

Sacred Doing *New Beginnings*



Sunday after Christmas

January 1, 2023



Ascension Lutheran Church

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Ogden, UT 84404

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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 worshipping community, these differences become celebrations of diversity.

**Children are always welcome in worship services;
however please know a nursery space is available for
parents who need to tend to their little ones.**

Introduction

From the beginning, through baptism, we are called Christian. We are "Christ-ened" at the font. Bearing Christ's name, we share the same Father and are invited to address this parent intimately: Abba! Jesus bears our sins in humble obedience to the will of God. Today we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin, again, another year.

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

Sacred Doing—New Beginnings

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 a new start this day.

All We pray for a new start 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 each relationship

All We open to see each relationship

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 the future.

All lighting the way to the future.



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 New Beginnings,
 we give you thanks for this commitment to help one another.

All As we take in the renewed life you offer,
 may we be a reflection of your light,
 expanding the sacred doing of our community
 to the alleviation of suffering wherever it is found. 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 Galatians, the 4th chapter

Paul proclaims the ultimate significance of the nativity: Jesus was born the Son of God so that, because of him, we all may be God's children.

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that

we might receive adoption as children. ⁶ And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Galatians 4:4-7

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. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Eight days after his birth, Jesus is circumcised according to Jewish law and given the name announced by the angel before his conception.

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.

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Luke 2:15-21

P The Gospel of our Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be Seated

Message

Pr. Debra Jimenez

Hymn of the Day

Please stand in body or spirit.

Jesus Name Above All Names

Words and Music by
Naida Hearn

Je - sus, name a - bove all names, beau - ti - ful
Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord. _____ Em -
man - u - el, God _____ is with _____ us, bless - ed Re -
deem - er, Liv - ing Word. _____

2 Jesus, loving shepherd
Vine of the branches, Son of God
Prince of Peace, Wonderful counselor
Lord of the universe, Light of the world.

3 Jesus, Way of salvation,
Kings of kings, Lord of Lords,
The way the truth, and the Life,
Mighty creator, my Savior and friend.

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 With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.



For you, O Lord, my soul in still - ness waits,



tru - ly my hope is in you.

(each prayer petition ends with)

L: Hear us, O God.

***All:* Your mercy is great.**

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 abundance,
receive and bless these gifts we have offered.

All Join our hearts with the song of the angels,
and gather us at your table of celebration.
Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace
upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen

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 Christ invites to this table all who are ready to move beyond the limitations of the past, all who are eager to move into the “new thing” that God is reflecting in our midst, all who are willing to let go of the pain that’s gone.

(tune: Morning has Broken)

♫ ♪ ***This is a day of new beginnings, ♪ ♪
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that’s gone...***

P And so this is an open invitation to come and receive the bread that will sustain us as we embark on this new calendar year.
All are invited to receive the sweetness of the cup
as a sign of God’s promise of abundant possibilities.
All are invited to this meal, for all are forgiven their past regrets
and invited into God’s grace-filled future!

All ***Praise to the Living God!***

P The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts in this new day.

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 It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Creator and Renewer of all life.

Time and again you seek us out,

breathing again the breath of life into the deflated places our lives.

And so, we come to your table again to praise you

and taste yet again what your steadfast love can do...

(tune: Morning has Broken)

*♪ ♪ In faith we'll gather round the table, ♪ ♪
to taste and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new...*

P Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

He healed the sick,

fed the hungry,

and ate with those others considered unworthy.

Through him, faith and hope were born again for so many...

(tune: Morning has Broken)

*♪ ♪ For by the life and death of Jesus, ♪ ♪
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference,
as faith and hope are born again...*

P On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, 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 to you, 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 many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, as we remember these words and acts of Jesus,
we offer our own lives, leaving behind what we do not need,
seeking new paths full of risen life in you.
As followers of Christ, we proclaim and live out this holy mystery:

All Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

(tune: Morning has Broken)

*♪ ♪ Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, ♪ ♪
step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to find...*

P Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
so that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
breaking ourselves open to your future.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

P Through your Son Jesus Christ
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and forever!

(tune: Morning has Broken)

*♪ ♪ Christ is alive, and goes before us ♪ ♪
to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new!*

P As you come for communion this morning, we will be offering an
anointing with oil with the sign of the cross on our foreheads as our final
anointing ritual from this worship series in which we have seen all things,
including us, “Christified” and anointed as a shining reflection of the
sacred.

