



## Transfiguration of Our Lord February 11, 2024



900 Washington Crossing Road  
Newtown PA 18940  
215-497-0447  
[ascensionlutheranchurch.org](http://ascensionlutheranchurch.org)

# WELCOME TO ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

## **You are welcome here.**

*If you have a prayer request, please fill out the yellow prayer sheet found in your bulletin. Prayer sheets will be collected by the usher during the hymn of the day. Prayer requests will be collected from Zoom worshipers via the Zoom meeting's chat function. Prayer requests will be voiced by the pastor during the prayers of the people and added to the weekly prayer list circulated by email. All worshipers are welcome to receive Holy Communion, the body and blood of Jesus, given and shed for us.*

## **Introduction to the Day**

*The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.*

## **Pulpit Swap with Saint Bartholomew's Lutheran Church (Trenton, NJ)**

*Today we welcome Rev. Erich Kussman, pastor at St. Bartholomew's Lutheran Church in Trenton, NJ, as our presider and preacher. Rev. Erich is unabashedly Christian, but his message is full of hope, faith, revolutionary social justice, combined with piercing insight into the power of radical love. He served time in prison and has graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary.*

## **Cover Image**

*Latimore, Kelly. Transfiguration, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57114> [retrieved January 30, 2024]. Original source: Kelly Latimore Icons, <https://kellylatimoreicons.com/>*

*Presiding Minister (P), Assisting Minister (AM), Congregation (C)*

*The flowers above the altar are given by Cheryl Serdaru  
In memory of her sister, Charlotte Border*

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
creator of darkness and light,  
word of truth,  
wind sweeping over the waters.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P God, our rock and refuge,

**C we pour out our hearts before you.  
We have known you but have not always loved you.  
We have wounded one another  
and sinned against you.  
We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit**

**dwelling in each of us.  
Remember your covenant.  
Renew your creation.  
Restore us,  
that we might proclaim your good news to all.  
Amen.**

P The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.  
God has spoken:  
The time of grace is now.  
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.  
By the authority of † Jesus Christ,  
your sins are forgiven.  
You are God's beloved.  
**Amen.**

# OPENING HYMN | LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788  
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

## 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.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE | JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## **FIRST READING | 2 KINGS 2:1-12**

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking

and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

R The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM | PSALM 50:1-6** *prayed responsively*

The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken;  
calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,  
God shines forth in glory.**

Our God will come and will not keep silence;  
with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging  
storm.

**God calls the heavens and the earth from above  
to witness the judgment of the people.**

"Gather before me my loyal followers,  
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with  
sacrifice."

**The heavens declare the rightness of God's cause,  
for it is God who is judge.**



## SECOND READING | 2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-6

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

R The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | ALLELUIA

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

## GOSPEL | MARK 9:2-9

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

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

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white,

such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Doreen Bourbon

SERMON

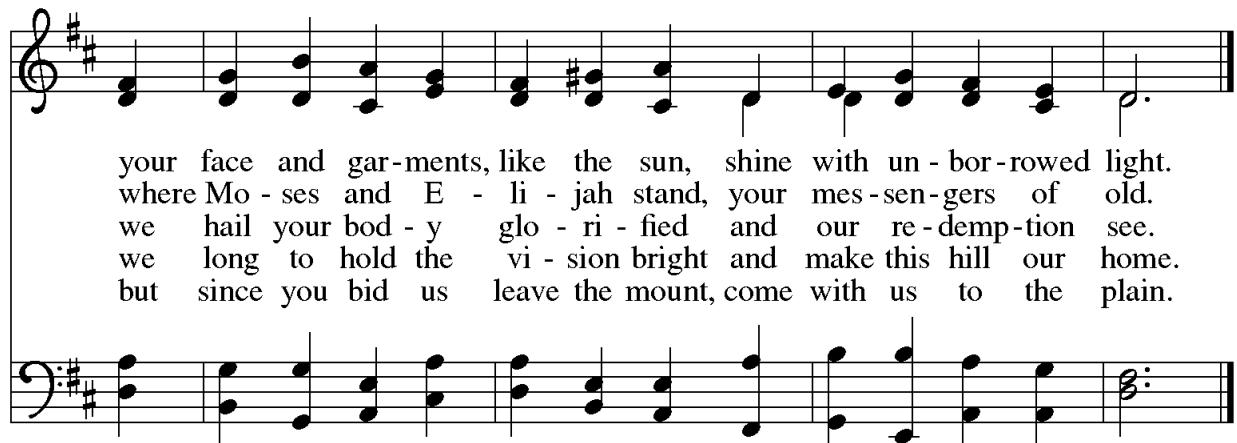
Rev. Erich Kussman

## HYMN OF THE DAY | HOW GOOD, LORD, TO BE HERE

An usher will collect prayer requests during the hymn of the day



1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;  
2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold  
3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,  
4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;  
5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;



your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.  
where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.  
we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.  
we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.  
but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt.

