

Sacred Time
H O P E



1st Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022



Ascension Lutheran Church

1105 N. Washington Blvd.

Ogden, UT 84404

801.782.2810

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 worshiping community, these differences become celebrations of diversity.

**Children are always welcome in worship services;
however please know a nursery is provided for children under 4 years of
age.**

Introduction

The shiny additions to our Advent setting remind us that we are called to reflect the sacred each and every day. "Incarnation" is a word that means God's presence came to dwell among all people, and we believe this happened in a special way in the birth of Jesus. All of Creation has always been imbued with the Creator's brilliance. This season, we will remember the invitation to shine with this holy light.

Sacred Time—HOPE

Welcome to Worship

Cantors

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 Hope this day.

All We pray for Hope 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 moment

All We open to see each moment

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 hope.

All lighting the way to hope.



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 Hope,
 we give you thanks for this holy moment together.

All As we take in the hope you offer,
 may we be a reflection of your light,
 expanding the sacred time of “right now”
 into the sacred time of “always and for all time.” Amen

refracting the sacred

The busy-ness of the holiday season can overrun the sense of the sacred. The irony is that setting apart time for connection with the sacred gets pushed aside in order to create the trappings of what is supposed to be the season of celebrating the presence of the Holy!

We will begin our Advent journey toward Christmas by emphasizing the gift of being awake to the “now”... the gift of sacred time with God, with each other, and with those in need of hope.

A Reading from Romans, the 13th chapter

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

Make sure that you don't get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. The night is about over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing! God is putting the finishing touches on the salvation work he began when we first believed. We can't afford to waste a minute, must not squander these precious daylight hours in frivolity and indulgence, in sleeping around and dissipation, in bickering and grabbing everything in sight. Get out of bed and get dressed! Don't loiter and linger, waiting until the very last minute. Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about!

Romans 13: 11-14 (The Message)

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. Matthew, the 24th chapter.

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

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Matthew 24: 36-44

P The Gospel of our Lord.

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

[You may be Seated](#)

Message

Pr. Debra Jimenez

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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 As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.



(each prayer petition ends with)

L: God, in your mercy,

All: **You hear our prayer.**

Sharing the Hope 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 Hope with you.

All **And also with you.**

Grace in Action

P God made us in God’s image.

God the homemaker, God the prodigal party parent, God the reconciling savior made us in God’s image and said, “Do what I do. As best you can, whenever you can, do what I do.”

And that is Ascension Lutheran Church’s plan, always and everywhere. We don’t always manage it perfectly, but we are always trying to take the grace we’ve received from God and put it into action.

Hopefully you brought with you the pledge card we gave you some weeks ago. If you don’t have one, just raise your hand and we’ll bring one to you. Together, we’ll pray the giving prayer printed on the cards. We’ll then pray in silence while you place your cards into the bowl.

Come forward to bring commitment cards

So many cards, God. So many commitments. So many promises about what we will do, and spend, and achieve together.

All **Bless these high hopes.**

Turn these pledges into homes and healing, reconciliation and celebration, bridges and salvation and a whole new world.

Make us like you; people who keep their promises and put them into action. Amen.

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 hope for all of us.
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Word of time eternal.*

Offertory Prayer

P God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people.

All Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

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 Hope 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 hope 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* You are forgiven and freed. You are not alone.
Glory to God! Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

P The Holy One be with you

***All* And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts

***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 Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
 Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,
 to proclaim release to the captives
 and recovering of sight to the blind,
 to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
 and to announce that the time had come
 when you would save your people.
 He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

A reflection of this purpose, and anointed as his disciples,
 Christ's birth is our awakening,
 Christ's suffering is all suffering,
 Christ's death and resurrection is the pattern of all things.

We are his Body in the world—
 the Body of Christ—renewed by water and the spirit.
 He has been, is, and always will be with us,
 One in Three, Three in One, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.



. All: On the night You were be - trayed You took the bread; Af - ter



giv - ing thanks, You broke it and said, "This is My



bod - y, bro - ken for you, and as you



eat it, re - mem - ber Me; This is My



bod - y bro - ken for you, and as you



eat it, re - mem - ber Me." On the

night You were be - trayed You held the cup; Af - ter
giv - ing thanks, You lift - ed it up. "This is My
blood, poured out for you, and as you drink it, re - mem - ber
Me; This is My blood, poured out for you, and as you
drink it, re - mem - ber Me." So, we
thank You for the wine and for the bread; For we
see the life You gave and the blood You shed. And we re -
mem - ber Your won - drous love, You gave Your
bod - y, You shed Your blood; And we re - mem - ber Your won - drous
love, You gave Your bod - y, You shed Your blood.

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.

