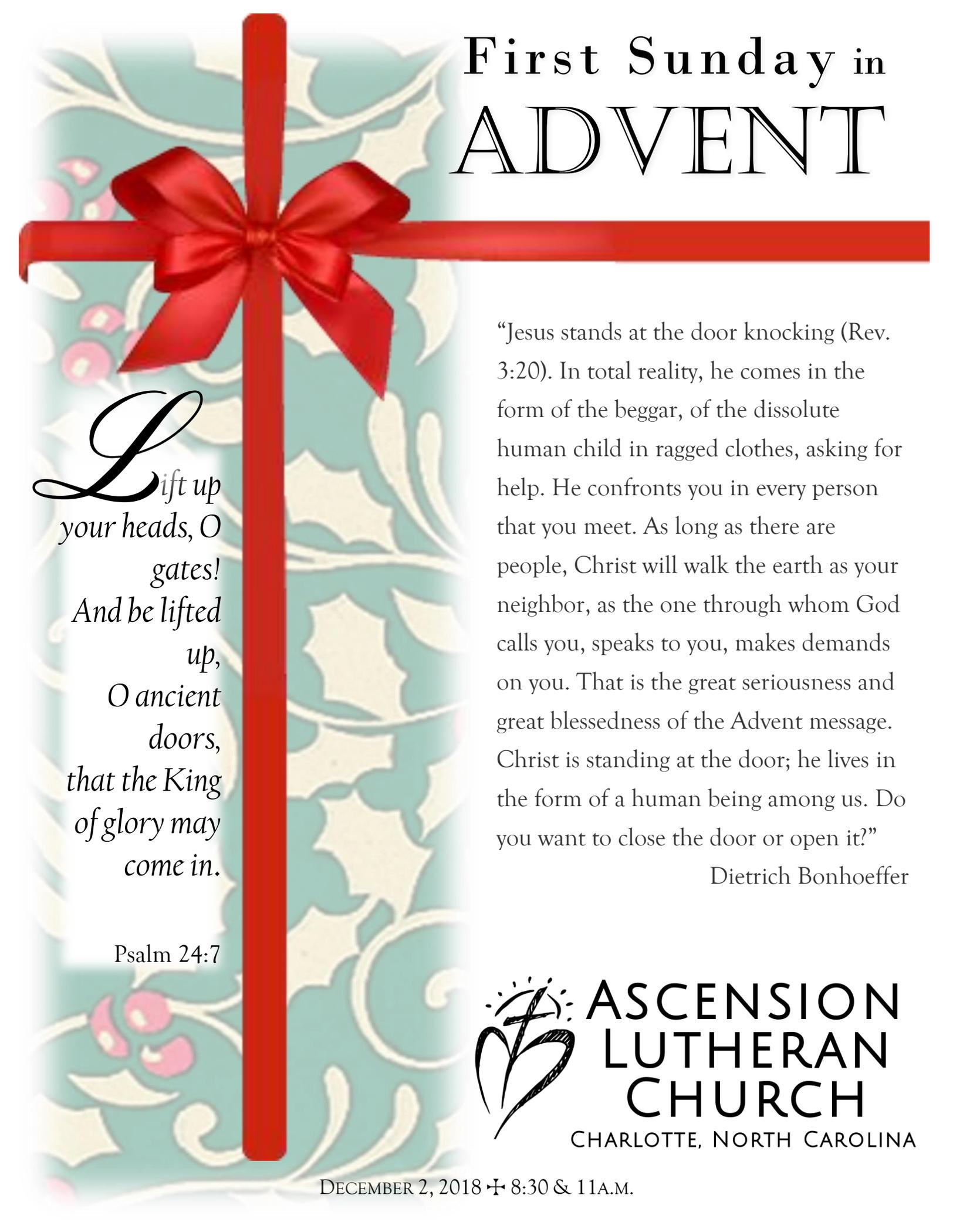


First Sunday in ADVENT



*Lift up
your heads, O
gates!
And be lifted
up,
O ancient
doors,
that the King
of glory may
come in.*

Psalm 24:7

“Jesus stands at the door knocking (Rev. 3:20). In total reality, he comes in the form of the beggar, of the dissolute human child in ragged clothes, asking for help. He confronts you in every person that you meet. As long as there are people, Christ will walk the earth as your neighbor, as the one through whom God calls you, speaks to you, makes demands on you. That is the great seriousness and great blessedness of the Advent message. Christ is standing at the door; he lives in the form of a human being among us. Do you want to close the door or open it?”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



**ASCENSION
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

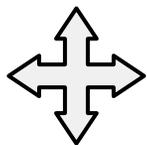
DECEMBER 2, 2018 ✝ 8:30 & 11A.M.

welcome!

