

*Sacred Knowing*

**PEACE**



**4th Sunday of Advent**

*December 18, 2022*



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

*The shiny additions to our Advent setting remind us that we are called to reflect the sacred each and every day. "Incarnation" is a word that means God's presence came to dwell among all people, and we believe this happened in a special way in the birth of Jesus. All of Creation has always been imbued with the Creator's brilliance. This season, we will remember the invitation to shine with this holy light.*

# Sacred Knowing—PEACE

Welcome to Worship

*Solo*

Upon this moment,  
upon this people,  
upon this place,  
the holy comes.  
And sacred knowing  
brings sacred being  
for sacred doing of God's plan.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

WA We pray for Peace this day.

**All We pray for Peace this day.**

WA We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.

**All We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.**

WA We open to see our deepest selves

**All We open to see our deepest selves**

WA as a gift of holy presence.

**All as a gift of holy presence.**

WA This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,

**All This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,**

WA lighting the way to Peace.

**All lighting the way to Peace.**



U-pon this mo - ment, U-pon this peo - ple, U-pon this  
 place the Ho-ly comes. And Sa-cred know-ing brings Sa-cred  
 be - ing for Sa-cred do - ing of God's plan.

*P* Living God, Christ Mystery, Spirit of Peace,  
 we give you thanks for this holy sensing of your presence.

**All** As we take in the peace you offer,  
 may we be a reflection of your light,  
 expanding the sacred knowing of “you are here for me”  
 into the sacred knowing of “you are present for all of us.”

**Amen**

### *refracting the sacred*

*As light passes through a medium, it can be redirected in ways that make its brilliance more visible, as in a prism.*

*As we encounter the message today, we see the world and our own lives and loved ones in a different light, one that invites us to know more deeply the sacred nature of all things.*

## A Reading from Isaiah, the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

<sup>10</sup>The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

*Isaiah 7:10-16*

*L* Word of God, Word of Life.

**All** Thanks be to God!

## Gospel Acclamation

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

Em - man - u - el, \_\_\_\_\_ Em - man - u - el, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ His name is called \_\_\_\_\_ Em - man - u - el: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ God with us, \_\_\_\_\_ re - vealed in us! \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ His name is called \_\_\_\_\_ Em - man - u - el. \_\_\_\_\_

## Gospel Reading

*P* The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

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

*Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."*

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us."<sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

*Matthew 1:18-25*

*P* The Gospel of our Lord.

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

[You may be Seated](#)

Message

Pr. Debra Jimenez

the Magnificat

The Annunciation  
Luke 1:26-38

Cantors:

An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth,  
to a woman whose name was Mary.

The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you.  
You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus,  
the Chosen One of God Most High."

And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do His will.

The Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55



1.3. My ——— soul pro - claims your  
2. You have cast the might - y



great-ness, O God, and my spir - it re-joic - es in  
down from their thrones, and up lift - ed the hum - ble of



you, You have looked with love on your  
heart, You have filled the hun - gry with

*fine last time*



ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.  
won-drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.

Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,  
 Great and might - y are you, O Faith-ful One,

strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.  
 strong is your jus - tice strong your love,

How you fa - vor the weak and low - ly one,  
 As you prom-ised to Sar-ah and A - bra - ham,

hum - bling the proud of heart.  
 kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

## Apostles' Creed

*P* Let us join together with the saints across the ages confessing our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried;**



he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

### *refilling the sacred*

*We are wells of the sacred. God's presence is poured into creation in a never-ending flow of love. We enter a time of prayer that invites us to be refilled in ways that can help us pour out our love throughout the week. All we must do in this moment is open our hearts to the Holy One.*

### Prayers of Intercession

L As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

For you, O Lord, my soul in still - ness waits,  
tru - ly my hope is in you.

(each prayer petition ends with)

L: God, in your mercy,

All: You hear our prayer.

## Sharing the Peace of Christ

*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 Peace with you.

