



God in flesh made manifest

ELW 310



Ascension Lutheran Church

Welcome to Ascension Lutheran Church!

We are so glad that you're here and have chosen to worship with us.

Coming to a new church can be a bit overwhelming and we hope that you feel a warm welcome here at Ascension.

Worship styles vary from church to church, so we've created this worship bulletin in hopes that it simplifies your worship experience and helps you to experience God's presence.

Sunday, February 16, 2025
6th Sunday after Epiphany

Ascension Lutheran Church

720 S. Germantown Road | East Ridge, TN 37412
423-698-5047 | ThisIsTheFeast.org | office@ThisIsTheFeast.org

Welcome

Welcome to worship!

I'm glad you're here today, and I hope you find this service meaningful and engaging.

Originally from Michigan, I found myself in the South after seminary. I've served congregations in Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, and Illinois, and I am grateful to be back here in Tennessee.

As a Deacon in the ELCA, I serve at the intersection of church and the world. I've been called to help Ascension sharpen its focus on responding to the needs of the people in the community. We're doing that together through worship, prayer, and focusing on feeding ministries like our Hope Community Fridge and our gardens. We're always looking for volunteers so if you are interested in helping, speak to me or one of our congregational members.

You can call me at the church office at 423-698-5047 or reach me by email at office@thisisthefeast.org.

Deacon Ellen Koester

FAQs

The Restrooms: Take a left as you leave the worship space. Our main bathrooms are on the right. Follow the signs around the corner for individual, accessible bathrooms.

Standing, Sitting & Kneeling: Traditionally worshipers stand when they sing, stand or kneel during prayer, and sit when they are listening. We give you prompts in the bulletin so you know what others might be doing, but please feel free to stand, sit or kneel at any time during the service.

Communion: All are welcome.

Bulletin Guide: Congregational responses are in bolded text following the **C:**. Worship Leaders will say the words in regular text. Descriptions and prompts are in small italic text. Please let us know if there is any other information you think would be helpful.

Nursery: Children are always welcome in worship. We have kid-friendly activity bags hanging in the entrance hall—with coloring books, crayons, and more.

Guest Welcome: Please use the QR code to let us know who you are so we can get to know you. Or, you can use the guest sign-in book in the lobby.



Gathering

Call to Worship—ringing of the church bell

Prelude—Ascension Organist Lynn Frye

Welcome—Deacon Ellen Koester

Standing Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator,
our protector, our wellspring of life.

C: Amen

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Standing/Kneeling Merciful God,

C: you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine."
In † Christ, you are forgiven.
In the Spirit, you are made free.
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.

C: Amen.

Our Communion Service:

*The Holy Spirit comes to us in our **gathering** around the means of grace—the saving **Word** of God and the sacraments. From the **meal** at the communion table where Jesus Christ comes with forgiveness, life, and salvation, God **sends** us out to share the good news and to care for those in need.*

Confession:

We begin worship with confession. Because of God's mercy we are free to confess ways we have harmed God or one another. God's word of forgiveness boldly opens the door to be in God's presence.

† We use the sign of the cross as a remembrance of baptism and to proclaim the gifts of God's promise in baptism.

Gathering

Standing Hymn 1040
All Creation Sings Hymnal

Love Has Brought Us Here Together

1 Love has brought us here to - geth - er; love of fam - 'ly,
2 Love is gen - tle, love is pa - tient, soft in words and
3 Love does not re - joice at e - vil; love re - joice - es

love of friends; love, our vow till death should part us; love, God's
kind in deeds. Love is strong and nev - er pom - pous; love puts
in the right. Keen in giv - ing and for - giv - ing, spread - ing

gift, that nev - er ends. From our birth, through - out our life - time,
first the oth - er's needs. Not quick - tem - pered or re - sent - ful,
love is love's de - light. When two peo - ple pledge their u - nion,

love's in - sis - tence calls our name. Floods of wa - ters
prone to take of - fense or brood, love ex - cels in
all who wit - ness are re - newed, feast - ing at love's

can - not drown it or put out its danc - ing flame.
grace and mer - cy, nev - er jeal - ous, nev - er rude.
earth - ly ban - quet, tast - ing heav'n's be - at - i - tude.

