



## Baptism of Our Lord January 7, 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***

*Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.*

**Cover Image** "Baptism of Christ" (2005) by David Zelenka, Wikimedia

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

*The flowers above the altar are given by Maryjane Hagan  
in honor of the birthdays of Janice and Jim Smith*

## GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

We gather at this font, O God,  
creator of oceans and rivers, rain and snow.  
We praise you for the Delaware River and the Neshaminy Creek  
and for the water you provide us each day.

We praise your Spirit, hovering over this font.  
We bless you for this cleansing water of rebirth,  
this flood of endless mercy,  
and for all the baptized around this blue planet.

We ask you, almighty Provider,  
to give us the water we need,  
and we praise you for the sustenance you grant at this font.  
By the water of our baptism empower us  
to pour out ourselves for others  
and to safeguard the waters of your earth.

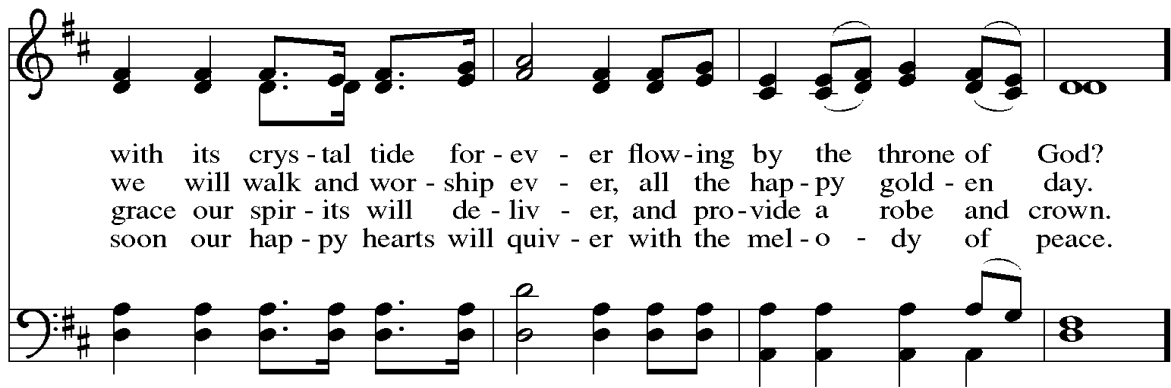
To you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Sea of holiness, Spring of salvation, Cloud of mystery,  
be all praise and thanksgiving,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

# OPENING HYMN | SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER



1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,  
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,  
3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;  
4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

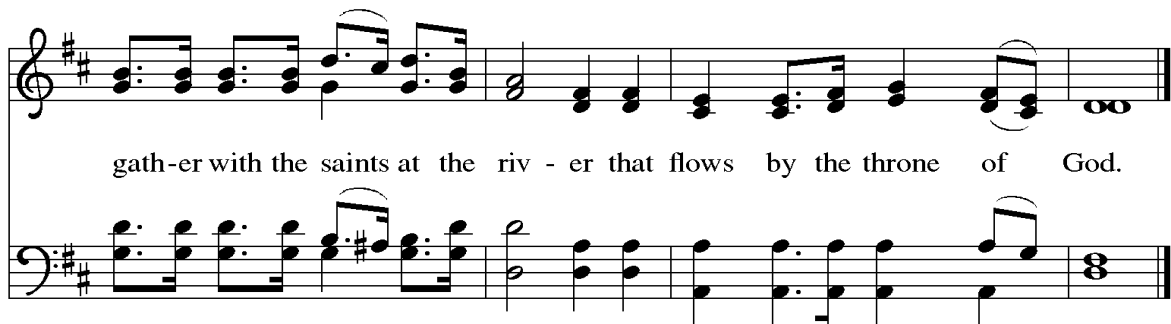


with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?  
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.  
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.  
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

*Refrain*



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899  
Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

## 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** Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, 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 | GENESIS 1:1-5**

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.<sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

**R** The Word of the Lord.

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

**PSALM 29**      *prayed responsively*

Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory  
thunders;

the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

The voice of the LORD  
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips  
the forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

O LORD, give strength to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

**SECOND READING | ACTS 19:1-7**

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?"



They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—altogether there were about twelve of them.

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 1:4-11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

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

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan,

confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SERMON

Pastor Kayla Hopgood

# HYMN OF THE DAY | WASH, O GOD, OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS

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



1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.  
2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.  
3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.  
Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.  
To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.  
God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,  
We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.  
one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.  
By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

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## 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 | CHRIST, WHEN FOR US YOU WERE BAPTIZED

by Nikolaus Herman

## 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

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.

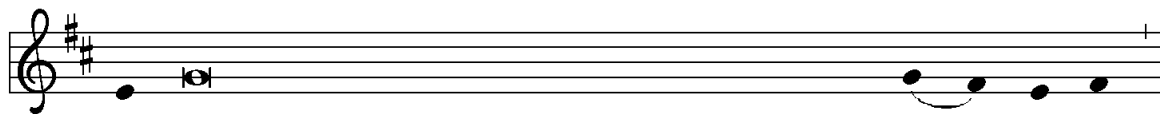
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and consists of four staves. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in bold. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The third and fourth staves end with a double bar line.

