

Advent Midweek Two

*“Martha, Martha,
you are anxious and troubled
about many things,
but one thing is necessary.”*

- Jesus

Luke 10:41-42



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
"A Church for Families and a Family for Everyone"
Advent 2 Midweek ~ December 8, 2021

ADVENT MIDWEEK 2

December 8, 2021

Welcome to all who are attending our service today. We are glad you are with us! To all guests and visitors, we especially extend our hands of friendship. May God bless the worship time for each one of you. Please come again!

Holy Communion is celebrated at the 8:30 service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and at the 11:00 service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

(**P** = Pastor, **C** = Congregation, **A** = Reader/Assisting)

✠ PREPARATION ✠

The Journey to Christmas

The days leading up to Christmas are a wonderful blessing. We celebrate the connection of family and friends. We look forward to the decorations, the food, the gifts to purchase and wrap, along with many traditions. In all the commotion and busy days, it's easy to lose our focus on Jesus. The purpose of Advent is to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of our Savior. However, the world has other plans. The world wants us to be caught up in the hype and commercialism of the season. Over the next several weeks, we will consider how Advent leads us closer to our coming Savior.

“Preparation”

As we gather: Being prepared is usually the best way. However, preparing can be especially difficult during the season leading to Christmas. Baking, decorating, cards sent, food and gatherings all require a great deal of preparation and energy. God wants us to prepare our hearts and minds for Jesus during this season. How does our energy compare?

PRELUDE

WELCOME

HYMN

“Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming”

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming As prophets long have sung,
It came, a flow'ret bright, Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, She bore to us a Savior,
When half-spent was the night.

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor The darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God, From sin and death he saves us
And lightens ev'ry load.

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

P Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

C He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!

P God came to Adam and Eve after they had sinned.

C He clothed them, hiding their shame.

P God came to Israel when they were enslaved in Egypt.

C He delivered them out of the house of slavery.

P Christ came in flesh to our world.

C He cast out demons, healed our diseases, and preached good news to the poor.

P Christ came into Jerusalem on a donkey.

C And He died and rose again for us and for our salvation.

P Christ promised He will come again.
C **We wait for His return and the resurrection of the dead.**

P Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!
C **He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!**

PSALM 130:1–6 (ESV)

¹ Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD! ² O LORD, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy! ³ If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? ⁴ But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared. ⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope; ⁶ my soul waits for the LORD more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

You are the God who gives peace. This second week of Advent, cause us to remember that because of Jesus we can experience a Christmas free from turmoil and chaos.

Regardless of our circumstances or our situations, You offer us peace that passes understanding. Let our preparations focus on You and the gift You gave us upon Your advent.

C Amen.

✠ THE WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 60:1–3 (ESV)

¹⁰ Go through, go through the gates; prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway; clear it of stones; lift up a signal over the peoples. ¹¹ Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, “Behold, your salvation comes; behold, His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him.” ¹² And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; and you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.

EPISTLE

1 Peter 1:13–16 (ESV)

³ Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 10:38–42 (ESV)

³⁸ Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to His teaching. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, ⁴² but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

HYMN

"Lord Of All Hopefulness"

(Tune: Be Thou My Vision)

Lord of all hopefulness Lord of all joy
Whose trust ever child-like No cares could destroy
Be there at our waking And give us we pray
Your bliss in our hearts Lord At the break of the day

Lord of all eagerness Lord of all faith
Whose strong hands were skilled At the plane and the lathe
Be there at our labours And give us we pray
Your strength in our hearts Lord At the noon of the day

Lord of all gentleness Lord of all calm
Whose voice is contentment Whose presence is balm
Be there at our sleeping And give us we pray
Your peace in our hearts Lord At the end of the day

MESSAGE

"TIME FOR JESUS"

Luke 10:38–42
Pastor Jim Sprengle

PRAYERS (following each petition)

- P** "Lord, we prepare for You,"
- C** "eagerly awaiting Your arrival."

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Mt 6:9ff; Lk 11:2ff)*

P Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray:
C **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.**

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.
C **Amen.**

HYMN "Let The Earth Now Praise The Lord"

Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly kept His word
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.

What the fathers most desired, What the prophets' heart inspired,
What they longed for many a year, Stands fulfilled in glory here.

Abram's promised great reward, Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord-,
Him of two-fold race behold-- Truly came, as long foretold.

Welcome, O my Savior, now! Joyful, Lord, to You I bow.
Come into my heart, I pray, Oh, prepare Yourself a way!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Ascension Lutheran Church

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Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9am to 3pm

Our Mission Statement:

~Go and Share Jesus Christ~

Our Vision Statement:

“Take part...Join Jesus on His mission”

The members of Ascension Lutheran Church are committed to being God’s witnesses in Gresham, and in all of Portland and the Northwest, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8):

With the universal Christian Church, we believe, teach and respond to the love of the Triune God— the Father, Creator of all that exists; the Son Jesus Christ, Who left His home in Heaven to become flesh and blood, to suffer and die for the sins of all peoples of the world, and Who rose from the grave, victorious over sin, death and the devil, that we too might live with Him in Heaven; and the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts in Christ Jesus through God’s Word and Sacrament. The three Persons of the Holy Trinity are one God, co-equal and co-eternal. The core teachings of our faith from the Lutheran perspective can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace alone, Scripture alone, Faith alone.

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