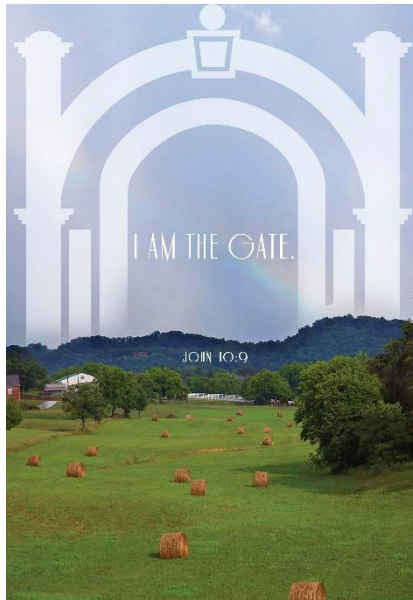


ASCENSION
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Third Sunday in Advent



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 10:9⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

Prayer: Dear Lord God, You have provided for us the ultimate protection from the evils of this world, Your Son Jesus. Through Him we may confidently go about our lives knowing that our eternal salvation rests securely in Him. When we start our day, and when we close our eyes at night, He is always with us to guard, defend, and comfort us. Let us always find our rest and our solace in Him. Through 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 68 The Advent of Our King

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

C I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

P My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

C I and the Father are one.”

Confession and Absolution

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

C Almighty God, we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. We turn away from listening to your Word and listen instead to the tempting voices of the world around us. We should walk in your will, but instead follow our own sinful desires. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

P God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

C Jesus said, “I am the door of the sheep ... If anyone enters by me, he will be saved.” Through faith in Jesus’ name we enter his kingdom and receive forgiveness and life

359 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming sts. 1, 3



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing From ten-der stem hath
3 This flow'r, whose fra-grance ten-der With sweet-ness fills the



sprung! Of Jes-se's lin-eage com-ing As proph-ets long have
air, Dis-pels with glo-rious splen-dor The dark-ness ev-'ry-



sung, It came, a flow-'ret bright, A-mid the
where. True man, yet ver-y God, From sin and



cold of win-ter, When half-spent was the night.
death He saves us And light-ens ev-'ry load.

Text (st. 1): German, 16th cent.; (st. 1): tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, alt.; (st. 3): Friedrich L. C. Layriz, 1808-59;
(st. 3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845-1925

Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln

Text and tune: Public domain

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

G 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.

G Amen.

Old Testament Lesson:

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough

places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
⁹ Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰
 Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹
 He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Epistle Lesson:

Romans 5:1-5

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith¹ into this grace ^bin which we stand, and ^cwe² rejoice³ in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 23 [Selected Verses]

- P** The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- C** He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
- P** He restores my soul.
- C** He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
- P** Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
- C** I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- P** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
- C** and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Gospel Lesson

John 10:1-11

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷ So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd ^blays down his life for the sheep.

Confession of Faith:

Apostles Creed

☩ 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 ✚ everlasting. Amen.

Hymn: TLH 60 Hark, a Thrilling Voice is Sounding

Sermon:

John 10:9

⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

The I AM Sayings of the Savior

I Am the Door

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 436 The Lord's My Shepherd

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Responsive Prayer:

P Jesus, Door of the sheep,

C Through you alone we enter into life.

P Lord Jesus, you are the Door of the sheep and our Good Shepherd. Through your death and resurrection we have forgiveness for our sins and the gift of eternal life. You shelter us and care for us and guide us with your holy Word. Jesus, Door of the sheep,

C Through you alone we enter into life.

P Lord Jesus, help us, your sheep, to tell others of the forgiveness, hope and comfort we have only through faith in your name.

Through our works of love and service and through our words of witness, bring your lost and straying sheep into your fold.

C Through you alone we enter into life.

P Lord Jesus, keep us safe and walk with us through the valley of the shadow of death as we enter eternal life through you, our Shepherd and our Door. Jesus, Door of the sheep,

C Through you alone we enter into life.

P: We now join to pray in the name of our Savior, as He taught us:

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 47 Savior, Again To Thy Dear Name We Raise**

Silent Prayer

Acknowledgments

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Announcements

Upcoming Events:

- **Church Forum:** Following our service on Jan. 5th, the whole congregation is invited to a potluck meal where we will be updating everyone on the status of our church. Our annual meeting will follow.
- **Service Time Change:** January 26th, Ascension's service will be held at 9am to accommodate Redemption's Annual Meeting.

‘Call News:

- Pastor Drew Naumann of Trinity Lutheran in Spokane, WA **has returned the call** to Faith Lutheran in Manchester, MO; the church has since called Pastor George Dummann of Salem Lutheran Church in Eagle Lake, MN
- Pastor Del Mass of Gift of God Lutheran in Mapleton, ND **has received the call** to St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Mountain View, CA.

Fruits of Faith at Ascension:

DATE	NEEDED	RECEIVED
11/17/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 710.00
11/24/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 745.00
11/28 & 12/1	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1360.00
12/8/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1071.00

Usher Schedule:

Month:

Name:

December

Scott Radcliffe

January

Jim Hansen

Upcoming Schedule:

Sunday December 22nd Ascension Sunday Service at 11:30

Tuesday December 24th Christmas Eve Service at 6:30

Sunday, December 29th, Ascension Sunday Service at 11:30