Communion Songs

Shine On Us

Words and Music by
Michael W. Smith and Deborah D. Smith



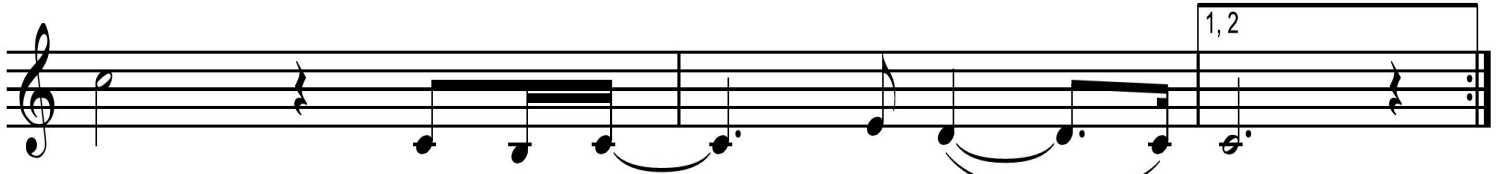
1 Lord, let Your light, light___ of Your face___ shine___ on___ us.
2 Lord, let Your grace, grace___ from Your hand___ fall___ on___ us.
3 Lord, let Your love, love___ with no end___ come___ o - ver us.



Lord, let Your light, light___ of Your face___ shine___ on___ us That
Lord, let Your grace, grace___ from Your hand___ fall___ on___ us That
Lord, let Your love, love___ with no end___ come___ o - ver us That



we may be saved, that we may have life; To find our way___ in the dark - est



night, Let Your light___ shine on___ us.
night, Let Your grace___ fall on___ us.
night, Let Your love___ come o - ver



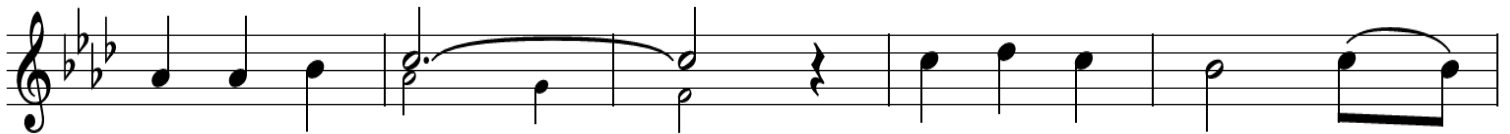
us, let Your light___ shine on___ us.

CCLI Song #1754646

Oh How He Loves You And Me Words and Music by
Kurt Kaiser



1. Oh, how He loves you and me,___ Oh, how He



loves you and me. ___ He gave His life, what ___



more could He give? Oh, how He loves you; Oh, how He



loves me; Oh, how He loves you and me. ___

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

Anointed to Sacred Time

“Christ” means “anointed one.”

Anointing with oil has long been a sacred sign of holiness. The Christ is reflected in and through all things, including Sacred Time. This week, you are invited to take a bit of oil or lotion and touch it to your forehead or the back of your hand one time each day when you set aside some Sacred Time for awe and wonder.

When you arrived here this morning, you were given a small vial of oil at the door. For those of you joining us online, please take a moment to grab a little olive oil from the kitchen or some lotion from your bathroom cabinet.

Perhaps it will be each morning as you get ready and you stop for a moment and say a prayer of gratitude.

Perhaps it will be during a time of devotional reading or journaling.

Perhaps it will be in your car before you head home on your commute from work.

Or perhaps you will do this with your family just before bedtime.

The way you set aside time is up to you.

Repeating the same time frame each day is helpful to establish a rhythm. The anointing is a physical way to help us remember that we are One with Christ, the Anointed, and with each other and all of creation.

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 hope into a weary world.
God loved us by becoming us.

This means you are already
reflecting the sacred.

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

All Amen

Sending Song

Soon and Very Soon



1 Soon and ver - y soon
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
3 No more dy - in' there,
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon

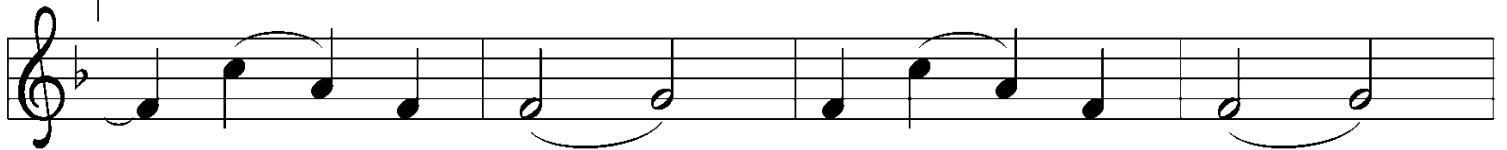


soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon

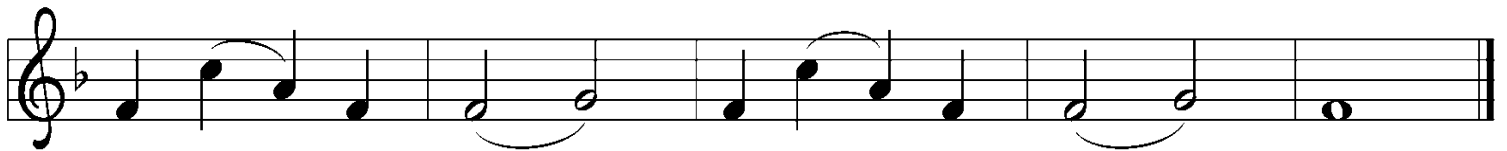


Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Christ is near

All Thanks be to God.

Readings for next Sunday,
December 4th
2nd Sunday of Advent

First Reading:	Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm:	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Second Reading:	Romans 15:4-13
Gospel:	Matthew 3:1-12

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