We are glad you are with us today.

Our narthex is in the final stages of a major construction project. Thank you for your patience as several areas of our campus are closed.

Ushers are available to help you with wayfinding; please approach them at any time for assistance.



Entrance and Exit: if you must step out during the service, please use the Side Alcove in the front of the Nave. Kindly refrain from exiting or entering during prayers or confession.



In Case of Emergency: if evacuation is necessary, use the rear doors marked “emergency exit”.



Restrooms are located on the Lower Level. Please use the elevator via the Side Alcove at the front of the Nave.



Our professionally-staffed **Nursery** is available all morning for infants thru age 3. It is located in the Education Building Room 101. Exit the Sanctuary via the Side Alcove, and follow signage. The worship service is live-streamed into the Nursery for parents who may wish to stay with their children.

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION



Our greatest desire is to share in the blessing of the Lord’s Supper with you! Since this meal unites us spiritually by faith in the Word of God, we ask that you come having prepared your heart. Please read the following questions. If your answer to each is “Yes” then joyfully receive the Lord’s gift in His Sacrament.

- Do you come to the Lord’s Table for assurance of forgiveness, healing from doubt and shame, and to receive God’s gift of a holy life and reconciliation through Jesus?
- Have you been baptized and confirmed (or otherwise made public confession of your Christian Faith)?
- Do you believe Jesus’ words, that the bread and the wine are, in fact, His own body and blood, given and shed for you?

If your answer to a question is “No”, we invite you to join our study of God’s Word between services. The pastor’s class regularly provides instruction for Holy Communion. Please approach our pastors anytime for clarification or direction.

In the meantime, we invite you to come forward to the rail during communion and receive a blessing by folding your hands over your heart. If you choose to remain seated, please join us in praying for the day when God removes all our divisions.

PRELUDE – 8:30: “Comfort Ye” and “Every Valley Shall Be Exalted”
(from *The Messiah*)

G.F. Handel

Richard Eckert, recorder

11:00: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

arr. Cathy Moglebust

Handbell Choir

Stand.

INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. *Hebrews 10:22*

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth. *Psalm 124:8*

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Psalm 32:5*

Sit or kneel. We observe a moment of silence for reflection and self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being. *Luke 18:13*

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *John 20:19-23*

C Amen.

Stand.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The people greet one another, saying “Peace be with you.”

The people turn to face the cross as it processes.

INTROIT – Behold, Your King is Coming to You

The leader sings the Antiphon once, and all repeat it.

The leader sings the verses, and all sing the Antiphon or Gloria Patri as indicated.

Antiphon

Be - hold, your king, be - hold, your king,
be - hold, your king is com - ing to you;
right - eous and hav - ing sal - va - tion,
right - eous and hav - ing sal - va - tion.

1. Who in the skies can be compared to the Lord?
Who among the heavenly beings is like the Lord?
Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
steadfast love and faithfulness go before you. *Antiphon*

