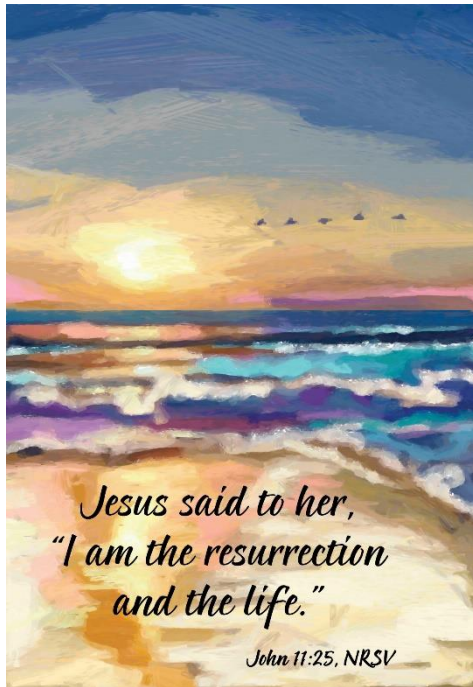


ASCENSION
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Fourth Sunday in Advent



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 10:9 ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, in this season of Advent, we have centered our hearts on the birth of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus. We ask that You help us center our hearts and minds on the reason He was born, namely to die and rise again for our salvation. Strengthen us with the whole truth of Your Gospel today and every day. 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

LSB 384 Of the Father's Love Begotten

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

C Amen.

P Oh that my words were written!

C Oh that they were inscribed in a book!

P Oh that with an iron pen and lead they were engraved in the rock forever!

C For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth.

P And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God,

C whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

Confession and Absolution

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

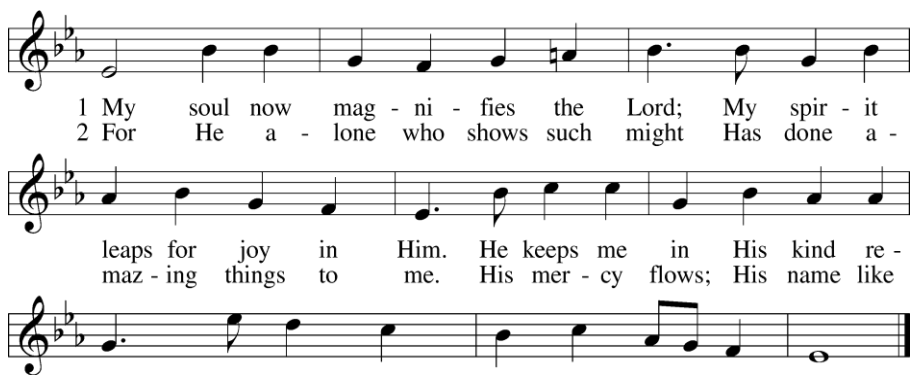
C Almighty God, we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. We turn from the life you have given us, following our own sinful desires and seeking to please ourselves instead of pleasing you. Have mercy on us and forgive us.

P God has had mercy on us. He sent His Son to be our Savior. Jesus died on the cross for us, suffering the penalty of death in our place. Through faith in His name, we have forgiveness and life. Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C We know that our Redeemer lives! We have forgiveness and life in his name!

Hymn of Response:

934 My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it
2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -
leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -
maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like
gard, And I am blest for time to come.
light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.

Text: Luke 1:46-55; adapt. Stephanie K. Frey, 1952

Tune: Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130453148

Tune: Public domain

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:

Job 19:23-27

²³ "Oh, that my words were written! Oh, that they were inscribed in a book! ²⁴ Oh that with an iron pen and lead they were engraved in the rock forever! ²⁵ For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth. ²⁶ And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, ²⁷ whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

Epistle Lesson:

1 Corinthians 15:1-5;12-27

¹Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you-- unless you believed in vain. ³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance

with the Scriptures, ⁴that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For as by a man came death, by a Man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at His coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵For He must reign until He has put all his enemies under His feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 72 [Selected Verses]

- P** Give the king your justice, O God,
 - C** and your righteousness to the royal Son!
 - P** May He judge your people with righteousness,
 - C** and your poor with justice!
 - P** May He have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth!
 - C** May desert tribes bow down before him, May all kings fall
down before him, all nations serve him!
 - P** Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, Who alone
does wondrous things. Blessed be His glorious name forever;
 - C** May the whole earth be filled with His glory!
- Amen and Amen!

Gospel Lesson

John 11:17-27

¹⁷Now when Jesus came, He found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met Him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever You ask from God, God will give You." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, Who is coming into the world."

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 76 A Great and Mighty Wonder vs 1-4

Sermon:

John 11:25-26

²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

I Am the Resurrection and the Life

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 56 Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Responsive Prayer:

P Crucified and risen Lord,

C Be our life and resurrection.

P Lord Jesus, by your death and resurrection, you conquered sin, death and the devil. The victory that you won is now, through our Baptism, our victory too. We have been buried with you in Baptism and raised to new life. Crucified and risen Lord,

C Through you alone we enter into life.

P Lord Jesus, as you comforted Mary and Martha at the death of Lazarus, help us to bring comfort and hope in your name to those who are grieving or ill. Work through our words and actions to bring peace to those who are troubled by the cares and worries of this life. Crucified and risen Lord,

C Through you alone we enter into life.

P Lord Jesus, as we contemplate Your humble birth in Bethlehem, let us see in the background, Your cross; the cross which brought to completion the very purpose of Your birth. Crucified and risen Lord,

C Through you alone we enter into life.

P Lord Jesus, give us opportunities to be your witnesses, so that others will know the good news of salvation through faith in your name. Work through the Gospel Word so that others will come to know and worship you as Lord. Crucified and risen Lord,

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 62 Oh Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

Silent Prayer

Acknowledgments

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Announcements

Upcoming Events:

- **Church Forum:** January 12th, 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.
- **Lay Service:** Lord willing, I'll be flying back East to spend time with family over January 19th weekend. Our service time will not change, but we will have a lay service. If you need to contact me during that time, please call or text 507-329-2641

'Call News:

- Pastor George Dummann of Salem Lutheran Church in Eagle Lake, MN *is considering the call* to Faith Lutheran in Manchester, MO

- Pastor Del Mass of Gift of God Lutheran in Mapleton, ND is **considering the call** to St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Mt View, CA.

Fruits of Faith at Ascension:

DATE	NEEDED	RECEIVED
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
12/15/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 935.00

Usher Schedule:

Month:

December

January

Name:

Scott Radcliffe

Jim Hansen

Upcoming Schedule:

Tuesday December 24th Christmas Eve Service at 6:30

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

Sunday, January 5th Ascension Sunday Service at 11:30