

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT

1285 North New Florissant Road, Florissant, Missouri 63031

Church: (314) 837-1224 School/Child Care: (314) 837-1252

www.alcs-web.com

Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024

8:15 a.m.

10:45 a.m.

Welcome to Worship at Atonement

- *We are delighted to have you worship at Atonement today. Wherever you are on your journey of faith and life, we extend to you a warm welcome. May the Holy Spirit richly bless your worship.*
- We invite you to fill out the attendance form in the bulletin and hand it to the ushers when coming forward for Holy Communion. If you are a guest with us this morning, please leave some contact information so we can get in touch with you about how to connect with what's going on in this faith community.
- Sound enhancement receivers for the hearing-impaired and those with hearing aids are available. Large print worship folders are also available. Please ask an usher prior to the service.
- We welcome to the Lord's Table all Baptized Christians who commune in their home parish and who wish to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. Those with questions about the meaning of Holy Communion or who wish a private confession and absolution should contact a pastor during the week prior to communing.
- Both individual cups and the chalice (common cup) are now offered to communicants. The chalice is available only for intinction (dipping the host into the wine). The darker wine in the center of the tray is non-alcoholic. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking the pastor. Those desiring a blessing may fold their arms across their chests.
- The congregation responds with those portions in **bold** print.
- Please turn off all cell phones and pagers and refrain from flash photography.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Children will be dismissed during the 8:15 a.m. service.

CONFIRMATION: Multipurpose Room, 9:30 with Pastor Delaney, 6th, 7th and 8th Grades

ADULT FORUM: Small Chapel, 9:30 a.m.

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSONS:

Zephania 3:14-20; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

December 8, 2024, 2ndnd Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE: *Arise, Your Light Is Come* - Bill Ingram

+++ **GATHERING** +++

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

The assembly stands.

ADVENT VERSE: ELW 257 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” verse 5

5 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*

Refrain

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
alive in the world,
fulfilling the promise,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through † Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 239 "Hark, the Glad Sound!"

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.
A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM *Advent Meditation (O Come, O Come, Emmanuel/Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence/Watchman, Tell Us of the Night)* -- arr. by Douglas E. Wagner

The assembly is seated.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

L We praise you, O God, for this circle of light
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,
that we may be light shining in the darkness.
Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
C Amen

The congregation sings together as the first two candles are lit.

ELW 240 verse 2 “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

+ + + **WORD** + + +

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from Malachi.

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight— indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

R Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: ELW 250 “Blessed be the God of Israel”

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

A reading from Philippians.

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

R Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S TIME

The children are invited to join Pastor Delaney at the front of the sanctuary.

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW 519 "Open Your Ears, O Faithful People" verse 1 only

Open Your Ears, O Faithful People



1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo-ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's word.
2 They who have ears to hear the mes-sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;



O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you.
they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.

Refrain



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version

Music: YISRAEL VORAITA, Hasidic tune

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GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Pastor Delaney Schlake-Kruse

The assembly stands

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 255 *“There’s a Voice in the Wilderness Crying”*

APOSTLES’ CREED

**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 into hell.
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.**

**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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Each petition concludes: Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.***

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet each other with a sign of peace and may say “Peace be with you” or similar words. Then the assembly is seated.

+++ MEAL +++

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

The gifts of our tithes and offerings are presented and the altar is prepared for the Lord’s Supper.

The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

OFFERTORY: ACS 901 “Now the Heavens Start to Whisper” verse 1only (see next page)

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
Music: SUO GAN, Welsh melody
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OFFERING PRAYER

A Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

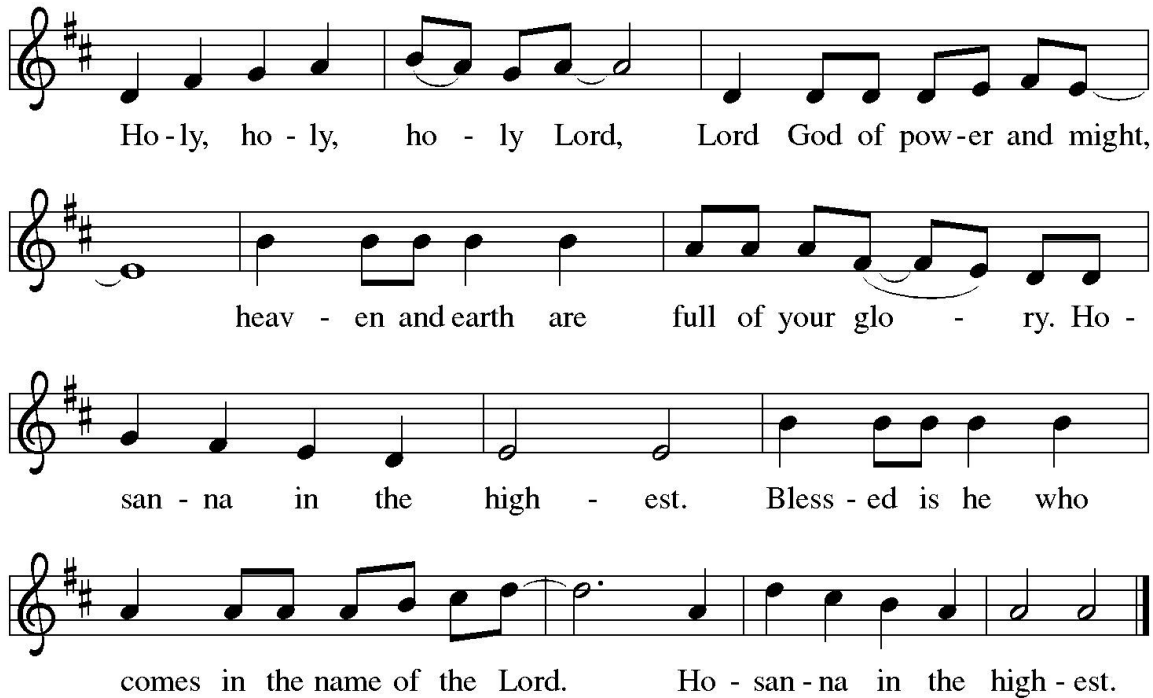
PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ELW Setting 6 page 173



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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, Breath of peace,
Giver of all life,
Source of love that knows no boundaries.

You bring our longings to birth,
and send prophets to awaken us
to your approaching Advent among us.

We thank you for those who, like Mary,
have the strength and courage
to give birth to your love in the world;
for those who, like the shepherds,
dare to seek out the Child of Bethlehem;
for those who, like the wise ones,
actively challenge violent and oppressive powers.

We praise you that your everlasting light is shown to us
in womb and tomb,
in cradle and cross,
in tenderness and compassion.
We join in the Advent prayer of all your people,

O come, Emmanuel.

And, as we wait and watch for your coming among us,
we proclaim your saving love in Jesus.

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.

Together as the body of Christ,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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

P God feeds us with tender mercy.

C Come to the table.

The assembly is seated.

The ushers invite the assembly forward, where they receive bread and either wine or grape juice. If you need to receive communion in your pew, please let the usher(s) know.

“Lamb of God” ELW Setting 6 page 174

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.

HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION

ELW 265 *“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”*

ELW 253 *“He Came Down”*

The assembly stands.

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

C Amen.

+++ **SENDING** +++

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brief announcements may be made, especially those related to the assembly’s participation in God’s mission in the world.

BLESSING

P God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✚ bless and keep you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: ELW 256 *“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* - Michael McCabe

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*Please stick around for coffee, donuts, fellowship, and prayer practices in the family room!
All are welcome.*

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher.....	<i>Pastor Delaney Schlake-Kruse</i>
Assisting Ministers.....	<i>(8:15) Don Posey, Carol Meier;</i> <i>(10:45) Sara Ruprecht, Ruth Blundell</i>
Bell Choir Director.....	<i>Sharon Carter Eichenberger</i>
Organist.....	<i>Cindy Vantine</i>
Choir Director.....	<i>Dr. Bruce Vantine</i>
Altar Guild.....	<i>Jack & Bonnie David, Verina Ruiz, Ruby Phelps</i>
Greeters.....	<i>(8:15) Kris Thompson;</i> <i>(10:45) Melanie White</i>
Counters	<i>Steve Rosenfeld, Dave Johnson, Melanie White</i>
Ushers.....	<i>(8:15) Don Meier; (10:45) Bill Meyerkord,</i> <i>Melanie White</i>
Trustees.....	<i>(8:15) Don Meier; (10:45) Vern Square</i>
Advent Family.....	<i>(8:15) Heithaus Family (10:45) Meyerkord Family</i>

