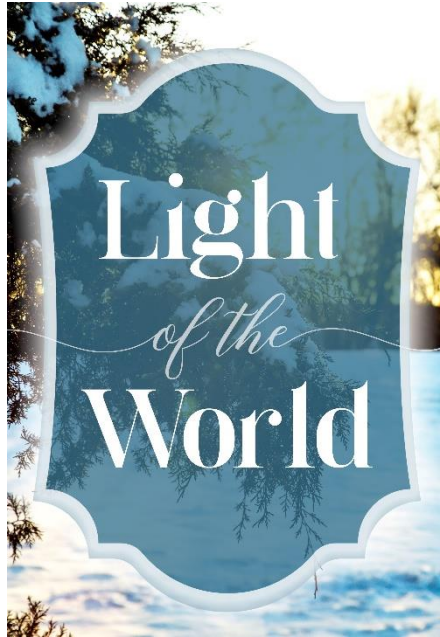


ASCENSION
LUTHERAN CHURCH
First Sunday in Advent



WELCOME To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world.

If you are looking for a church home or would like to know more about our beliefs and practices, please see the pastor. He will be glad to visit with you at your convenience. Be sure to join us again.



Member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession

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Pre-Service Meditation:

John 8:12 ¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Prayer: Dear Lord, the light of Your glory shined into our sin-darkened world when You sent Your Son Jesus to be our Savior and die on the cross to pay for our sins. Continue to fill us with Your light, Lord, that we might be filled with Your grace and mercy, and that we might be witnesses to the One True Light, our Savior Jesus. Through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who rules and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, world without end. Amen.

Service of the Word

Opening Hymn **TLH 512 O Christ, Our True and Only Light**

Invocation

P In the Name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P: God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

C: If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

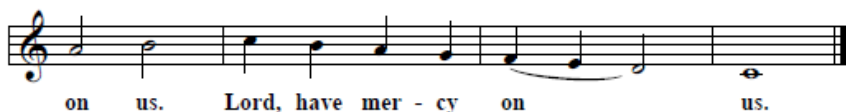
C: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

P: Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

LORD, HAVE MERCY *Kyrie*





C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
 3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.
 You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
 At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:



We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
 O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
 Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
 Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
 With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. . .

. . . through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Lesson:

Isaiah 60:1-3

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³ And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Epistle Lesson:

1 Thessalonians 5:1-5

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵ For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 112 & 119 [Selected Verses]

- P** Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD
- C** who greatly delights in his commandments!
- P** His offspring will be mighty in the land;
- C** the generation of the upright will be blessed.
- P** Light dawns in the darkness for the upright;
- C** He is gracious, merciful, and righteous.
- P** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
- C** The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

Gospel Lesson

John 8:12-16

¹²Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." ¹³ So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true." ¹⁴ Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. ¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. ¹⁶ Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me.

Confession of Faith:

Apostles Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from
the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right
hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to
judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body, and the life \dagger everlasting. Amen.

Hymn: **TLH 398 Renew Me, O Eternal Light**

Sermon: **John 8:12**

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the
light of life."

"The I AM Sayings of the Savior" I Am the Light of the World

Offertory: **Create in Me **

Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit within
me. Cast me not away from Thy presence and take not Thy Holy
Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and
uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen

Hymn: **TLH 657 Beautiful Savior**

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Responsive Prayer:

P: Jesus, Light of the world,

C: Shine in and through us each day.

P: Lord Jesus, you came as the Light into this world made dark by
sin. Even as the darkness tried to overcome you, you, by your death

and resurrection you overcame the darkness of sin, death and the devil. Your victory is our victory, and we walk now in your light.
Jesus, Light of the world,

C: Shine in and through us each day.

P: Lord Jesus, help us to shine as lights for others, especially those who are suffering from illness, grief and loss. Teach us to speak your words of light and hope to those who are threatened by the darkness around them. Jesus, Light of the world,

C: Shine in and through us each day.

P: Lord Jesus, help us to live as children of the light and children of the day as we look forward to that great day when you will return. The darkness could not overcome you and it cannot overcome us. Jesus, Light of the world,

C: Shine in and through us each day.

C: 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

Benediction

C Amen.

Hymn

TLH 53 Abide, O Dearest Jesus

Silent Prayer

Acknowledgments

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Announcements

Upcoming Events:

- **Christmas VBS:** Without much response from our efforts this fall, we are looking to try a one day vbs again during the Easter season.
- **Advent Midweek:** Our candlelight Advent service will be held on Wednesday night December 11th at 6:30pm.
- **Centerpiece Crafting:** All are invited to Redemption on December 7th following our Christmas VBS for a crafting party. If you would like to attend, but are hesitant about driving, please let me or Ann know.

'Call News:

- Pastor Drew Naumann of Trinity Lutheran in Spokane, WA is **considering the call** to Faith Lutheran in Manchester, MO

Fruits of Faith at Ascension:

DATE	NEEDED	RECEIVED
11/3/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1110.00
11/10/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 670.00
11/17/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 710.00
11/24/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 745.00

Usher Schedule:

Month:

December

January

Name:

Scott Radcliffe

Jim Hansen

Upcoming Schedule:

Sunday December 8th Ascension Communion Service at 11:30

Wed. December 11th, Advent Candlelight Service at 6:30

Sunday December 15th Ascension Communion Service at 11:30