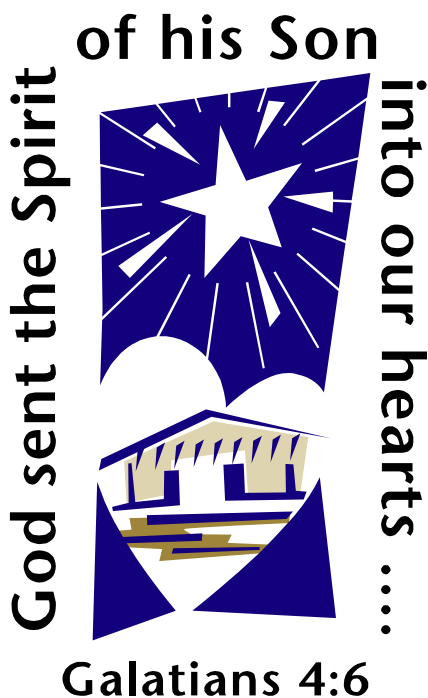


# ASCENSION

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



**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**

4501 Waller Rd E, Tacoma, WA 98443

**[Tacoma.clclutheran.org](http://Tacoma.clclutheran.org)**

**Pastor Jonah Albrecht**

(507) 329-2641

[jonaalbr@ilc.edu](mailto:jonaalbr@ilc.edu)

**President Dan Darling**

(253) 606-0316

[dan@kbeelectric.com](mailto:dan@kbeelectric.com)

**Pre-Service Meditation:**

**Galatians 4:4** <sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to be our deliverer from sin and death. Through Him You have made us unbelievably rich because we are now children of the King of Heaven. Let Your Spirit dwell in us daily to strengthen our faith in our Savior and direct our lives to be lived to Your glory. 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 96 O Rejoice Ye Christians Loudly**

## Invocation

- P** In the Name of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

*WS pg 12*

- P** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.
- C** **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**
- 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** Amen.

**LORD, HAVE MERCY** *Kyrie*



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.



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: Genesis 28:10-17**

<sup>10</sup>Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. <sup>11</sup> And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. <sup>12</sup> And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! <sup>13</sup> And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. <sup>14</sup>

Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. <sup>15</sup> Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." <sup>16</sup> Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." <sup>17</sup> And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

## Psalm of the Day

## Psalm 111 [Selected Verses]

- P** Praise the Lord!
- C** I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
- P** Great are the works of the Lord,  
studied by all who delight in them.
- C** Full of splendor and majesty is his work,  
and his righteousness endures forever.
- P** The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy;
- C** they are established forever and ever,  
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.
- P** He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his  
covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!
- C** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who practice it have a good understanding.

## Gospel Lesson

## Luke 2:22-40


<sup>22</sup>And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." <sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup>

And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, <sup>29</sup> "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." <sup>33</sup> And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup> (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." <sup>36</sup> And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup> and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup> And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

**P** Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it!



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## 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:

## LSB 898 The Ancient Law Departs

## Sermon:

## Galatians 4:1-7

<sup>1</sup>I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, <sup>2</sup> but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. <sup>3</sup> In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. <sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

## Today You Woke Up Rich

## 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 114 Jesus Name of Wondrous Love vs 1-5

## Offering of Thankful Hearts

### Prayer & Lord's Prayer:

- ☐ 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

- ☐ Amen.

**Hymn:** TLH 50 Lord Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing

### Silent Prayer

### Acknowledgments

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## Announcements

### Upcoming Events:

- **Church Forum:** January 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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
11/28 & 12/1	\$ 1,200.00	\$ <b>1360.00</b>
12/8/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ <b>1071.00</b>
12/15/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ <b>935.00</b>
12/22&24/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ <b>1361.00</b>

## Usher Schedule:

Month:

December

January

Name:

Scott Radcliffe

Jim Hansen

## Upcoming Schedule:

Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> Ascension Sunday Service at 11:30

Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> Ascension Communion Sunday at 11:30

Sunday January 19<sup>th</sup> Ascension Lay Service at 11:30