**All** And also with you.

## 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.*

*(tune: What Child is This)*

*♪ ♪ Praise God from whom all blessings flow ♪ ♪  
Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God all heavens and the earth  
reflecting the sacred story.*

*This, this is Christ the One  
who mirrors Peace for all of us.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the Word of time eternal.*

## Offertory Prayer

**P** God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people.

**All** Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

## *Invitation to the Table*

*Christ invites all to his table, for he is the One who is reflected in all things and unites all things. There is a place for you. This Cosmic Banquet of Love is set for a hungry and hurting world. When we take in and take on Christ, we are the Body of Christ sent forth into the world to lay a banquet of love wherever we find ourselves.*

*Let us open ourselves so that our hearts might be filled completely.*

### Confession and Assurance

*P* Maker and Lover of all, forgive us when we are too preoccupied, self-involved, or worried to notice your presence in our lives...  
when we are too rushed to allow moments of wonder and awe that lead to hope,  
when we are too frightened to imagine those not like us loved equally by you,  
when we gloss over the most ordinary details as a revelation of your joy,  
when we fail to stop and reside in peace with you in our depths.

***All* Open us, O God,  
free us to reflect the sacred.  
Touch us with your presence,  
we pray in your Holy Name:  
Christ, Anointed One. Amen.**

*P* Hear this good news:  
God is with us in our distress and in our faltering.  
God is always and already closing the gaps we create.  
Jesus calls us to this table with unfailing and gracious hospitality.  
You are forgiven and freed. You are not alone.

***All* We are forgiven and freed. We are not alone.  
Glory to God! Amen.**

# 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 the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

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

P Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.  
Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,  
to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
and to announce that the time had come  
when you would save your people.  
He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

A reflection of this purpose, and anointed as his disciples,  
Christ's birth is our awakening,  
Christ's suffering is all suffering,  
Christ's death and resurrection is the pattern of all things.

P We are his Body in the world—  
the Body of Christ—renewed by water and the spirit.  
He has been, is, and always will be with us,  
One in Three, Three in One, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.



All: On the night You were be - trayed You took the bread;\_\_ Af - ter



giv - ing thanks,\_\_ You broke it and said, "This is My \_\_

bod - y, bro - ken for\_\_ you, and as you  
 eat\_\_ it, re - mem - ber Me; This is My\_\_  
 bod - y bro - ken for\_\_ you, and as you  
 eat\_\_ it, re - mem - ber Me." On the  
 night You were\_\_ be - trayed\_\_ You held the cup;\_\_ Af - ter  
 giv - ing thanks,\_\_ You lift - ed it up. "This is My\_\_  
 blood, poured out for\_\_ you, and as you drink\_\_ it, re - mem - ber  
 Me; This is My\_\_ blood, poured out for\_\_ you, and as you  
 drink\_\_ it, re - mem - ber\_\_ Me." So, we

thank You for\_\_ the wine\_\_ and for the bread;\_\_ For we  
 see the life\_\_ You gave\_\_ and the blood You\_ shed. And we re -  
 mem - ber Your won - drous\_\_ love, You gave Your  
 bod - y, You shed Your blood; And we re - mem - ber Your won - drous  
 love, You gave Your bod - y, You shed Your blood.

## The Lord's Prayer

*P* Let us approach the throne of grace as we pray as Jesus taught us:

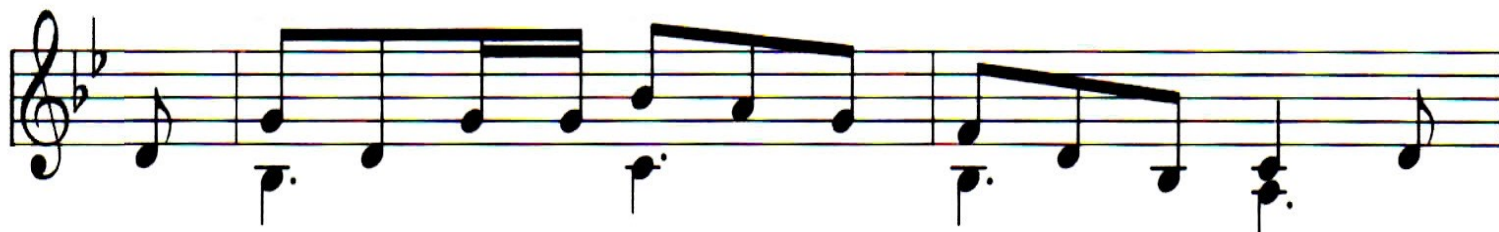
**All** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
 thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
 For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
 forever and ever. Amen.

