



Second Sunday after Epiphany January 14, 2024



900 Washington Crossing Road
Newtown PA 18940
215-497-0447
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

All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called "the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

Cover Image

Wesley, Frank, 1923-2002. The Call to Samuel, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59172> [retrieved January 9, 2024]. Original source: Estate of Frank Wesley, http://www.frankwesleyart.com/main_page.htm.

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

*The flowers above the altar are given by David and Anne Chmielewski
in honor of Kevin Fair*

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 | JESUS CALLS US O'ER THE TUMULT

1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our
 2 As of old Saint An - drew heard it by the
 3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 5 Je - sus calls us! By your mer - cy, Sav - ior,

life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice
 Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 may we hear your call, give our hearts to your o -

sound - ing, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me":
 kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
 keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 be - dience, serve and love you best of all.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895
 Music: GALILEE, William H. Jude, 1851–1922

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!
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING | 1 SAMUEL 3:1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie

down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

R The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM | PSALM 139:1-6, 13-18 *prayed responsively*

LORD, you have searched me out;

O LORD, you have known me.

**You know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.

**Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**

You encompass me, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of
the earth.

**Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of
them were written in your book;
my days were fashioned before they came to be.**

How deep I find your thoughts, O God!

How great is the sum of them!
If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the
sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

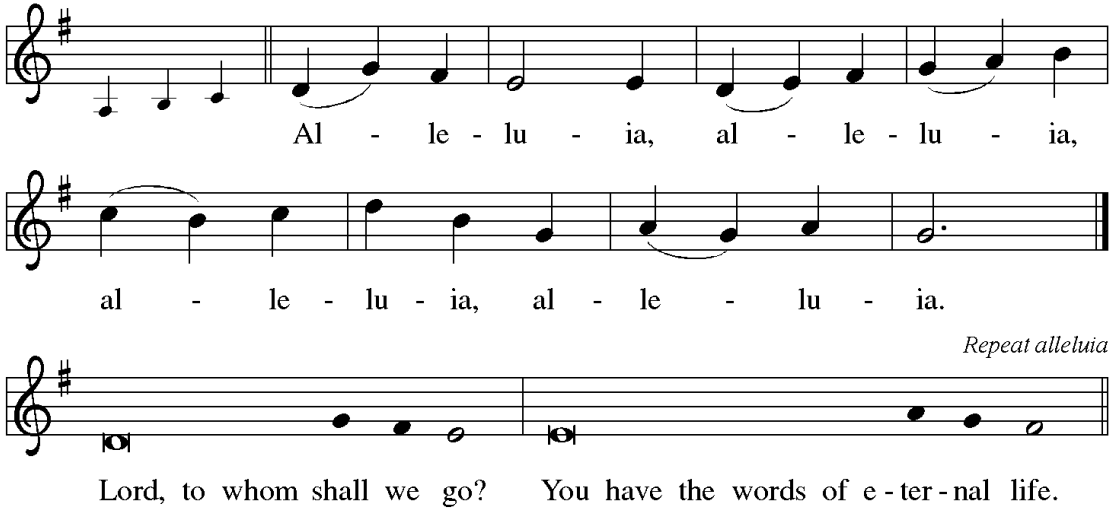
SECOND READING | 1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20

