

Welcome



Lutheran Church of the Ascension
460 Sunset Ridge Road, Northfield, IL 60093
www.ascension-church.org

**Christmas Morning
25 December 2022
Lutheran Church of the Ascension
Northfield, Illinois**

Gathering

The Christmas Story

Introduction

As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day,
the Word illumines the world,
shining forth to bring all things into being.
Today we celebrate the incarnate Word,
God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ
then and now.
Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth,
along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph,
and all witnesses to the light of Christ,
we declare to the world that we have indeed seen
and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God."
O come, let us adore!

Prelude

Xmas Night, arr. W. Stickles

Prayer of the Day

All-powerful and unseen God,
the coming of your light into our world
has brightened weary hearts with peace.
Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Word

Gospel

Luke 2.1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So, they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Sermon

Carol

O Holy Night, A. Adam

Prayers of Intercession

Glory to God in the highest, **and peace to God's people on earth.**

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace.

You rule the earth with truth and justice.

Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor.

You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.

**Enliven your church that it might bear
good tidings of great joy to all people.**

Blessed are you, Emmanuel.

You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.

**Open our eyes to see your presence
in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.**

Blessed are you, Son of Mary.

You share our humanity.

Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer.

Blessed are you, Son of God.

You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament
that we may bear your light to all the world.**

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Light of the World. **Amen.**

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.**

Blessing

God bless you and keep you,
✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,
now and forever.
Amen.

Dismissal

Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Jesu Bambino, P. Yon

Worship Leaders Christmas Day

Preacher and President

Rev. JoAnn A. Post

Assisting Minister

James Nieman

Musicians

Minkyoo Shin, Director of Music
Mischa Zupko, Director of Music
Leo Zupko, violin

Singers

Chris Casey
Erin Casey

Film Producers

Benji and Lizzie Berlin

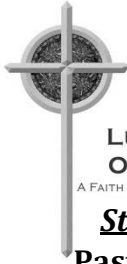


Sunday, January 1, 10:00 a.m.

Lutheran Church of the Ascension hosts
First Sunday of Christmas Lessons and Carols
with Northfield Community Church and
St. James the Less Episcopal Church.
A Festive Reception will follow.

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LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE ASCENSION
A FAITH COMMUNITY ON CHICAGO'S NORTH SHORE

Staff Directory

Pastor JoAnn Post

pastorpost@ascension-church.org

*A copy of Pastor Post's sermon is available on
Ascension's website under the "communications" tab*

Office Manager

Ami Frick

ami@Ascension-Church.org

Directors of Music

Mischa Zupko

mischa@Ascension-Church.org

Minkyoo Shin

minkyoo@Ascension-Church.org

Guitarist

Chris Forte

Sunday School Coordinator

Kate Berlin

kate@ascension-church.org

Nursery

Remy Peterson

Building Sexton

Richard Short

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in person;
1:00 – 4:00 p.m. remote. Remote on Friday.

Pastor JoAnn Post is out of the office on Mondays.