## The Invitation

*P* Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

# Communion Songs

## I Wonder as I Wander



1 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how  
2 When Mar - y birthed . . . Je - sus, all in a cow's stall, came  
3 If Je - sus had . . . want - ed for an - y wee thing, a  
4 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how

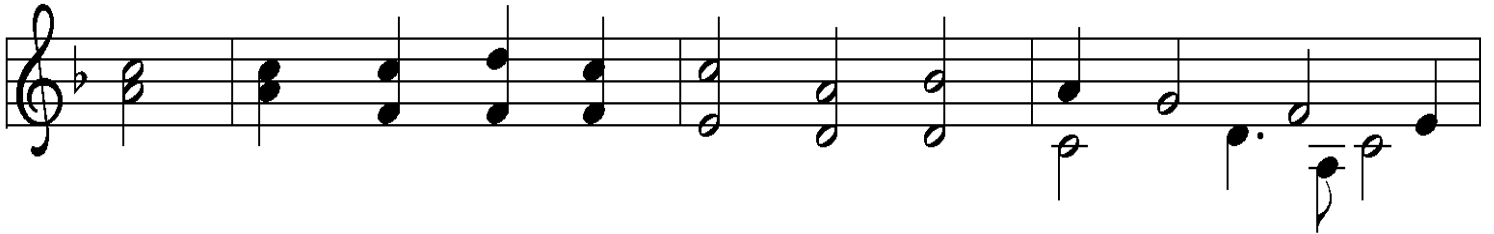


Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord'-n'ry peo - ple like  
wise men and farm - ers and shep - herds and all, and high from the heav - ens a  
star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or all of God's an - gels in  
Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord'-n'ry peo - ple like



you and like I. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.  
star's light did fall; the prom - ise of the a - ges it then did re - call.  
heav'n for to sing, he sure - ly could have had it, 'cause he was the king.  
you and like I. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.

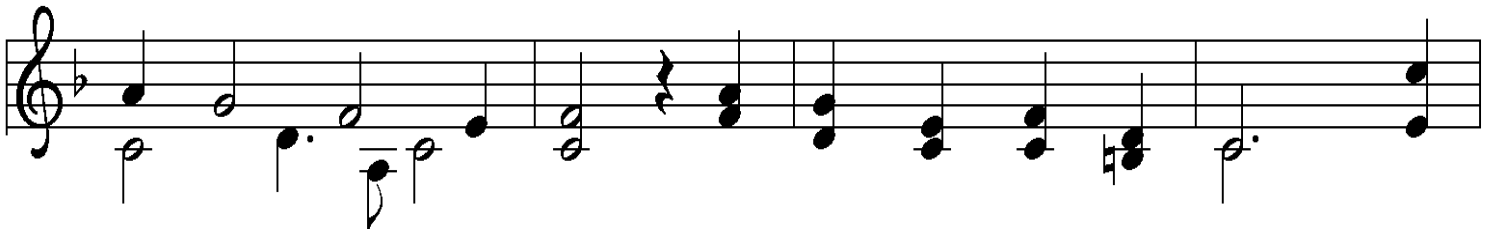
# Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming