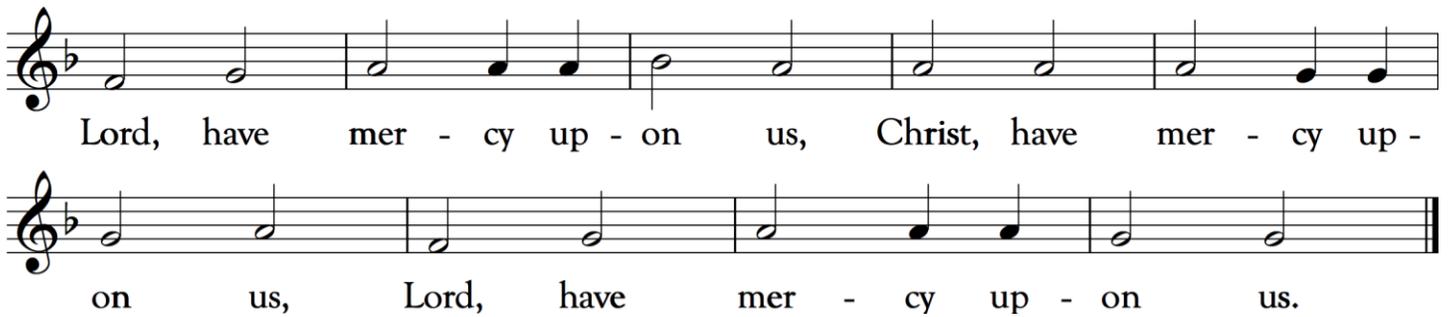
2. Blessed are the people who know the festal shout,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
who exult in your name all the day
and in your righteousness are exalted.
For our shield belongs to the Lord,
our king to the Holy One of Israel. *Gloria Patri*

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost.
As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

The advent wreath is lit, then all repeat the Antiphon.

KYRIE ELEISON – *Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47; Luke 17:13



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

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

2 Timothy 4:22



P The Lord be with you.

G: And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



G: A - men.

Sit.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING – *1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (ESV)* *Holy Bible p. 987 / Large Print p.1256*

For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

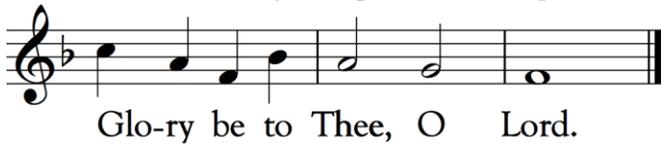


C: Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

A Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. *Repeat Alleluia*

Psalm 24:7

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the nineteenth chapter.

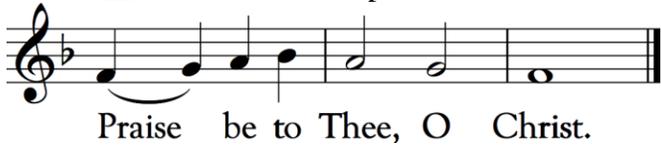


HOLY GOSPEL – *Luke 19:28-40*

Holy Bible p.878 / Large Print p.1117

And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, saying, “Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’” So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” And they said, “The Lord has need of it.” And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Worship is a means.
Word and sacraments are
means. Studying the
Bible is a means.
Fellowship is a means.
To what end? Enabling
the people of God to
participate in the mission
of God as a daily lifestyle.

PASTOR GREG FINKE
JOINING JESUS

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit.

HYMN OF THE DAY – *Savior of the Nations, Come*



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SERMON – *Put Down Your Weapons for the King*

Rev. Steven Newberg

Stand.

L Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence.

L Almighty God, we give You thanks for bringing us to the end of one church year and to the beginning of another. As Your first coming made many disciples and brought hope and salvation into the world, may Your coming this year move us to discipleship, that we may bring the light of Jesus' life and love to all the lost and dying. Teach us to follow Jesus this year, to be faithful to Him and grateful for all Your gifts, always working and waiting for the day we behold You in Your glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L Almighty God, we long for peace and for an end to the struggles of those you've given us to love. Keep us from becoming contented with the world's deceitful solutions and from despair. Rather, may we pray ever more earnestly to see Your face and to know in full the joy of Your redeeming presence. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L Almighty God, today we pray for our congregational assembly. Grant us to rise from our seats and faithfully prepare to follow Your Son, Jesus Christ, directed by Your Holy Spirit to consider all the best interests of Your Church as it carries out Your mission. Bless us above all with the faith and love of Christ to affirm one another so that all we say and do pleases You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L Almighty God, bless this season of evening gatherings for supper and prayer, bless the children who will minister your Word to us in next week's program, accept the worship of our lips, the service of our lives, and the tithes and offerings we bring, and cause our hearts to rejoice in the coming again of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the preparation for His Nativity. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L Almighty God, as Your Son once entered His city to overcome it with a new hope and salvation, we pray He would enter and overcome us with Your own peace, faithfulness and fervent love for the world, in the bread that is His body and the cup that is His blood. Feed and nourish us, that we may renounce ungodliness and live righteous and holy lives to the praise of Your glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, we face illness, pain, suffering, grief and death, but not without Your grace to comfort us or Your hope to encourage us. Give grace to each as they have need, that sustained through their afflictions they may rejoice in Your promises. Especially...

