



TRINITY SUNDAY

Ascension Lutheran Church
Holy Trinity Sunday ~ May 30, 2021

HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

May 30, 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.

For those wishing to commune at the Lord's Table with us today: The Lutheran practice of close Communion attempts to prevent a person from eating and drinking judgment on himself (1 Corinthians 11:23–30). Thus, attendance at the Lord's Supper implies a four-level commitment to Christ. We believe that communicants must: (1) be baptized Christians; (2) accept the real presence of Christ's body in the bread and His blood in the wine; (3) confess and repent of one's sins and trust that God offers complete forgiveness of those sins in this Sacrament; and (4) share oneness of faith, doctrine and practice among those who commune. Those wishing to commune with us today who have not done so previously, please see the pastor or an elder before the service begins. *(Grape juice is available for those who do not drink alcohol, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request.)*

Para aquellos que desean participar en la Santa Cena con nosotros hoy: La práctica luterana de la comunión intenta evitar que una persona coma y beba el juicio de Dios sobre sí mismo (1 Corintios 11:23–30). Por lo tanto, la asistencia a la Cena del Señor implica un compromiso de cuatro niveles con Cristo. Creemos que los comulgantes deben: (1) ser bautizados como cristianos; (2) aceptar la presencia real del cuerpo de Cristo en el pan y Su sangre en el vino; (3) confesar y arrepentirse de sus pecados y confiar en que Dios ofrece el perdón completo de esos pecados en este Sacramento; y (4) compartir la unidad de fe, doctrina y práctica entre los que comulgan. Aquellos que desean comulgar con nosotros hoy que no lo han hecho anteriormente, por favor vean al pastor o un anciano antes de que comience el servicio. *(El jugo de uva está disponible para aquellos que no beben alcohol, y hostias libres de gluten están disponibles bajo petición.)*

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

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Theme: “How Can This Be?”

AS WE GATHER

On this Holy Trinity Sunday, we do not so much explain God as confess Him. We testify to Him who has revealed Himself to us. To the mind in search of reasonable answers, God will always be a question or riddle to be solved. But to the empty heart, the Holy Spirit leads us to see with faith the God whose majesty has worked for our salvation and whose mercy has rescued us sinners from sin and the grave. Like Nicodemus of old, we want to know how, yet our Lord gives us not the how, but the who; not the explanation, but the mystery of mercy big enough to save us. We come today confessing with our fathers in faith the Athanasian Creed, singing “Holy, Holy, Holy,” and rejoicing in the God who is bigger than we are, but who becomes one of us to save us.

PRELUDE

“Total Praise”

Words and Music by Richard Smallwood/arr. Joel Raney

(8:30am)
(11:00am)

Carlyn Staudt and Brad Hall
Carlyn Staudt and Karon Keup

WELCOME

HYMN

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye made blind by sin Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow’r, in love and purity.

△
Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth, and sky, and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 8:1, 3-4*

P When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
C **the moon and the stars, which You have set in place,**

P what is man that You are mindful of him,
C **and the son of man that You care for him?**

P O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!
C **You have set Your glory above the heavens.**

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.**

Silence for meditation and reflection.

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 Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C And also with you.

☩ THE WORD ☩

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 6:1–8 (ESV)

(We have seen the Lord of hosts.)

¹In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of His robe filled the temple. ²Above Him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" ⁴And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of Him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.” ⁸ And I heard the voice of the LORD saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Acts 2:14a, 29–36 (ESV)

(Let all know that God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.)

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them:

²⁹“Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that He would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ³⁴For David did not ascend into the heavens, but [David] himself says, “The LORD [Yahweh] said to my Lord [Jesus], “Sit at My right hand, ³⁵until I make Your enemies Your footstool.” ³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

LAMBS' LESSON

Pr. Jim Sprengle

HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:1–17 (ESV)

(“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son.”)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a Teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” ³Jesus answered him,

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”⁵ Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”⁹ Nicodemus said to Him, “How can these things be?”¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?¹¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony.¹² If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to You, O Christ.