Music: POTSDAM, W. Mercer, *The Church Psalter and Hymn Book*, 1854

## NICENE CREED

P Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed:

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 THE PEOPLE

AM God of grace,

**C Receive our prayer.**

#### SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

# MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A brass plate will be passed during the offertory for your tithes and offerings. You may also give online by visiting [ascensionlutheranchurch.org/give](http://ascensionlutheranchurch.org/give). Thank you for your gifts.

## OFFERING HYMN | AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT

*Refrain*

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.  
1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,  
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when  
*Refrain*  
may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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## OFFERING PRAYER

AM Blessed are you, Holy One,  
for all good things come from you.  
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.  
Meet us at this table,  
that we receive what we seek  
and follow your Son, Jesus,  
in whose name we pray.

**C Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them to the Lord**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

## PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:  
 you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

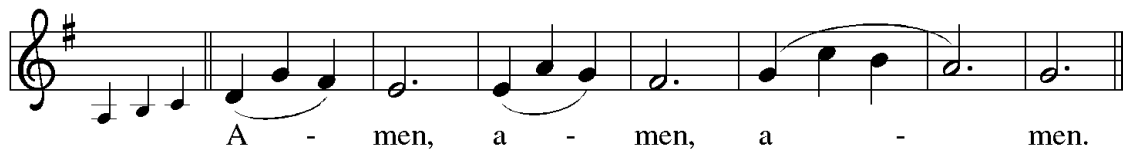
You formed the earth from chaos;  
 you encircled the globe with air;  
 you created fire for warmth and light;  
 you nourish the lands with water.  
 You molded us in your image,  
 and with mercy higher than the mountains,  
 with grace deeper than the seas,  
 you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying,  
 might be adopted to live in your Spirit,  
 you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.





until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,  
we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:  
through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,  
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever:



## LORD'S PRAYER

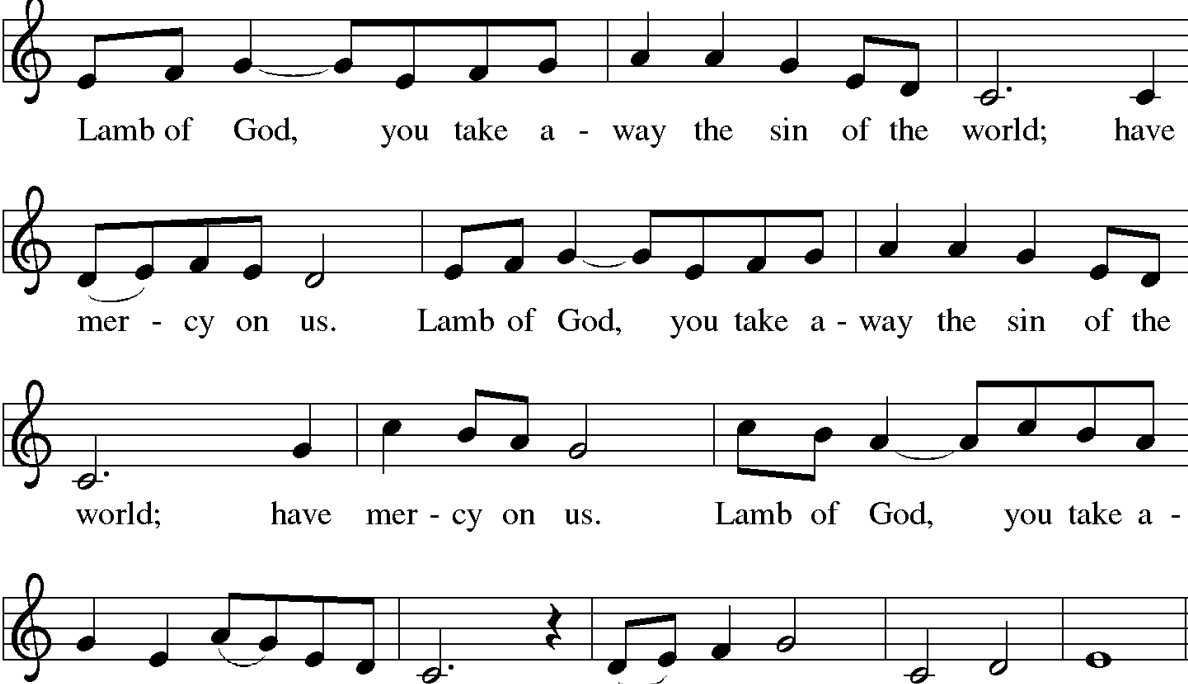
P Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.  
Come and see.