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Hospitalized or Ill: Ann Behrens, Ginny Groves, Shirl Henke, Darlene Johnosn, Maxine Pabst, Carol Peachee, Roger Riemann, June Schmidt, Barb Wishon

Our Loved Ones/Friends: Kathy Amido (sister-in-law of Kris Thompson), Brenda Blight, Kathleen Boyd, Becky Cole (sister of Dave Cole), Susan Hall (friend of Joyce Pingel), Ian Hawkins (son of Faith Brooks), Joyce Johnson (sister of Patrick Walker), Myra Jordan (friend of Ginny Groves), Kelly Keel (daughter of Larry & Joyce Hanebrink), Rachel Moore (niece of Rachel Moore), Gail Mueller (sister-in-law of Barb Stoneburner), David Pierce (cousin of Jaimy Suydam), Abby Pruitt-Pimentel (friend of Emma & Evan White and Jeanine Dalton), Martha Sanford (relative of Greg & Paula Viehman), Trevor Thwing (grandson of Jeanette Thwing), Tom Velde (cousin of Jaimy Suydam), Dennis Whittington (Dad of Mary Beth Sandcork)

Our chronically-ill and homebound loved ones and friends: Janice Bailey, Jean Beck, Jacki Bickel, Teri Branhof, Gus and Thelma Carlson, Carol Hegger, Nancy Marxkors, John Meyer, Vivian Meyer, Jim Temps, Cheryl Tucker

Please notify the church office if you would like your prayers to remain, otherwise they will be removed after two weeks.

*****Copies of Taking Faith Home are available at the usher stand or on the table in the narthex.***

OUR CONGREGATION

Atonement is a family of professing Christians who are in ministry to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. We have been in ministry since September 30, 1951. Atonement School has begun its 69th academic year with the mission statement “Teaching children of God the skills needed for a lifetime of learning, worshipping, and caring, so that the world see Jesus in them.”

OUR AFFILIATIONS

We are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and support local ministries including Lutheran Family and Children’s Services, Humanitri, Lutheran High Schools, LuMin Campus Ministry, PAKT, and The Emergency Assistance Ministry (TEAM).

OUR TEAM

Rev. Delaney Schlake-Kruse
Senior Pastor (414) 292-6164
SeniorPastor@alcs-web.com

Bruce and Cindy Vantine
Ministers of Music

Jim Baumgartner, Worship, Too!
jimstrat@aol.com, (314) 488-6903

Sharon Carter
Bell Choir Director

Cathy Mifflin
Parish Administrator, (314) 837-1224
cathy.mifflin@alcs-web.com

Becca Gardner
Principal, (314) 837-1252

Angie Kemper
School Secretary, (314) 837-1252
Child Care (314) 837-1252

Parish Nurses: Joyce Pingel, L.P.N., (314) 740-2137
Cathie Lehr, R.N., (314) 809-4477

OUR CALENDAR

This Sunday, 2ndnd Sunday in Advent
8:15 a.m. Holy Communion Worship
Sunday School
9:25 Choir Rehearsal
9:30 Confirmation with Pastor Delaney in MP
10:45 a.m. Holy Communion Worship

Monday, Dec. 9

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
6:00 p.m. School Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, Dec. 10

9:00 a.m. Chair Yoga
4:30 p.m. Properties Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 11

8:45 a.m. Chapel All Welcome!
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Service

Thursday, Dec. 12

9:30 p.m. Bible and Breakfast

Friday, Dec. 13

Church Office Closed On Fridays

Saturday, Dec. 14

9:00 a.m. Decorate the Church

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Simply use the QR code on the bottom. It will take you directly to Atonement’s giving through Tithe.ly. This can be a one-time option, or you can set up a recurring transaction.