PREFACE



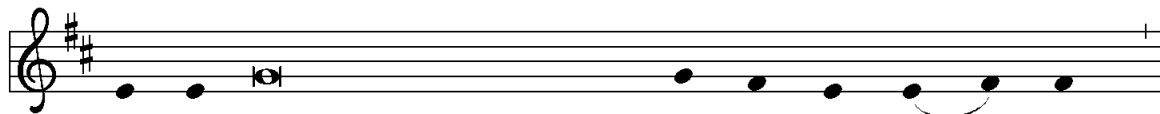
It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,



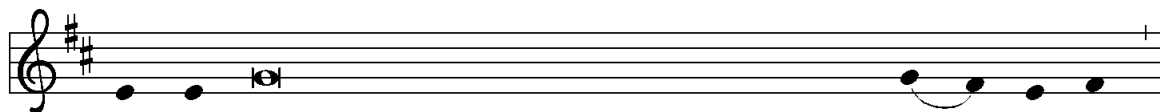
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,



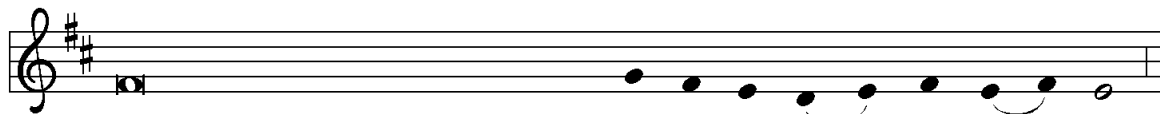
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.



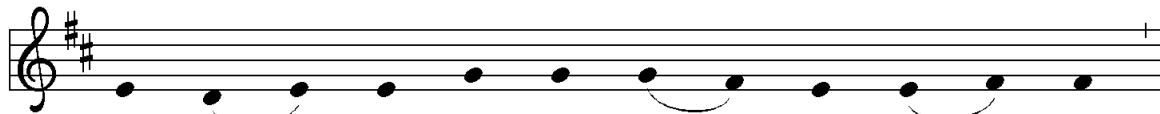
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all na - tions;



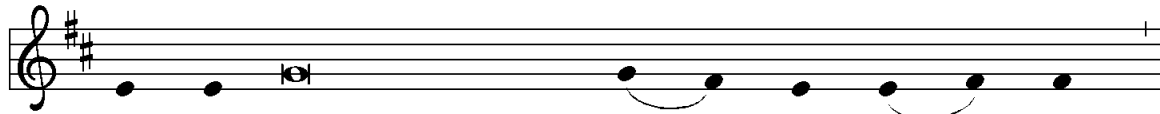
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your be - lov - ed Son,



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:



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.

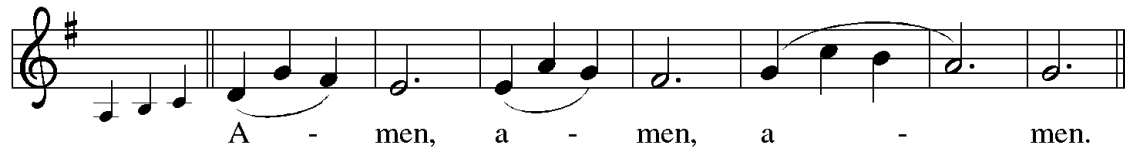
Together as the body of Christ,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:



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:



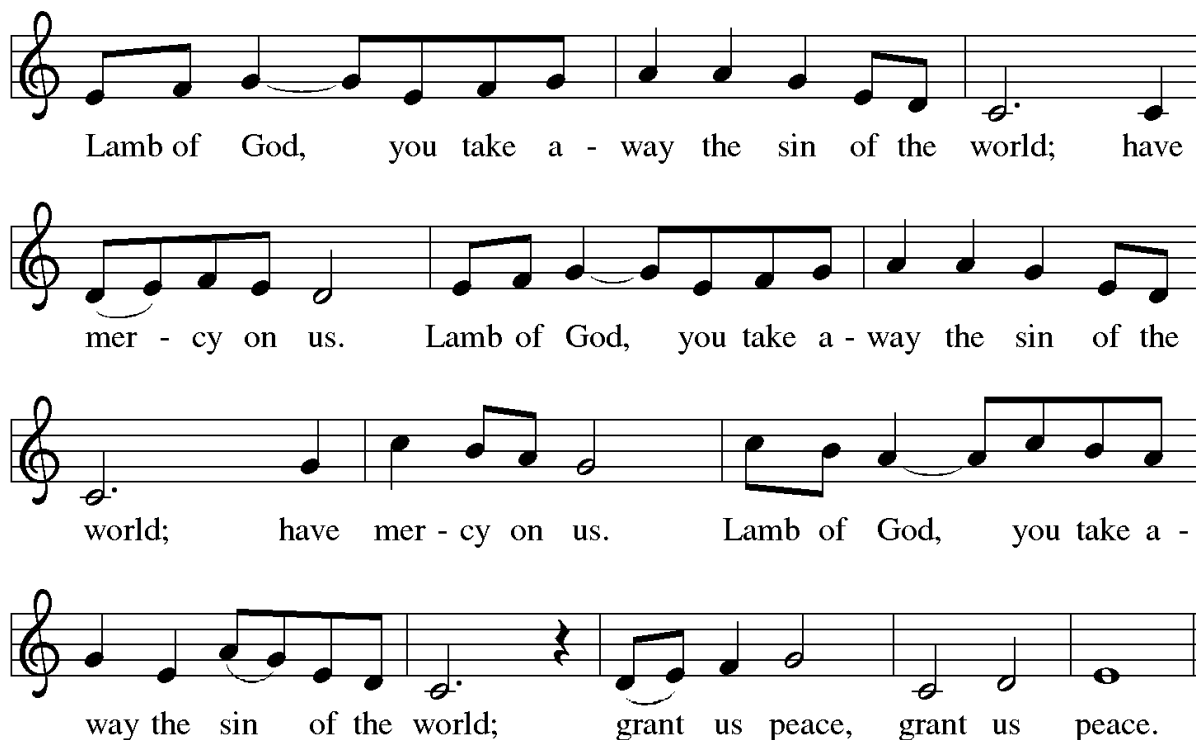
## LORD'S PRAYER

- 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.*

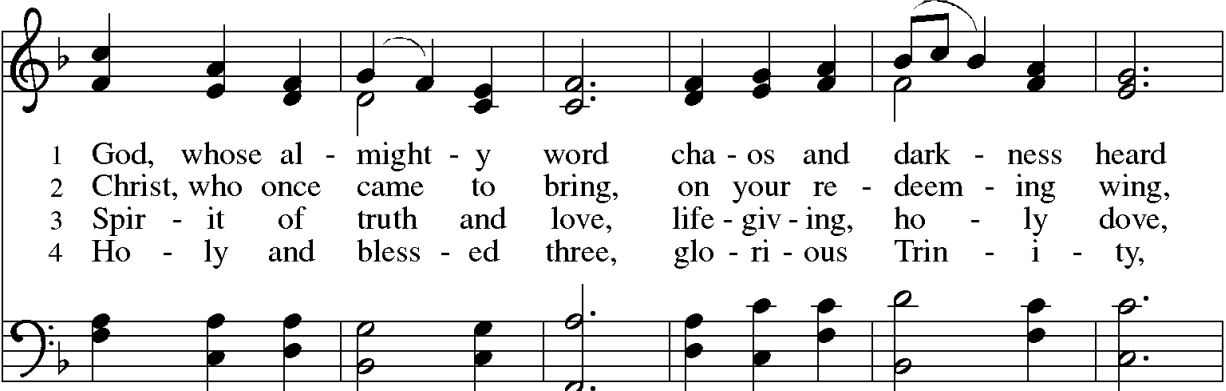
## ANNOUNCEMENTS OF LIFE & MINISTRY AT ALC

### 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.**

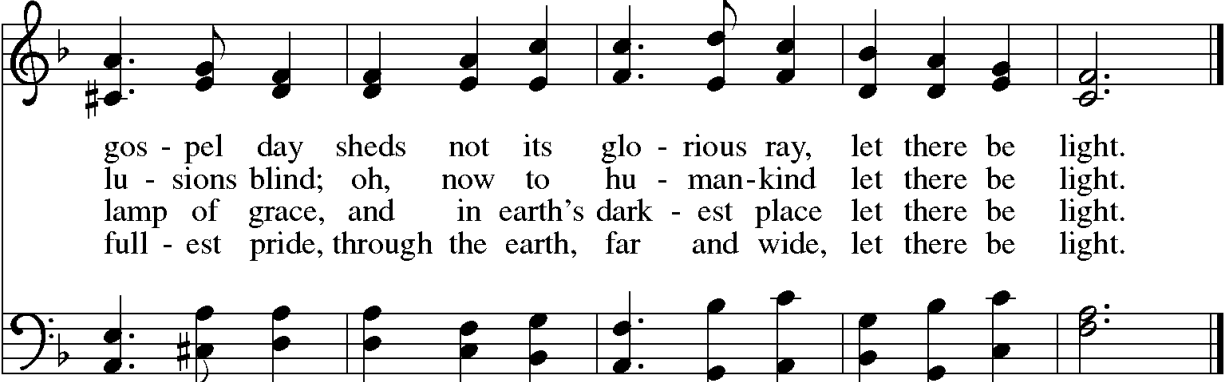
## SENDING HYMN | GOD, WHOSE ALMIGHTY WORD



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard  
 2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,  
 3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,  
 4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the  
 heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -  
 speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the  
 Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.  
 lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man - kind let there be light.  
 lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.  
 full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.  
 Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

## DISMISSAL

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

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

Assisting Minister ..... Jillian Rauh  
Reader .....Doreen Bourbon  
Altar Service.....Amy Loux  
Usher .....Tony Eith  
Counters .....Sheryl White  
Anne Chmielewski  
Greeters .....Monica Shuster-Orth  
Jarrett Orth  
Fellowship .....Beth Schultz  
Tech .....John Carducci  
Tony Eith

**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)



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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