## AGNUS DEI



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, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

*All are invited forward to receive communion. Communion is celebrated by intinction. Worshipers may receive the blessed bread and dip it in the divided chalice containing red wine or white grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are also available; please let the Pastor know of your preference. Worshipers may also choose to partake using individually-packed elements; these contain a wafer and grape juice. Empty cups may be placed in the basket on your way out of the sanctuary. Those worshipping from home via Zoom are invited to join in communion by providing their own communion elements.*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

**C** **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

AM Giver of every gift,  
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.  
Raise us to life by your power  
for the benefit of all and to your glory,  
now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

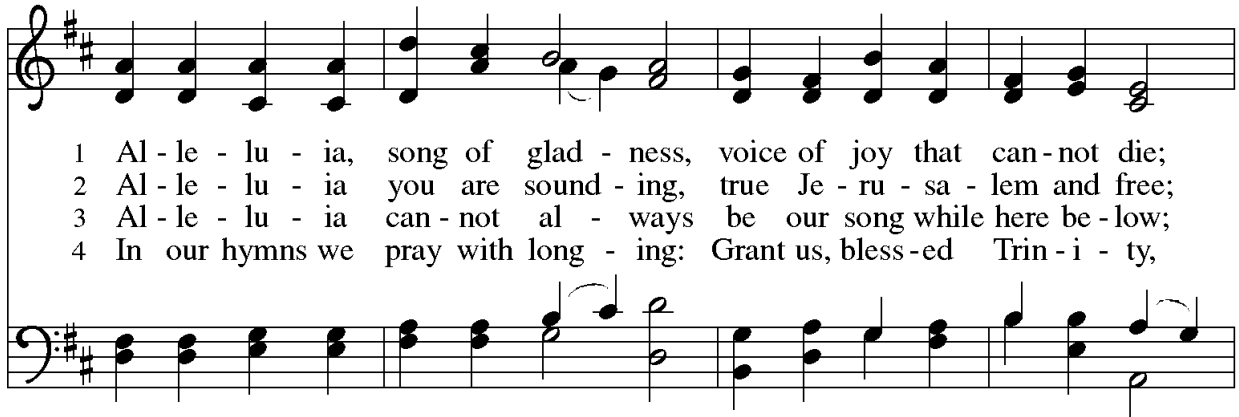
## ANNOUNCEMENTS OF LIFE & MINISTRY AT ALC

### BLESSING

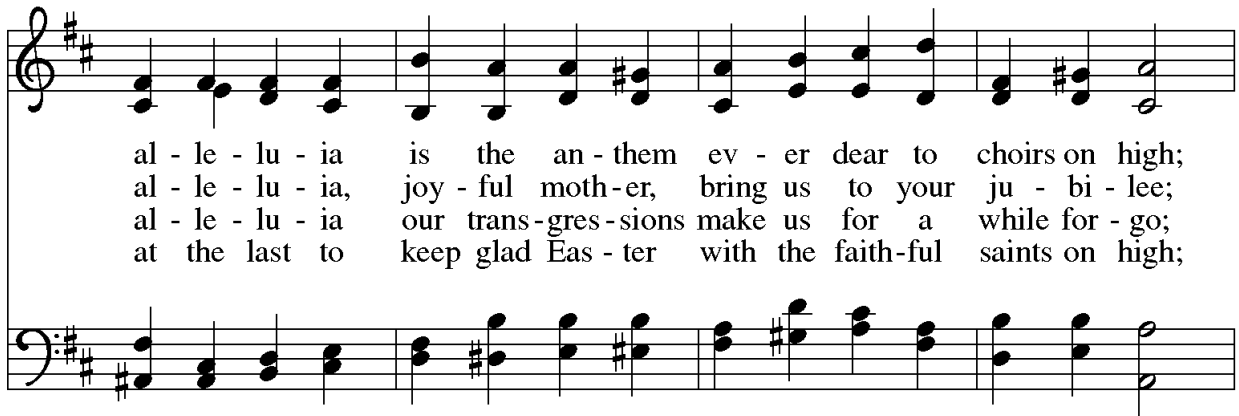
God who names you,  
Christ who claims you,  
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,  
✠ bless you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

