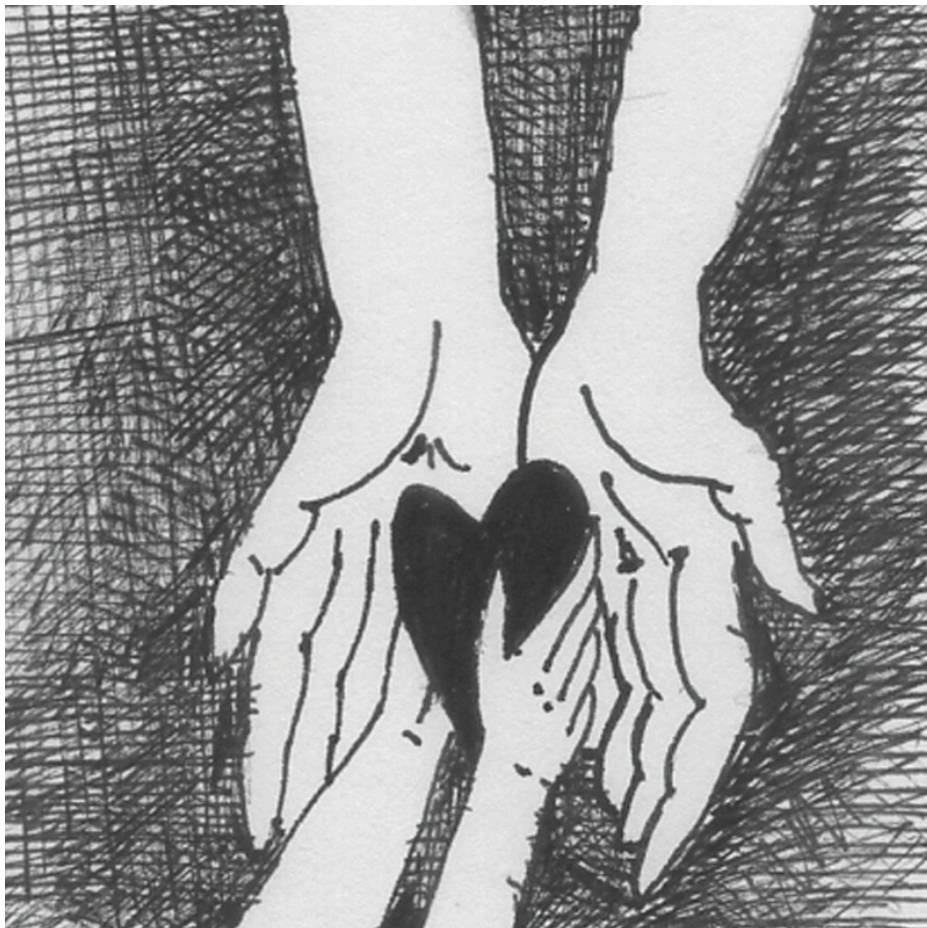




## Fourth Sunday after Epiphany January 28, 2024



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**

*In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.*

## **Cover Image**

*Valente, Liz. My Heart for the Lord, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57567> [retrieved January 23, 2024]. Original source: Liz Valente, <https://www.instagram.com/donalizvalente/>.*

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

*The flowers above the altar are given by Pastor Kayla Hopgood  
in appreciation for our ministry together*

## 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 | SONGS OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE

1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;  
 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint-ing soul;  
 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,  
 and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;  
 man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;  
 grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:  
 man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
 man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:  
 that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,

an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,  
 an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.  
 an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,  
 and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.

Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

## 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** Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## WORD

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

### **FIRST READING | DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20**

[Moses said:] The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

**R** The Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM | PSALM 111** *prayed responsively*

Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

**Great are your works, O LORD,  
pondered by all who delight in them.**

Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,  
and your righteousness endures forever.

**You cause your wonders to be remembered;  
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

You give food to those who fear you,  
remembering forever your covenant.

**You have shown your people the power of your works  
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;  
all of your precepts are sure.

**They stand fast forever and ever,  
because they are done in truth and equity.**

You sent redemption to your people and commanded your  
covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name.

**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all who practice this have a good understanding.  
God's praise endures forever.**

## **SECOND READING | 1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13**

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a



stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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 1:21-28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

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

[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SERMON

Pastor Kayla Hopgood

## HYMN OF THE DAY | RISE, SHINE YOU PEOPLE

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



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered  
2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;  
3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,  
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to  
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and  
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the  
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.  
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.  
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.  
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.  
Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003  
Text and music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## 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 | LET ALL THE PEOPLE PRAISE THEE by Natalie Sleeth

## 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  
Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://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;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resur - rec - tion  
opened to us the way of ev - er - last - ing life.  
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:

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.

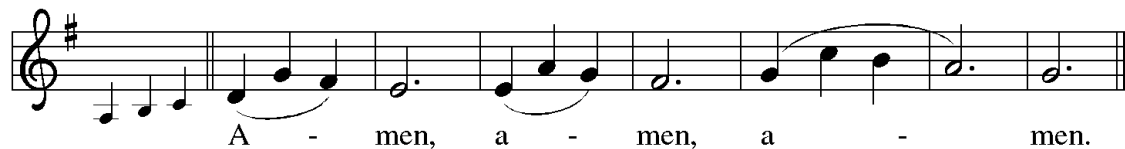
Together as the body of Christ,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:



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 | JESUS SHALL REIGN

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es  
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his  
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners  
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from  
 thron - e to crown his head; his name like sweet per -  
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es  
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -  
 hon - or to our king; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.  
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.  
 Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

DISMISSAL

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

*All are welcome to join us in the narthex for fellowship over coffee and baked goods. Our Annual Meeting will begin at 11:30AM in the sanctuary.*

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

Assisting Minister ..... Jillian Rauh  
Reader ..... Tony Eith  
Altar Service..... Doreen Bourbon  
Usher ..... Anne Chmielewski  
Counters ..... Blaine Orth  
   Barbara Raabe  
Greeter ..... Maryjane Hagan  
Fellowship ..... Anne Chmielewski  
Tech ..... John Carducci

**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](http://ascensionlutheranchurch.org/contactus), or email the office at [officealc900@gmail.com](mailto:officealc900@gmail.com)

To give online please scan the QR Code below.



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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)  
Instagram: AscensionLutheranNewtown