

# You are to name him Jesus

Matthew 1:21



## Complete Worship Folder

December 21, 2025 – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

### ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

8695 Gratiot Road Saginaw, MI 48609 (989)781-2170

Email address: [ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net)

Julie Bailey, Pastor

Sunday Worship 8:00am & 10:30am

Wednesday Worship 7:00pm

## **Fourth Week of Advent**

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### Welcome and Announcements

#### 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.

#### Fourth Week of Advent

P: Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin. As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved.

O house of David, come,

**C: let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.**

*Light the four candles during the song*

Hymn: "We Light the Advent Candles" (LS 9, *verses 1,5*)

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.

Four candles burning brightly  
announce that Christ has come.  
Prepare, my heart, believe it,  
and give the Christ child room!  
Prepare, my heart, believe it,  
and give the Christ child room!

Hymn: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (ELW 257, *verses 1, 4-5, 7 +refrain*)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

***Refrain*** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Branch of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. ***Refrain***

O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. ***Refrain***

O come, O King of nations, come,  
O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for you;  
restore the broken, make us new. ***Refrain***

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. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Children’s Christmas Program

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 to the Table” (ELW 481)

Come to the table of mercy,  
prepared with the wine and the bread.  
All who are hungry and thirsty,  
come, and your souls will be fed.  
Come at the Lord's invitation;  
receive from his nail-scarred hand.  
Eat of the bread of salvation;  
drink of the blood of the Lamb.

“Here Is Bread” (ELW 483)

Here is bread here is wine  
Christ is with us He is with us  
Break the bread drink the wine  
Christ is with us here

***Refrain*** In this bread there is healing  
In this cup there's life forever  
In this moment by the Spirit  
Christ is with us here

Here is grace here is peace  
Christ is with us He is with us  
Know His grace find His peace  
Feast on Jesus here ***Refrain***

Here we are joined in one  
Christ is with us He is with us  
We'll proclaim 'til He comes  
Jesus crucified ***Refrain***

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: “Canticle of the Turning” (ELW 723, *verses 1-3+refrain*)

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

**Refrain**      My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. **Refrain**

From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r, not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;  
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. **Refrain**

### 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.**

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