The musical score consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with lyrics in the center. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with the bass clef providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in lines corresponding to the musical phrases.

Gathering

Standing Apostolic Greeting


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.

The Greeting, Kyrie and Canticle of Praise are ancient prayers and represent both highs and lows of our faith. With the Kyrie we ask for mercy.

Standing Kyrie


Refrain




Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.




Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Gathering

Standing Canticle of Praise

Knowing we have God's mercy, we can rejoice with the Canticle of Praise. We recognize that even though we carry many burdens, we can praise God together as a community of believers.


Refrain



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

Refrain



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of



vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

Gathering/Word



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Standing Prayer of the Day

Please join me in prayer.

C: Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Seated First Reading | Jeremiah 17:5-10

A Reading from Jeremiah

⁵ Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. ⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. ⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. (Continued)

Word

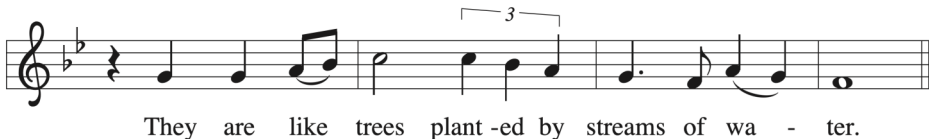
⁹ The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it? ¹⁰ I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!

Seated Psalm 1

Psalm Refrain:



¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel¹ of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats¹ of the scornful!

² **Their delight is in the law¹ of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching¹ day and night. (Refrain)**

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves
that¹ do not wither;
everything they¹ do shall prosper.

⁴ **It is not so¹ with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind¹ blows away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when¹ judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council¹ of the righteous.

⁶ **For the LORD knows the way¹ of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall¹ be destroyed. (Refrain)**

Seated Second Reading | 1st Corinthians 15:12-20

A reading from 1st Corinthians

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are

Word

not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

Gospel | Luke 6:17-26

*We stand for the Gospel reading
to acknowledge the presence of
the living God in the Gospel.*

Standing Gospel Acclamation

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke

C: Glory to you, O Lord

¹⁷ [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. (Continued)

Word

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ "Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴ "But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ "Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Seated Sermon—Deacon Ellen Koester

Silence for Reflection

*Preaching brings God's word of law
and gospel into our time and place
to awaken and nourish faith.*



Word

Standing: Hymn 729 The Church of Christ



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Word

Standing Apostles' Creed

Let us join together in the words of the Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead
on the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Creeds are statements from the early church helping clarify what we believe. As many denominations include them in worship, they are signs of unity.

**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**

Kneeling/Standing Prayers of Intercession

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

After each prayer...God of Grace, **C: receive our prayer**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **C: Amen.**

Standing The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

Let us share with one another the Peace of Christ.

Meal

Seated The Offering

Standing: Hymn 496 One Bread, One Body

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bles-sing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,

Refrain



wom-an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath-ered to one for all.

Offering Prayer **C: Amen**

For the offering, An usher will pass a plate around for anyone wishing to contribute. Or you can use the QR code do donate to our general funding or directly to our feeding ministries.



Meal

Standing The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

C: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....

...We praise your name and join in their unending hymn.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Meal

