



Now when Jesus was born in
Bethlehem of Judea in the days
of King Herod, behold, wise men
from the east came to Jerusalem,
saying, Where is he who is born
King of the Jews?
For we saw his star in the east, and
have come to worship him.



ASCENSION
LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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A member of the WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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WELCOME!

We are glad that you have joined us for worship.

Brian Roloff, Pastor | pastorroloff@AscensionPlymouth.com

Jennifer Tripp, Preschool Director/Teacher

Andrea Cherney, Teacher

January 4, 2026



As we celebrate Holy Communion, let's rejoice in the various types of unity that we enjoy in this sacrament.



- ◆ According to Christ's own promise we receive his true body and blood along with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of all our sins (Matthew 26:26-28). We are united with him in the Lord's Supper.
- ◆ This meal not only unites believers with the Lord but also with one another (1 Corinthians 10:16-17). Holy Communion declares that unity.
- ◆ When Christians commune together they are jointly proclaiming the gospel of Jesus (1 Corinthians 11:26).

What wonderful unity we find in the Lord's Supper. How we want to treasure and foster this unity. On the night on which Jesus gave us this meal he prayed that all his followers would come to complete agreement with one another on the basis of God's Word (John 17:11,17).

Out of love for the Lord and love for one another, we want what our Savior wants for us—genuine unqualified unity. For this reason we respectfully ask that only those who have expressed their full agreement with the teachings of our national church body (the Wisconsin Synod) or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod come forward to receive the sacrament.

We eagerly desire everyone to share in this divine meal with us. Please speak to the pastor about how we can work together to establish this blessed fellowship.

WORSHIP THEME: Love's Pure Light Beams From Thy Holy Face

OPENING HYMN: #372 As with Gladness Men of Old

(vs.1-5)

INVOCATION

GOD DRAWS THE NATIONS TO THE MESSIAH KING

(select verses from Psalm 72)

SONG OF PRAISE: Majesty

(All)

GOD'S MERCY REVEALED IN JESUS

PRAYER OF THE DAY

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON: **Isaiah 60:1-6**

REFLECTIVE RESONSE: **Goodness of God**

(Ascension Worship Band)

SECOND LESSON: **Matthew 2:1-12**

NICENE CREED

SERMON HYMN: ***The People that in Darkness Sat***

(vs.1-5)

SERMON TEXT: **Ephesians 3:2-12**

THEME: God's Plan for the Gentiles is Revealed in the Gospel

OFFERING/OFFERING PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

THE SACRAMENT

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

DISTRIBUTION: **#370 How Lovely Shines the Morning Star**

Please Note: The center cups of the individual trays contain white grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are labeled on a separate center of the tray.

PRAYER

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN: **#363 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice**

(vs.1-4)



CONNECTION CARD ON OUR APP



Please take a moment and fill out the info on the connection card, located under the Worship Today button on our app or on our website. There is a tablet in entryway or QR Code on the left if you prefer to use that. Please fill out any information and submit.

THE OFFERING

Dear guests, we're glad you're here to listen to the message about Jesus.

If members or guests would like to give an offering electronically, they can do so by using the QR Code on the right or download our App, which is available at any app store. Those that give digitally can place the "Give" cards in the plate during the offering.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY STUDY: Is Christ enough? Is child-like faith in him and following his Word enough to sustain our spirits, engage our minds, and give us purpose through this life into eternity, or do we need something in addition, something deeper, something more? Paul's resounding response is that Christ is all we need for faith, life, and hope. Join us as we begin this study!

THURSDAY ZOOM STUDY: We will resume **Jan 8th @ 7:00pm** with *Lessons from Elijah and Elisha*.

FREEWILL OFFERING: The WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership will be held Jan. 20-21st in Chicago. Ascension Members and West Lutheran teachers and student; Pastor Cherney, Mr. Perry, and Blake Zeitler will be attending. We will be having a door offering on Jan 4 & 11 to support their professional growth and reduce their expenses .

STAFF THANKS: Your continued support of ministry here at Ascension, the words of encouragement, and your generous Christmas gifts are greatly appreciated!

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: **Fri., Jan. 23rd 10am-4pm.** Find links to donate or serve as a greeter under "Volunteer" on our App.



WEST LUTHERAN BAND FEST: We are looking for host families to house students **March 19- 22**. Scan QR to fill out the interest form.

Scan QR

MLC AUXILIARY UPDATES: Check out our website to see photos, get details, donate, and experience the joy of MLC Auxiliary. Visit MLC-wels.edu. Click on "Support MLC" and then "MLC Auxiliary."



WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE: High School & Homeschooled students and parents are invited to attend Discovery Day at WLC on **Mon., Jan. 19**. More information and to register: <https://wlc.news/discovery-day>, call 414.443.8811, email admissions@wlc.edu, or snap the QR code.

Scan QR

FATHER'S WORLD TOURS: *Join a WELS/MLC Group for Les Mis in Minneapolis! Tue, Feb 17* for an evening at the Orpheum Theater. Ticket cost is just \$50. Seats are limited. Visit <https://bit.ly/mlclesmis26>, or email steve@fathersworldtours.com to learn more and secure your spot today.



THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVED:

- † Pianist: Marcia Michalik
- † Ascension Worship Band
- † AV Team
- † Serving: Flock #5 - Randy Hebb