PRAYER REQUESTS GATHERED

SONG

“King Of Kings”

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope, without light,
Till from Heaven You came running--
There was mercy in Your eyes;
To fulfill the law and prophets,
To a virgin came the Word;
From a throne of endless glory,
To a cradle in the dirt

**Praise the Father, Praise the Son,
Praise the Spirit, three in one.
God of Glory, Majesty,
Praise forever to the King of kings.**

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost,
To redeem the whole creation,
You did not despise the cross;
For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side,
Knowing this was our salvation,
Jesus, for our sake, You died. **(Chorus)**

And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath,
Till that stone was moved for good,
For the Lamb had conquered death.
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored,

And the Church of Christ was born,
Then the Spirit lit the flame.
Now this Gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel, shall not faint.
By His blood and in His Name,
In His freedom, I am free,
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me. **(Chorus 2x)**

SERMON

“I LOVE YOU”

John 3:1–17
Pr. Jim Sprengle

ATHANASIAN CREED

(This creed, used by Christian churches since the sixth century, delves deeply into the mystery of the Trinity. It declares that its teachings concerning the Holy Trinity and our Lord's incarnation are “the catholic faith.” In other words, this is what the true Church of all times and places has confessed. More than fifteen centuries later, the Church continues to confess this truth, confident that the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, has given Himself for our salvation.)

P Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith. Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally. And the catholic faith is this, that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance. For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another. But the Godhead of the Father and of the

Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal. Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit: the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated; the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite; the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal. And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal, just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinities, but one Uncreated and one Infinite. In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty; and yet there are not three Almightyies, but one Almighty. So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God; and yet there are not three Gods, but one God. So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord; and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord. Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so also are we prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords. The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone. The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone. The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding. Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits. And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another; but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be worshiped. Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity. But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man. He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age: perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh; equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity. Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ: one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God; one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person. For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ, who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead, ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead. At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds. And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire. This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(Our offerings are made as an act of worship, given in loving response to all that God has graciously given us, both materially and spiritually.)

(11:00)

“Speak, O Lord”

Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
Choral Setting by Lloyd Larson
Ascension Choir

*Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in Your likeness.
That the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak of Lord, and fulfill in us all Your purposes for Your glory.*

*Teach us, Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail; let their truth prevail over unbelief.*

*Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us;
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises; and by faith we'll walk as You with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built, and the earth is filled with Your glory. Amen.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Blessed be the kingdom of our God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
C **Blessed be His kingdom, now and forever, to the end of all the ages!**

P Grant to us grace, O Lord, that we trust in You and confess without fear the name of
the triune God with which we were marked in Baptism. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant to us grace, O Lord, that we approach the mystery of Your presence with
awe, confident of Your mercy that forgives our sins and comforted by Your power
that delivers us from everlasting death. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

(A prayer for Memorial Day)

P Heavenly Father, as our nation pauses tomorrow to remember those in the military
who have given their lives to preserve the freedoms we enjoy, may we find our
strength and confidence in You alone, our Rock and our fortress. Be with all who
serve in our Armed Forces. Bless them and their families. Grant Your loving
protection. Let peace prevail among all the nations, O God. Especially let Your
mercy rest upon our land, even as we acknowledge with thanksgiving Your past
goodness on this country. If it is Your will, preserve the lives of the men and women
in uniform as they defend our citizenry.

Most of all, we pray that You would turn the hearts of all – military and civilian – to Your holy Word where we find the true peace for our sinful souls that surpasses all understanding. Keep us repentant of sin. Move us to know, and treasure Your saving grace through Jesus, our Savior and Your beloved Son, who alone gives this peace and hope for eternity. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant to us grace, O Lord, that those who suffer afflictions of body and mind be delivered according to Your will, sustained by Your presence, and delivered to everlasting life, *especially*...Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant to us grace, O Lord, that we find contentment of heart and that we know the riches of Your mercy as our greatest treasure in life. We rejoice with those who celebrate Your blessings this week...Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Blessed be the kingdom of our God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

C **Blessed be His kingdom, now and forever, to the end of all the ages! Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold 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.**

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. *Numbers 6:24–26*

C **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please read the FYI in your bulletin for additional announcements and information.)

HYMN

“Glory Be To God The Father”

Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit:
Great Jehovah, Three in One!
Glory, glory while eternal ages run!

Glory be to Him Who loved us,
Washed us from each spot and stain;
Glory be to Him Who bought us,
Made us kings with Him to reign!
Glory, glory to the Lamb that once was slain!