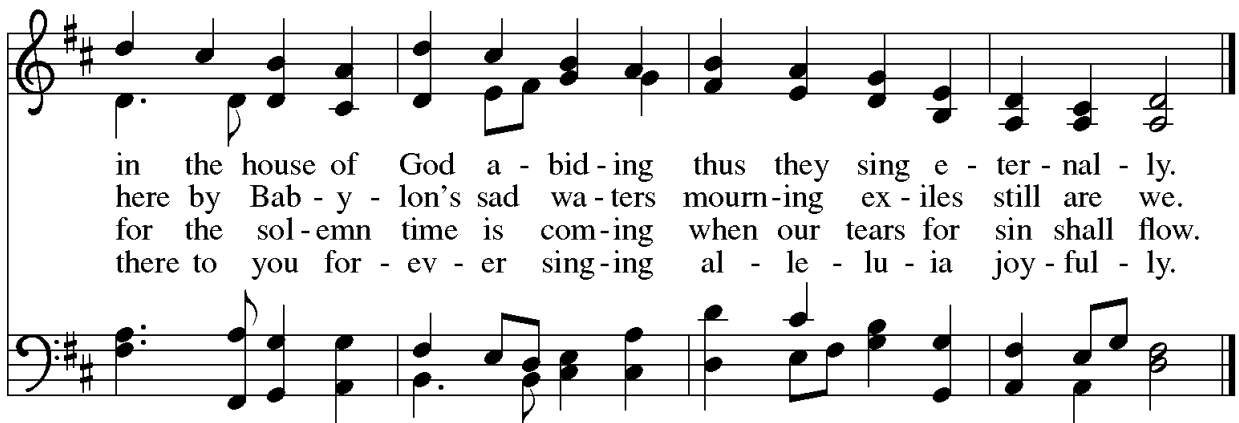
# SENDING HYMN | ALLELUIA, SONG OF GLADNESS



1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;  
 2 Al - le - lu - ia you are sound - ing, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;  
 3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;  
 4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,



al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear to choirs on high;  
 al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er, bring us to your ju - bi - lee;  
 al - le - lu - ia our trans - gres - sions make us for a while for - go;  
 at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith - ful saints on high;



in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.  
 here by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn - ing ex - iles still are we.  
 for the sol - emn time is com - ing when our tears for sin shall flow.  
 there to you for - ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
 Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

DISMISSAL

AM Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*All are welcome to join us after the service for fellowship over coffee and baked goods.*

**Thank you to our volunteers this week:**

Assisting Minister ..... Doreen Bourbon  
Reader ..... Tony Eith  
Altar Service..... Amy Loux  
Usher ..... Lisa Murphy  
Counters ..... Sheryl White  
Sue Baumgarten  
Greeter ..... Irene Miller  
Fellowship ..... Beth Schultz  
Tech ..... John Carducci

## **Ash Wednesday Service**

Join us on February 14, 2024 at 7pm for an Ash Wednesday Worship Service to begin the season of Lent. All are welcome.

## **Family Fun Night at a Special Time**

Family Fun “Night” will take place directly following the worship service next Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. All are invited to join us for a fun, creative, and interactive lesson with Pastor Kayla as well as a service project.

## **Connect with US**

The best way to stay informed of church activities is to subscribe to our Constant Contact email listserv. You will receive the weekly worship link, the bi-monthly newsletter, and occasional event reminders and updates. To sign up, visit [ascensionlutheranchurch.org/contactus](https://ascensionlutheranchurch.org/contactus), or email the office at [officealc900@gmail.com](mailto:officealc900@gmail.com)

To give online please scan the QR Code below.



## **Online Lenten Devotional**

If you would like to receive our Daily Lenten Devotional via Constant Contact each day, please let us know by using the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. You will also find copies of the Devotional Booklet and Cards on the welcome table.



Rev. Kayla J. Hopgood, *Pastor* | [pastor.kayla.alc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.kayla.alc@gmail.com)  
Peter de Mets, *Director of Music* | [pdm@peterdemetsmusic.com](mailto:pdm@peterdemetsmusic.com)  
Ginny Kraft, *Church Administrator* | [officealc900@gmail.com](mailto:officealc900@gmail.com)  
Beth Peroni, *Bookkeeper* | [bookkeeperalc900@gmail.com](mailto:bookkeeperalc900@gmail.com)

The Church Office is open Wednesdays from  
9AM - 1PM and Thursdays from 12-4PM.

Learn more about our community at [ascensionlutheranchurch.org](http://ascensionlutheranchurch.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/AscensionLutheranNewtown](https://www.facebook.com/AscensionLutheranNewtown)  
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