



**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
December 22, 2019  
8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

*Welcome to Ascension!*

*For more information about our community, fill out a welcome card, found at either end of the pews, or take one of our welcome packets from a member of the Welcome Team or the table by the Church office door.*

***Please silence your audible devices.***

*Beginning ten minutes before the service, please help us create a contemplative space by refraining from cell phone use or loud conversation.*

*Within the service, the people read the parts in **bold print**.*

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**The Entrance Rite**

**(10:00 Service only - the 8:00 service begins with the Opening Acclamation)**

**Opening Voluntary**

" Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland "

J. S. Bach

**Introit**

*Song by the Choir*

" Hear, O Hear the Word of God "

Paul Kelley

*The people stand and remain standing through the Collect of the Day.*

**Processional Hymn (10:00 a.m.)** *Sung by all.*

" O come, o come Emmanuel "

**1982 Hymnal # 56**

*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

**Opening Acclamation**

*Priest* Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

**The Collect for Purity**

*Priest and People*

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Kyrie eleison (8:00 a.m.)**

Lord, have mercy  
**Christ, have mercy**  
Lord, have mercy

**Prayer for our Children and Teachers**

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed Ascension with these children and these teachers: Give these children your gift of joy and wonder, and pour your blessings upon them. Give these teachers calm strength and patient wisdom so they may teach our children to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Kyrie eleison (10:00 a.m.)**

*Sung by all.*

“Lord, have mercy”

**Lift Every Voice and Sing # 237**

Avon Gillespie

Lord, have\_\_\_ mer - cy, Christ, have\_\_\_ mer - cy.

Lord, have\_\_\_ mer - cy, have mer - cy, O Lord.

**The Collect for the Second Sunday of Advent**

*Priest*           The Lord be with you.  
*People*           **And also with you.**  
*Priest*           Let us pray.

*Priest and People*

**Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The people sit.*

## The Word of God

### The First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

*Reader* A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 (*Read responsively*)

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
**shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
**stir up your strength and come to help us.**

Restore us, O God of hosts;  
**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

O Lord God of hosts,  
**how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**

You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
**you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**

You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
**and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

Restore us, O God of hosts;  
**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,  
**the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**

And so will we never turn away from you;  
**give us life, that we may call upon your Name.**

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;  
**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

### The Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

*Reader* A reading from the Epistle of the Apostle St. Paul to the Romans.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*The people stand.*

**Sequence Hymn (10:00 a.m.)**

*Sung by all.*

“Savior of the nations, come”

**1982 Hymnal # 54**

*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*

*First three verses are sung before the Gospel; last verse is sung after the Gospel.*

**The Gospel**

Matthew 1:18-25

*Gospeller*      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*People*            **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

*Gospeller*      The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*            **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.*

**Sermon**

Ms. Peg Ruppel

**The Affirmation of Faith**

*Priest and People*

**You, O God, are supreme and holy,  
You create our world and give us life.  
Your purpose overarches everything we do.  
You have always been with us.  
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,  
Good beyond all measure.  
You came to us before we came to you.  
You have revealed and proved**

**Your love for us in Jesus Christ,  
Who lived and died and rose again.  
You are with us now.  
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.  
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.  
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.**

**You are our God. We worship you. Amen.**

**The Prayers of the People**

**Form VI**

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;  
**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world;  
**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Mariann and Chilton, our Bishops, and Javier, Nan and Eugene, our clergy.

**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

We pray for comfort, healing, courage, and hope for **Samuel** Tellu, **Sciou** Broderick, **Marcia** Noble, **Eduardo** Rincon, **Warren** Porter, **Jim** Wilson, **Tim** Anderson, **Leslie** Sanya, **Sue** Jenkins, **Olive** Rivera, **Wadai** Dennis, **Judy** Conroy, **Doris** Chin, **Jean** Cohn, **Lee** Silverman, **Jhonneta** Mars-Gibson, **Clint** Miller, **Neville** Barr, **Phyllis** Kramer, **Calysa** Crawford and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, as well as those on our extended healing prayer list.