Glory, blessing, praise eternal!
Thus the choir of angels sings;
Honor, riches, pow'r, dominion!
Thus its praise creation brings.
Glory, glory, Glory to the King of kings!

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Scripture taken from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, Copyright ©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Capitalization of pronouns referring to the Deity has been added and is not part of the original English Standard Version text.

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† SERVICE SCHEDULE

All Services are open and there is no need for reservations.

† HELP NEEDED FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

If you are coming to service, think about offering to be a servant during worship. Tell Pastor or Michele where you can help!

† PRAYER NEEDS?

Contact the church office with any requests at 503-665-8821 or e-mail: office@alcportland.org

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Jack Curry (nephew of Pastor Jim and Michele) Carolyn Erdmann, Ray Brown, Mike Hatley, Lorraine Haggard, The Family of Randy Arronson, The family of Jim Kuether, Jr., Mary Niska, Larry Hart, The Family of Jack Webber, Bill Ritchie, Colleen Ek Yah, Esperanza Gutierrez, Brian Laxton, Virginia Hunt, John Eilers and Family, Marty Blankenburg, Richard Robertson, Lewis Eilers, The Family of Ordena Laxton, The Family of Wayne Rippon, Rich Zahursky, Audrey Bauch, Alan Bauch, Leonard Murphy, Bruce Blubaum, Judy Blubaum, Elly Brown, Antonia Martinez (mother of Esperanza Gutierrez), Ava Wentela (Sue Wentela's granddaughter), Carol Santorufu (sister of Sue Wentela), *Barbara Schrader, *Dale Porath, All those suffering or infected with Covid-19. *Home Bound.

† PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY:

Marie Cassetty Brown, Air Force — Ramstein Air Base, Germany AFB LA (sister-in-law of Wanda Cassetty);
Dakota Saunders, US Navy — Based in Cecilia Italy (godson of Carrie Graham);
Alex Williamson, Air Force, Reserve — Washington (grandson of Rebecca Williamson);
Michael Williamson, Air Force, Reserve — Texas (grandson of Rebecca Williamson);
Jamie Wong-Lopez, Marines — Annapolis MD (nephew of Kevin and Merci McInaney);
Clayton Wright, Air Force — Yokota AFB Japan (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);
Colton Wright, Navy — Assigned to USS Harry S. Truman (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);
Tyler Young, Navy — Deployed (nephew of Karen Arronson).

† 2021 FLOWER CHART AVAILABLE

Sign up early to get your special date! The new flower chart for 2021 has been posted in the hallway by the mailboxes. Please sign up to provide altar flowers in honor of your special date. Thanks, Your Altar Guild.

† ALTERNATIVES FOR HOMEBOUND WORSHIP AND DEVOTIONS

- Radio: KPDK on 93.9FM Sunday mornings at 7:00am.
- alcportland.org for Bible Studies and Worship Services

† C-101

Insights into Christianity (new members and all are invited) – There will be 6 classes on Wednesdays beginning June 2 through July 7 from 6:30-7:30pm.

† NETWORK DISCOVERY CLASSES

What are your spiritual gifts? How do you fit into the body of Christ? Come and learn about all of this and more. Saturdays, 11am to noon, June 5 through July 31 (no class July 17) - reserve your spot now!

† NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

Join us in welcoming our new members on Sunday, June 13 at the 8:30am service.

EVENTS AT ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 30

8:30am Worship
9:45am Adult Education
11:00am Worship

NEXT WEEK

Sunday, June 6

8:30am Worship with Communion
9:45am Adult Education
11:00am Worship

Coming up

June 19 – 8:30am to 12:00pm – Church work party

June 26 – 10:30 am to 12:00pm – LWML Meeting

† MILESTONES

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Jeannette Krogh	5/30	Rosemary Knox	5/31
Carolyn Haase	6/1	Lily Fogarty	6/1
Julie Williamson	6/1	Andrea Bryant	6/2
Gertrud Bublies	6/5	Rachel Kelley	6/5
Bea Kirchner	6/5		

BIRTHDAYS

Debbie Rekdahl	5/30	Roberta Ritchie	5/31
Carol Hoefler	6/1	Erik Teyema	6/2

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES – None

Ascension Lutheran Church

1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233
Church: 503-665-8821 · Childcare Center: 503-667-6750
Web Site: www.alcportland.org

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.

STAFF

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