“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

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 | JOHN 1:43-51

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see

heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

TIME WITH CHILDREN

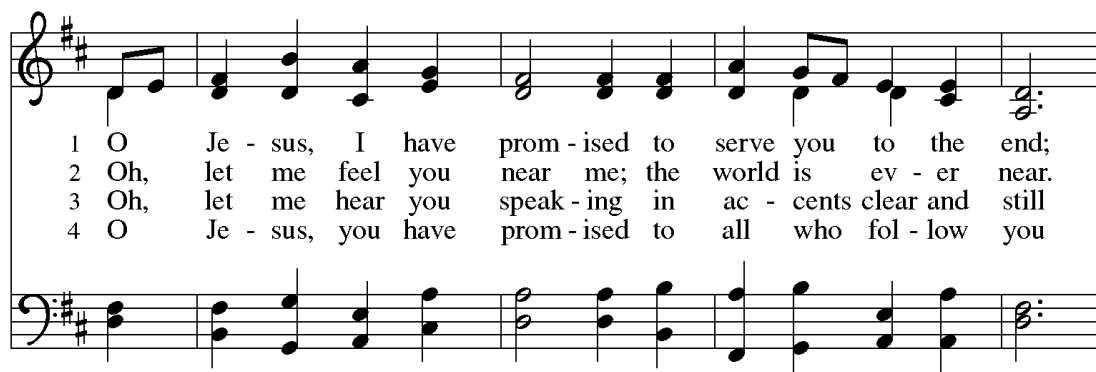
Doreen Bourbon

SERMON

Pastor Kayla Hopgood

HYMN OF THE DAY | O JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED

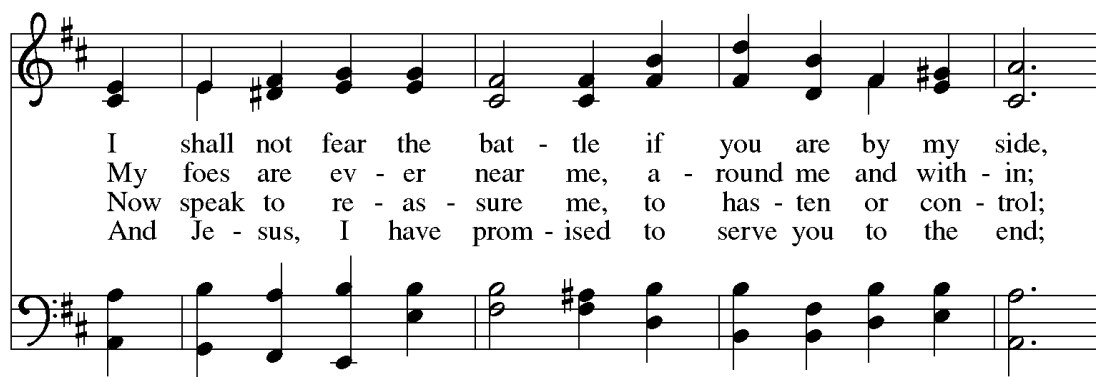
An usher will collect prayer requests during the hymn of the day



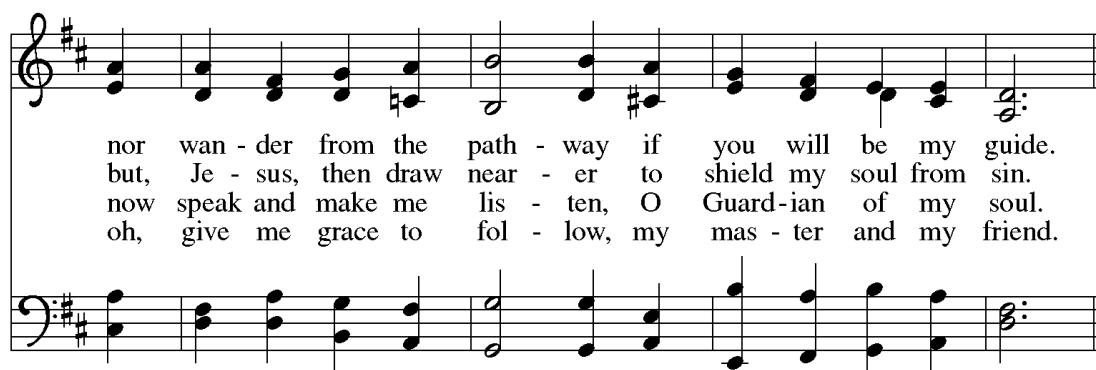
1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816–1874, alt.

Music: MUNICH, *Neuermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

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.

ANTHEM | JUST TWO WORDS

by Herb Frombach

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. 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

Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

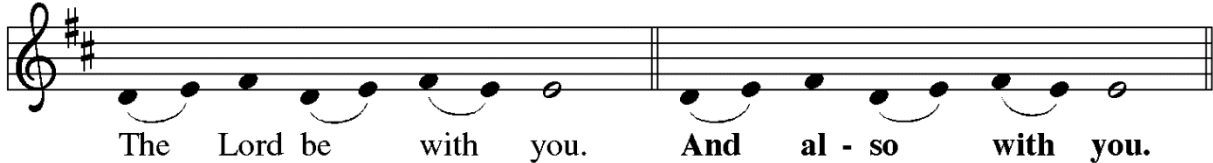
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

OFFERING PRAYER

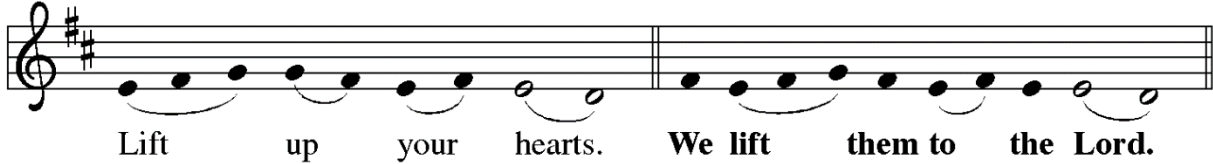
AM Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray.

C **Amen.**

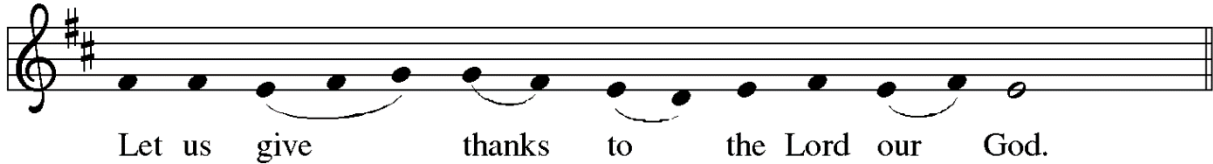
DIALOGUE



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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all na - tions;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your be - lov - ed Son,
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he re - vealed your glo - ry.
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

From *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* copyright © 2006. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license # _____.