[Together we pray for those listed in Ascension @ Prayer.] Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L Almighty God, we pray not as we ought but as we are able, trusting in Your mercy to supply us with all things needful and beneficial. Keep far from us all things harmful, that we may be kept holy and blameless to the day of Christ's coming; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Sit.

If you have not already, please fill out the red attendance booklet at the end of your pew.

OFFERING VOLUNTARY – 8:30: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*
Handbell Choir

arr. Cathy Moglebust

11:00: “Comfort Ye” and “Every Valley
Shall Be Exalted” (from *The Messiah*)
Richard Eckert, recorder

G.F. Handel

Stand.

OFFERTORY – *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Thy pres - ence,
and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spir - it.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C: It is meet and right so to do.

Meet means fitting, proper.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary ... evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS - *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of

Sab - a - oth; heav'n and earth are full of Your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is He, bless-ed is He, bless-ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20;

1 Corinthians 11:23-25

PAX DOMINI – *The Peace of the Lord*

John 20:19

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



AGNUS DEI – *Lamb of God*

John 1:29

All sing without introduction:

Musical notation for the Agnus Dei. It consists of four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "O, Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world,". The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The word "amen." is written below the staff, with a fermata over the "men." part.

grant us Thy peace. A - - - - men.

Sit.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?*



334

O Come, O Come Emmanuel



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Stand.

DISMISSAL

P Now having received the true body and precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, may He strengthen you and keep you firm in the true faith until the day He comes again in glory. Go in peace toward that day.

C Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS – *Song of Simeon*

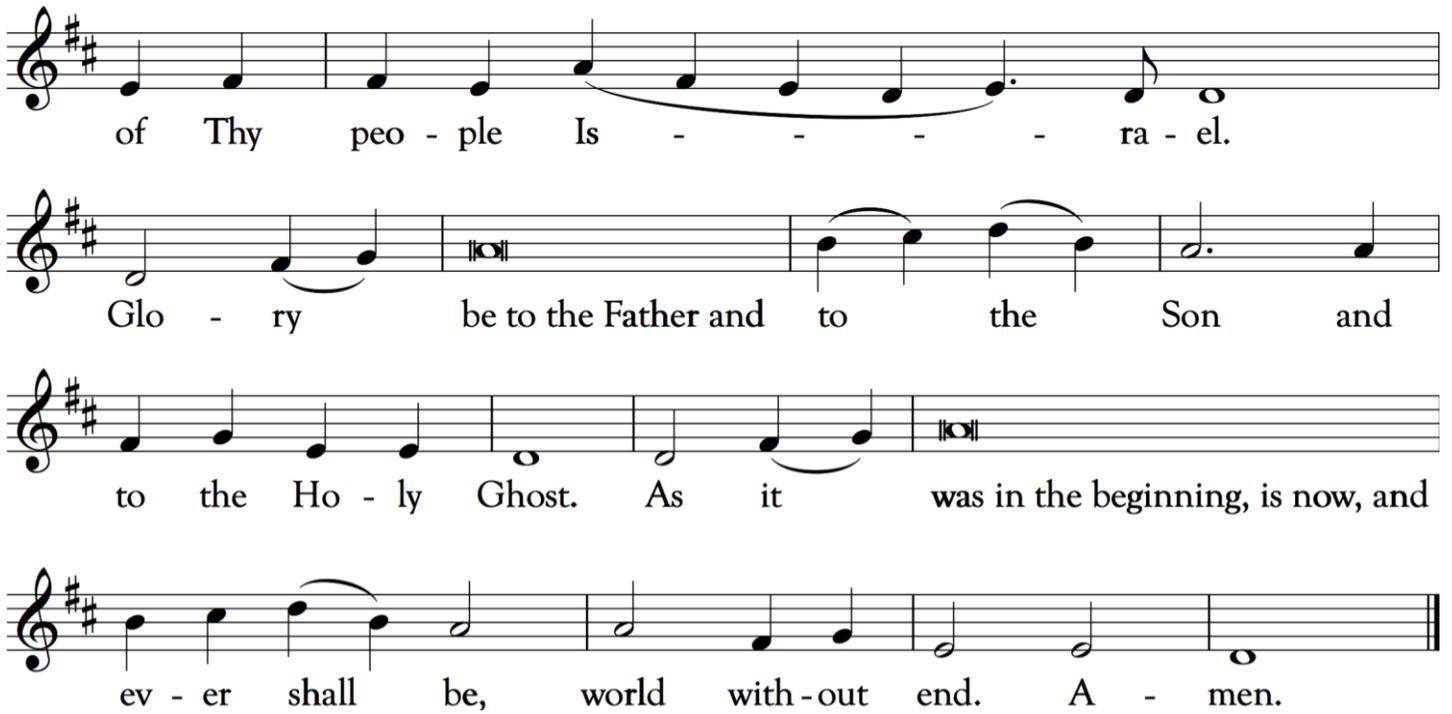
Luke 2:29-32

C: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de-part in peace ac-cord-ing to Thy

Word. For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast pre-

pared be-fore the face of all people.

A light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the glo-ry

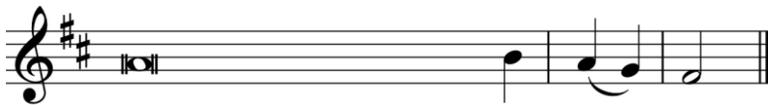


of Thy peo - ple Is - - - ra - el.
 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son and
 to the Ho - ly Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and
 ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

THANKSGIVING

Psalm 107:1

P O give thanks to the Lord for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

SALUTATION & BENEDICAMUS

2 Timothy 4:22; Psalm 103:1

P The Lord be with you.



C: And with thy spir - it.

P Bless we the Lord.



C: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C: A - men, a - men, a - men.

HYMN – *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*



341

- P** In the name of the Father, the Son, and the ✠ Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
P Go in peace, serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Introit "Behold, Your King". Text: Zechariah 9:9b (antiphon), alt.; Psalm 89:6, 14-16, 18 (verses). Music: Copyright © 2018 Mark Johanson. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission.
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SERVING TODAY IN WORSHIP

8:30/11:00

Crucifer:	Lucy Jennings/Jacob Miller
Acolytes:	Kate Strout, Quinn Schultz/Landen Meier
Readers:	Rae Fangmeier/ Kenda Laughey
Minister of Music:	Mark Johanson
Worship Leaders:	Ed Sielsky/Jeff Miller
Worship Assistants:	Ted Cash, Richard Eckert/Jim Aydelott, Roger Burrill
Ushers:	Scott Eicher, Debra Eicher, John Kissel, Jeff Jennings/Adam Pilsbury, Martha Barnette
Altar Guild:	Jennifer Karnwie, Kim Cates, Pam Carico
Greeters:	Mike & Brenda Gordon/Betty Treat, Sandra Talbert
Sound & Video:	Heather Eckert/Patrick Zacharczyp

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE NOVEMBER 25, 2018

8:30 AM	72
11:00 AM	71
Children's	27
Sunday School:	
Giving:	Operating Fund: \$4,114 \$16,228 needed weekly for balanced budget

ASCENSION LUTHERAN SOUP KITCHEN TUESDAYS, 11:30-12:30, LUTHER HALL

We Served: Vegetable Beef soup, Salmon Cakes, Sweet Potato/Apple Casserole, Broccoli, Fruit, Bread, and Dessert to 112 guests.

...with Help from: Students from Park Road Montessori school and employees from Marsh Group.

Ascension Lutheran Church
 1225 E. Morehead Street
 Charlotte, NC 28204
 704.372.7317
www.ascensioncharlotte.org



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