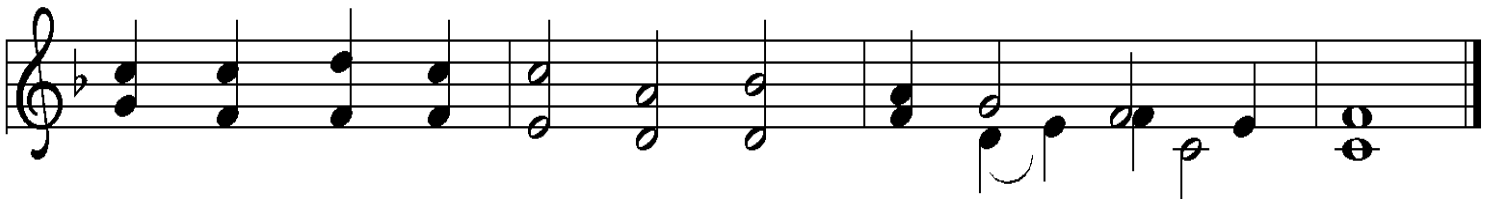
1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as  
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the  
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the  
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -  
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she  
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from  
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.  
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth,  
 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4

Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621



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

**All 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. Amen.**

## *Stewardship of Life and Ministry Announcements*

### **Anointed to Sacred Knowing**

*All season long, we have been marking sacred time, people, and space with the anointing of oil, lotion, or touch.*

*[If you attended worship here on-site with us these past few weeks, you should have been given a small vial of oil at the door. For those of you worshipping with us at home, please take a moment to grab a little olive oil from the kitchen or some lotion from your bathroom cabinet.]*

*This week is the countdown to Christmas with all the harried preparations to be on or off work, planning time with family, traveling, or whatever you will do.*

*It will be more difficult to find occasions to step away, to go within, to find the peace that we all need. But you are encouraged to try finding some peaceful time for yourself.*

*You are also invited to a kind of “anointing” of blessings that only takes a few seconds.*

*See if you can dare to say, in your own way, a blessing for peace to the people you encounter. It might be “I hope you can find some quiet moments of peace for yourself this week” to the check-out clerk at the store. Or it might be a more formal “peace be upon your soul” to someone who won’t look at you funny when you say that to them. Or it could just be a quick peace sign and a joyful “Peace to you!” as you part ways with friends. How will you bestow the blessing of peace on yourself and others this week?*

## Benediction

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

*P* When you see lights twinkle,  
when you catch a reflection in a mirror,  
when you notice the sunlight dancing on a surface  
or a nightlight glowing in the darkness,  
let these be signs that the Christ Light is revealed  
again and again in and through this world.

Know that your brilliant presence  
is pouring more love into a weary world.  
God loved us by becoming us.

This means you are already  
reflecting the sacred.

In the name of the Creator, Christ, ✝ and Spirit of Peace.

**All Amen**

## Sending Song

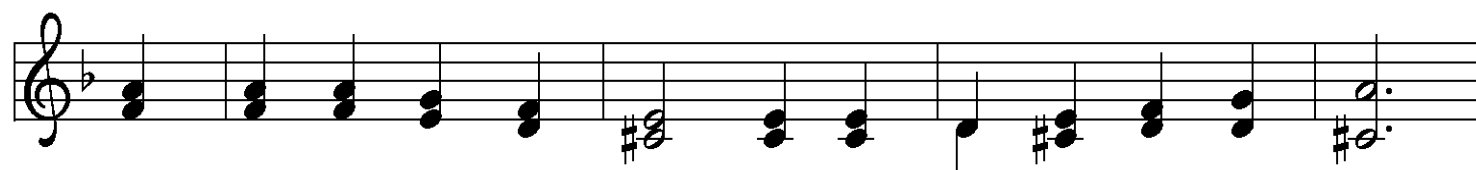
## O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

## Dismissal

*P* Go in peace. Christ is near.

**All** Thanks be to God.

Front Cover:

Photo by [Aaron Burden](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Readings for next Sunday,  
December 25<sup>th</sup>  
Christmas Day

**First Reading:**

**Isaiah 62:6-12**

**Psalm:**

**Psalm 97**

**Second Reading:**

**Titus 3:4-7**

**Gospel:**

**Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20**

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