Hear us, Lord;

**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own thanksgivings*

We give thanks for the birthdays of **Janet** King, **Jennifer** Ten Hagen, **Suzanne** Last, **Cecilia** Blanc, **Jim** Snee, **Lauren** Pisano-Berge, **Tatiana** Alcantara, **Silvia** Valencia and **Rodrigo** Gallardo.

The altar flowers are given by Shirley Allen in celebration of her birthday today.

We will exalt you, O God our King;

**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**Who put their trust in you.**

All say the prayer for Ascension:

**God of all, we offer thanks to you for this our parish, Church of the Ascension, as we gather here together in your name. Bless us with remembrance of those who founded this parish, erected the walls, and provided the space we have today. We pray that we may continue their work with perseverance and faithfulness to become a truly One Ascension for this community. We pray for strength, steadfastness, and vision for Padre Javier on his journey as our Priest in Charge. Guide us as we walk the way with him. We pray that the path we take together and the light that shows us the way are your own. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence*

*Celebrant and people*

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
in your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown,  
things done and left undone;  
and so uphold us by your Spirit  
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Celebrant*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### The Peace

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord and are then seated.*

### Announcements

### Offertory Sentence

*Celebrant* Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

### Offertory Anthem

*Sung by the choir*

" Did Mary Know? "

Richard E. Averre

### Hymn at the Presentation

*Sung by all, standing*

" Come thou long expected Jesus "

**1982 Hymnal # 66**

*Stuttgart*

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:  
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

# The Holy Communion

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise**

*Celebrant*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus** (Spoken at 8:00 a.m.; Sung 10:00 a.m.)

“Holy, holy, holy Lord” 1982 Hymnal #S 125 Richard Proulx

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The people kneel or stand.*  
*Celebrant.*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." 🕯

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." 🕯

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

*Celebrant and People*

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all.  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
The hallowing of your name echoes through the  
universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the  
peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created  
beings!**

**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.  
With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another,  
forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is  
love, now and forever. *Amen.***

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

**Fraction Anthem**

*(Spoken at 8:00 a.m., Sung at 10:00 a.m.)*

“Lamb of God”

1982 Hymnal #S 163

Robert Powell

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

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*The people sit.*

**Administration of the Sacrament:** All are welcome to the Lord's Table at Ascension. To receive communion, come to a communion station at the direction of the Welcome Team. Receive the bread in the palm of your hand. Eat the bread and then drink from the cup when it is offered to you, or you may hold the bread and dip it into the wine when the cup is offered to you. Gluten-free wafers are also available. Make your need known to the Clergy by holding up three fingers. If you wish to receive a blessing rather than receive communion, please cross your arms on your chest – this will alert the Clergy of your desire to be blessed. If you need communion brought to you please let a member of the Welcome Team know.

**Healing Prayers:** If you would like to receive the laying on of hands for healing for yourself or another, go to the prayer annex beside the pulpit after receiving communion. A healing minister will be there to pray with you.

**Communion Hymn (10:00 a.m.)**

" Creator of the stars of night "

1982 Hymnal # 60

*Conditor alme siderum*

**Sending Forth of Eucharistic Visitor**

*When at this service*

*Celebrant* We send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those whom you visit may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

*People* **We who are many are one body because we all share one bread and one cup.**

*The people kneel or stand*

**Prayer after Communion**

*Celebrant and People*

**Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.**

## Advent Blessing

*Celebrant*

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

*The people stand.*

## Recessional Hymn

"Soon and Very Soon"

*Sung by all.*

**Lift Every Voice and Sing # 14**

Andrae Crouch

1. Soon and ver - y soon \_\_\_\_\_ we are goin' to see the King, \_\_\_\_\_  
2. No more cry - in' there \_\_\_\_\_ we are goin' to see the King, \_\_\_\_\_  
3. No more dy - in' there \_\_\_\_\_ we are goin' to see the King, \_\_\_\_\_  
4. Soon and ver - y soon \_\_\_\_\_ we are goin' to see the King; \_\_\_\_\_

