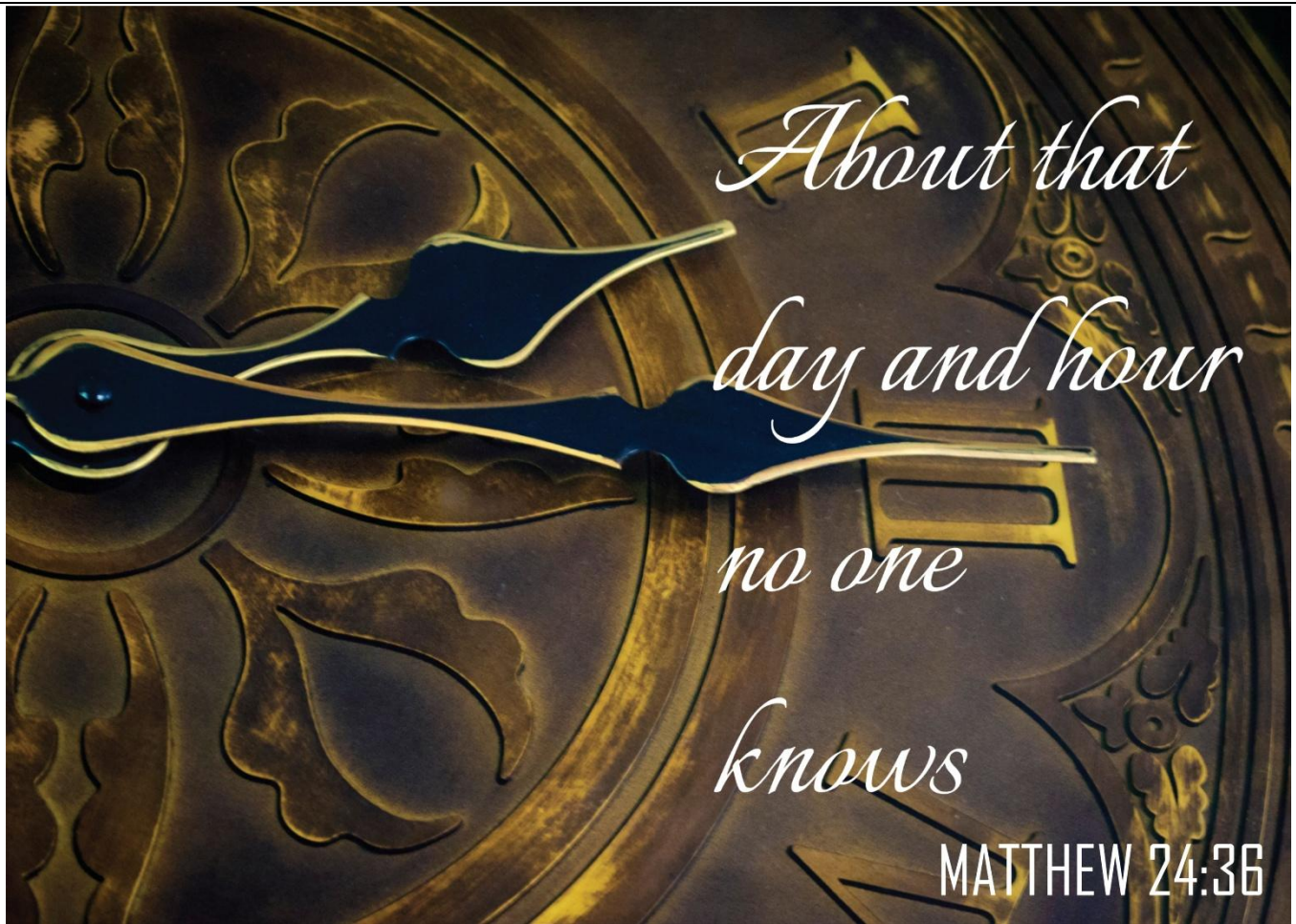




Complete Worship Folder

November 30, 2025 – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Julie Bailey, Pastor

Sunday Worship 8:00am & 10:30am

Wednesday Worship 7:00pm

## **First Sunday of Advent**

### Welcome and Announcements

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#### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P: One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.

#### First Week of Advent

Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning. As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace. O house of Jacob, come,

**C: let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.**

*Light the first candle during the song*

Hymn: "We Light the Advent Candles" (LS 9)

We light the Advent candles  
against the winter night  
to welcome our Lord Jesus,  
who is the world's true light;  
to welcome our Lord Jesus,  
who is the world's true light.

The first one will remind us  
that Christ will soon return.  
We light it in the darkness  
and watch it gleam and burn.  
We light it in the darkness  
and watch it gleam and burn.

Hymn: “My Lord, What a Morning: (ELW 438)

**Refrain** My Lord, what a morning;  
my Lord, what a morning;  
oh, my Lord, what a morning,  
when the stars begin to fall.

You will hear the trumpet sound,  
to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand,  
when the stars begin to fall. **Refrain**

You will hear the sinner cry,  
to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand,  
when the stars begin to fall. **Refrain**

You will hear the Christian shout,  
to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand,  
when the stars begin to fall. **Refrain**

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Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

Kyrie: “Lord Have Mercy” (ELW 155)

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison. Christe eleison.  
Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.

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Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray... **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*(10:30 a.m.) & Dismiss to Children’s Church/Christmas Program Practice*

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

<sup>1</sup> The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> In days to come  
the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup> Many peoples shall come and say,  
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob,  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;  
neither shall they learn war any more.

<sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

<sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup> let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation: "Celtic Alleluia" (ELW 174)

**Gospel Acclamation**  
*Celtic Alleluia*



P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup>“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>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, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>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. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

P: This is the gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning” (ACS 949)

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
for this work's almost done. *Refrain*

**Refrain**      Children, don't grow weary;  
children, don't grow weary;  
children, don't grow weary,  
for this work's almost done.

Darker midnight lies before us,  
darker midnight lies before us,  
darker midnight lies before us,  
for this work's almost done. *Refrain*

Lo, the morning soon is breaking,  
lo, the morning soon is breaking,  
lo, the morning soon is breaking,  
for this work's almost done. *Refrain*

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
for this work's almost done. *Refrain*

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### Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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.**

### The Prayers of the Children of God

Each petition ends...O God for whom we long,

**Congregation responds...show us your mercy.**

### Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

### Offering

Offering Song: "Come Now, O Prince of Peace" (ELW 247, *verses 1 & 4*)

Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.  
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.  
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

### Offering Prayer

A: Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

**C: Amen.**

### Thanksgiving

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

### Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray

**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.**

### Invitation to Communion / Distribution of Holy Communion

P: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

Communion Songs: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (ELW 254)

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a king;  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

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"Let Us Break Bread Together" (ELW 471)

Let us break bread together on our knees;  
let us break bread together on our knees.

**Refrain** When I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
let us drink wine together on our knees. **Refrain**

Let us praise God together on our knees;  
let us praise God together on our knees. **Refrain**

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### Post-Communion Blessing

P: And now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

### Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray. God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

**C: Amen**

### Blessing

P: May God who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Song: “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” (ELW 244)

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.

The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;  
go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.

The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff'rings bore,  
shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold;  
in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!

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### Dismissal

**C: We work together to spread Christ's love with our community, through Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Lives, and an Open Table.**

A: Go in peace. Keep awake.

**C: Thanks be to God.**