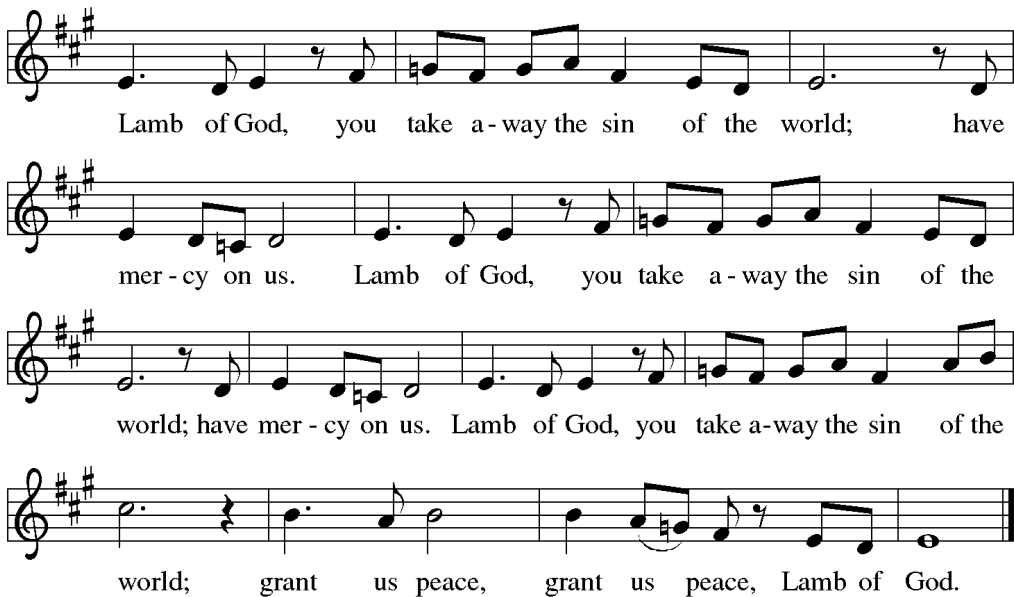
Thanksgiving at the Table

In the night in which he was betrayed... we pray as Jesus taught us,

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

Seated Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Meal/Sending

Come to the table for all is now ready.

Seated Distribution of Communion

Communion: *An usher will direct you to the altar. All are welcome at the communion table. If you do not wish to receive Communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest. If you have any questions on communion at Ascension, please feel free to speak with Deacon Ellen.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen**

Standing Prayer after Communion **C: Amen**

Standing Blessing **C: Amen**



Sending

Standing: Hymn 434 Jesus Shall Reign

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Dismissal Go in Peace and Serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

Postlude



Prayers & Concerns

(Full list in the newsletter)

- Joshua Vipond
- Ruth Starcher, Christy Spiesser's Aunt
- Ruth and Pr. Bill Boys
- The family and friends of Jerome Martin, Sr.
- Thomas, Annaratone, David Woodard's Uncle
- Laura Jean Myers-Ross, sister of Bonnie Jane Peterson
- Arlene Halversen
- Bill Stitt
- Gene and Sandy Jung
- The Vitality Team
- Ascension's Dinner Church

Birthdays

2/1 Andy Frye

Calendar of Events

(Full list in the newsletter)

Wednesday, Feb 19 & 26 7:00 PM	Prayer Service
Sunday, Feb 23 Following the Service	Council Meeting
Sunday, March 2 Following the Service	Congregational Gathering after the service (lunch included)
Wednesday, March 5 7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Service
Sunday March 9 10:00 AM	Thrivent Brunch
Saturday, March 15 Noon	Vitality Training



Newsletter

We publish a short, weekly newsletter with details on upcoming events, information for next week's services, and other community information.

Use the QR code to view our current newsletter and to sign up.



Worship/Classes

Sunday Service 11:00 AM Traditional service using the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal.

Bible Study Sunday 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. It's a join in anytime class.

Wednesday night Prayer Service at 7:00 PM Come away for a time of reflection and renewal with Evening Prayer.

Worship Volunteers (sign up in the Narthex):

- Readers
- Ushers/Greeters
- Worship Assistants

Ministries

Welcome Home Chattanooga: We provide meals several times a year. See the sign-up sheet in the lobby for ways to participate.

Hope Community Fridge: We support an outdoor refrigerator and pantry that is open for all 24 hours a day.

Gardens/Outdoors: We started our gardens to provide food for the fridge. Now we're taking it to the next level and making plans for teaching gardens, community gardens, and a food forest. You are welcome to join volunteers from Hope Community Fridge at 2:00 PM on the first Sunday of the month for garden tending.



Ascension Lutheran Church

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Psalm 1:3 | Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

Gospel Acclamation, Alleluia! Lord and Savior | Text: Gracia Grindal, b. 1943; Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650-1680. Text © Augsburg Fortress.

The Church of Christ, in Every Age | Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000; Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698-1768; Text © 1971 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

One Bread, One Body | Text: John Foley, SJ., b. 1939; Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, SJ; Text and music © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213, All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Jesus Shall Reign | Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.; Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

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