1. Soon and ver - y soon \_\_\_\_\_ we are goin' to see the King, \_\_\_\_\_  
2. No more cry - in' there \_\_\_\_\_ we are goin' to see the King, \_\_\_\_\_  
3. No more dy - in' there \_\_\_\_\_ we are goin' to see the King, \_\_\_\_\_  
4. Soon and ver - y soon \_\_\_\_\_ we are goin' to see the King; \_\_\_\_\_

1. Soon and ver - y soon \_\_\_\_\_ we are goin' to see the King,  
2. No more cry - in' there \_\_\_\_\_ we are goin' to see the King,  
3. No more dy - in' there \_\_\_\_\_ we are goin' to see the King,  
4. Soon and ver - y soon \_\_\_\_\_ we are goin' to see the King;

Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, \_\_\_\_\_ we're goin' to see the King!

**Dismissal**

*Celebrant*            Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*People*                **Thanks be to God.**

**Closing Voluntary**

" Good Christians, All Rejoice "

arr. Joseph M. Martin

*PERMISSIONS: Section: Service Music: Kyrie Title: Lord, Have Mercy Music: Avon Gillespie (1937-1989), Mass No. 1 in G Section: The Daily Office Title: Daily Evening Prayer I, Suffrages B, Tone I Music: Mason Martens (1933-1991) Copyright: © 1971 Mason Martens. Section: Advent Title: Come, thou long-expected Jesus Meter: 87. 87 Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: Stuttgart, melody from Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt. Section: Advent Title: Soon, Very Soon Words: Andrae Crouch (b. 1942) Music: Andrae Crouch Copyright: © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music/ASCAP Section: The Holy Eucharist Title: The Holy Eucharist II, Holy, holy, holy Lord: Sanctus Music: Robert Powell b. 1932 Section: The Holy Eucharist Title: The Holy Eucharist II, Fraction Anthem: Lamb of God: Agnus Dei Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932) Copyright: Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing, Inc. b. The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two is from the Book of Common Prayer © 1979 Church Publishing, Inc. Scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version of The Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

## Worship Leaders

	<b>Today</b>	<b>1A Sunday</b>
<b>Readers</b>	<b>8:00 am</b> David Burton <b>10:00 am</b> David Mitchell Claire Morin	Anne Brink Adoma Baffoe
<b>Prayers of the People</b>	<b>8:00 am</b> David Burton <b>10:00 am</b> Sue Snay	Susan McLaughlin
<b>Chalicians</b>	<b>8:00 am</b> Sharon Hayden Edna Leake <b>10:00 am</b> Sari Stoddard Esther Tellu	Sari Stoddard Swithin Kwamena-Poh
<b>Healing Prayer Ministers</b>	<b>8:00 am</b> Lisa Murdock <b>10:00 am</b> Paul Whitmore	Susan McLaughlin
<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>8:00 am</b> Ron Hayden Aidan Douglas <b>10:00 am</b> Roberta Taylor Pete Minderman Ethan Liberty	Paul Whitmore Monty Petersen Hallie Porter
<b>Welcome Team</b>	<b>8:00 am</b> Don Cohn Janet King <b>10:00 am</b> Dorett Sutherland Jonathan Black James Black Emmanuel Chukwurah	Avin Lalmansingh Karl Didavi Clark Didavi Emmanuel Nwankwo
<b>Altar Guild</b>	<b>8:00 am</b> Mardia Dennis Hawa Clemens <b>10:00 am</b> Shirley Allen Georgana Maines	Shirley Allen Dotty Pfadenhauer
<b>Hospitality Angels</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b> Hawa Clemens <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Jan Hauber Ron Hauber	Parish Life Committee
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Hawa Clemens Eliane Dunn Johnson	Alice Padmore Esther Sawyer
<b>Eucharistic Visitor(s)</b>	Zadinga Ogada	Meredith Horan