sing!  
In the highest may they ring!  
Blessed is the coming One, Christ, Emmanuel, your Son.  
Glory in the highest! Holy God, your name be blessed!***

*P* In the midst of a time of despair, oppression, division, and fear,  
your gestation in the house of a holy womb—  
through an unlikely midwife of salvific power—  
brought Jesus, the Christ, into this world.

In another house, on another night—  
the night in which he gave himself up for us—  
he took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread,  
gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup,  
gave thanks, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for *ALL PEOPLE* for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice.

Open our hearts, stripping away any excuse or fearful hesitation,  
so that we will open our doors to the world  
as the body of Christ, redeemed by God’s love.

By your Spirit make us one with You, and with one another  
through your Son Jesus Christ, both the Giver and the Gift.

**All Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*P* As we kneel in awe at the manger of Love,  
let us approach the throne of grace, praying as Jesus taught:

***All* 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.**

## The Invitation

*P* In Christ's manger, at Christ's table,  
come, see what God makes known for you.

## Communion Songs

### **I Wonder As I Wander**

I wonder as I wander out under the sky  
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die  
For poor ornery people like you and I  
I wonder out under the sky

When Mary birthed Jesus, all in a cow's stall,  
Came wisemen and farmers and shepherds and all,  
And high from the heavens a star's light did fall;  
The promise of the ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing  
A star in the sky or a bird on a wing  
Or all of God's angels in heaven to sing  
He surely could have had it 'cause He was the King

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## Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
- 2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
- 3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

CCLI Song # 7140775  
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## Post Communion Blessing *and* Prayer

*P* The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you  
and keep you in his grace.

**All Amen**

*P* We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus,  
God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine.

**All As we have shared this feast of love,  
strengthen us to share your love with all the world.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## *Stewardship of Life and Ministry Announcements*

### Benediction

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

*P* As you go out into the world...

May God's Door of Welcome  
swing open in your heart and in your life.

May Christ's humble first dwelling  
remind you of the plenty you already know.

And may the Spirit lead you into  
more possibility and hospitality than you can imagine,  
making room in The Inn for all.

May it be so for you. ✝ May it be so for us.

May it be so for this church.

May it be so for the world.

**All Amen**

## Sending Song

## Joy to the World

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let ev-'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and heav'n, and nature sing.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love!*

## Dismissal

*P* Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

**All Thanks be to God.**

Readings for next Sunday,  
January 2nd  
Epiphany Sunday

**First Reading:**

Isaiah 60:1-6

**Psalm:**

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

**Second Reading:**

Ephesians 3:1-12

**Gospel:**

Matthew 2:1-12

Front Cover:

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**Thank you to all who donated the Poinsettias  
for our Christmas Services:**

Linda Corey *in loving memory of Linda's parents*

Alan and Cindy Day *in memory of our son Erik*

Alan and Cindy Day *in memory of my sister*

***Debbie Johnson Officer***

Orv and Ann Engelby *in memory of their parents*

Sharen Kamp *in honor of her children*

Connie Larsen *in memory of*

***Mr. and Mrs. Orville Hanson,***

***Mr. and Mrs. Richard Larsen***

***and Jerry Larsen***

Pat and Eric Refsdal *in honor of Pat's parents and*

***I in memory of Eric's parents***

Pat and Eric Refsdal *in honor of*

***our musicians and singers***

Diane Schultz *in honor of her friends*

Marlys and Keith Sorbo *in honor of their children*

Marlys and Keith Sorbo *in honor of*

***their grandchildren***

Arliss and Roy Zimmerman *in loving memory*

***of their parents***