If you are worshiping with us at home, after you have eaten what you
have there, feel free to anoint yourself or each other with oil or lotion.
The sign of the cross on our foreheads comes from the ancient ritual of
early Christians at their baptism. It is a kind of “notary public stamp” that
reminds us that we are connected with Christ always and forever.

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.

Love Came Down At Christmas

Verse 1

Love came down at Christmas
Love all love divine
Love came down at Christmas
And I know I know that love is mine

Verse 2

Love was in a manger
In a cattle stall
And while angels hovered
Love was born to be the King of all

Chorus

The shepherds heard the choirs of angels
The wise men saw a distant light
They found the wonder they were searching for
And worshipped Him that holy night

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Roger Copeland
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Jesus Your Name

Words by
Claire Cloninger

Music by
Morris Chapman



1. Je-sus, Your name _ is pow - er, Je - sus, Your name _ is might. _
2. Je-sus, Your name _ is heal - ing, Je - sus, Your name _ gives sight. _
3. Je-sus, Your name _ is ho - ly, Je - sus, Your name _ brings light. _



___ Je - sus, Your name ___ will
___ Je - sus, Your name ___ will
___ Je - sus, Your name ___ a -



break ev - 'ry strong - hold; Je - sus, Your name ___ is life. ___
free ev - 'ry cap - tive; Je - sus, Your name ___ is life. ___
-bove ev - 'ry oth - er; Je - sus, Your name ___ is life. ___

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

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.

P This means you are already
reflecting the sacred.

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

All Amen

Sending Song

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

Je - sus, Je - sus, oh, what a won - der - ful child.
Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly, meek, and
mild; new life, new hope the child will bring.
Lis - ten to the an - gels sing: "Glo - ry, glo - ry,
glo - ry," let the heav - ens ring!

Text: African American traditional, alt.

Music: African American traditional; arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1953–2002

Arr. from *The New Century Hymnal* (#136), © 1992 Pilgrim Press.

Dismissal

P Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news!

All Thanks be to God.

Front Cover:

Photo by [Faris Mohammed](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Readings for next Sunday,
January 8th
Baptism of Our Lord

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm: Psalm 29

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

About our Worship Space

In preparation for the coming of Jesus into our world we have chosen a theme of Reflecting the Sacred for our Advent season.

We too often think that something “sacred” is far away and not available to us.

But what if we saw the presence of the holy in all that has been, is, and always will be—right here—reflected in and through everything and everyone around us?

God’s gift of creation reflects and refracts the light of life throughout heaven and earth.

Just as the seers of old looked to the skies for the light of life and love, our worship space attempts to capture the beauty of the night sky, the lights of the heavens framing the gift of sacrifice that was always present...

before the birth of Jesus...

even before creation itself.

***The cross was no surprise to God, yet he came to us anyway...
as a vulnerable baby...as one of us.***

Music licenses covered by these subscriptions



**Thank you to all who Donated the Poinsettias
for our Christmas Worship Service:**

Diane Baird *in loving memory of her son, Danny*
Diane Baird *in honor of her children, Michelle, Mark, Sara and Brian*
Dee and Don Brown *in honor of Don and Dee's birthdays*
Linda Corey *in loving memory of Linda's father*
Cindy and Alan Day *in loving memory of their son, Erik*
Cindy and Alan Day *in loving memory of sister Debbie Johnson Officer*
Christie and Mark Denniston *in loving memory of Kent and Ruth Anderson*
Orv and Ann Engelby *in loving memory of their parents and siblings*
Renee and Todd Hart *in loving memory of their parents*
Shelie and Ada Ingram *in loving memory of their parents*
Debra and James Jimenez *in loving memory of their parents*
Debra and James Jimenez *in loving memory of their siblings*
Sharen Kamp *in loving memory of her husband, Ivan*
Connie Larsen *in honor of her entire family*
Connie Larsen *in loving memory of her husband, Jerry*
Hazel Ann Linke *in loving memory of her husband, Don*
Nancy & Mike Otto *to commemorate the saints who have gone before us
and led the way*
Pat and Eric Refsdal *in honor of Pat's parents and in memory of Eric's parents*
Pat and Eric Refsdal *in honor of our musicians and singers*
Nicole and Mike Shane *in prayerful healing for Nicole's sister, Carroll and family*
Marlys and Keith Sorbo *in loving memory of Paula Volpi*
Marlys and Keith Sorbo *in loving memory of Maynard Satrom*
Arliss and Roy Zimmerman *in loving memory of Arliss' parents*
Arliss and Roy Zimmerman *in loving memory of Roy's parents*