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.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

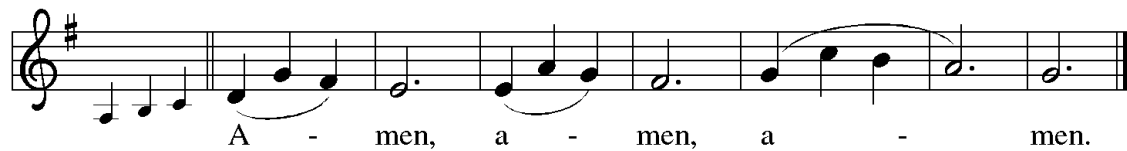
Together as the body of Christ,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:



Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,
send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,
whose breath revives us for life,
whose fire rouses us to love.
Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the
world.

Holy and benevolent God,
receive our praise and petitions,
as Jesus received the cry of the needy,
and fill us with your blessing,

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

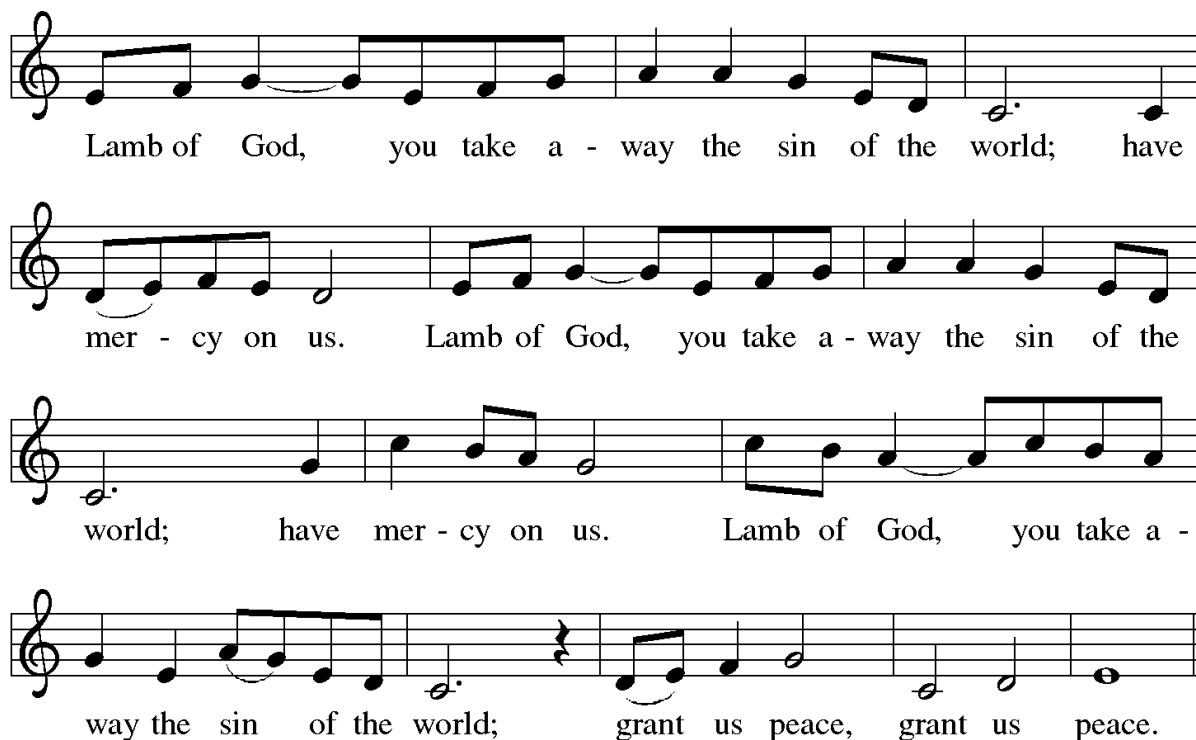
P Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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 | LORD SPEAK TO US THAT WE MAY SPEAK

1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in
 2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the
 3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the
 4 Oh, fill us with your full - ness, Lord, un -

liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
 wan-d'ring and the wa - v'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that
 pre - cious truths which you im - part; and wing our words, that
 til our ver - y hearts o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and

let us seek your stray - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
 we may feed your hun - g'ring ones with man - na sweet.
 they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y_a heart.
 glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
 Music: CANONBURY, Robert Schumann, 1810–1856

DISMISSAL

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

C **Thanks be to God.**

Thank you to our volunteers this week:

- Assisting Minister Lynn D’Esmond
- ReaderSheryl White
- Altar Service.....Sue Baumgarten
- UsherLisa Murphy
- CountersBarbara Raabe
Anne Chmielewski
- GreeterIrene Miller
- FellowshipJillian Rauh
- TechJohn Carducci
Tony Eith



Rev. Kayla J. Hopgood, *Pastor* | pastor.kayla.alc@gmail.com
 Peter de Mets, *Director of Music* | pdm@peterdemetsmusic.com
 Ginny Kraft, *Church Administrator* | officealc900@gmail.com
 Beth Peroni, *Bookkeeper* | 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
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/AscensionLutheranNewtown
 Instagram: AscensionLutheranNewtown