



4 TH JULY
INDEPENDENCE DAY

Ascension Lutheran Church
Sixth Sunday After Pentecost ~ July 04, 2021

**SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
INDEPENDENCE DAY**

JULY 04, 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!

NURSERY AVAILABLE We have an unstaffed nursery for your convenience and privacy.

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 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 comulgan 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: “Mightier Than the Thorn”

AS WE GATHER

Today, our nation celebrates its place as the land of the free and the home of the brave. At times, this reality causes us to thump our chest to let the world know how great we are. The apostle Paul, too, could claim his place among the greats. Paul was “circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ” (Philippians 3:5–7). Yet, he was not mightier than the thorn. As Paul followed Jesus, he was plagued by a thorn in the flesh to keep him from becoming conceited. He asked God to take it away, and God said, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9). So, too, God’s grace is sufficient for us no matter where this life takes us, because when we are weak, then we are strong.

PRELUDE
(11:00)

“God Bless America”
Arr. Tom Fettke
Karon Keup, soloist

WELCOME

HYMN

“Before You, Lord, We Bow”

Before You, Lord we bow, our God Who reigns above,
And rules the world below, boundless in pow’r and love.
Our thanks we bring in joy and praise, our hearts we raise to You, our King!

The nation You have blest may well Your love declare,
From foes and fears at rest, protected by Your care.
For this bright day, for this fair land – Gifts of Your hand – Our thanks we pay.

Earth, hear your Maker’s voice; your great Redeemer own;
Believe, obey, rejoice, and worship Him alone.
Cast down your pride, your sin deplore, and bow before the Crucified.

And when in pow’r He comes, oh, may our native land
From all its rending tombs send forth a glorious band
A countless throng, with joy to sing to Heav’n’s high King salvation’s song!

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SCRIPTURE

P The earth is the Lord's,
C And all who dwell in it.

P God is king over the nations:
C God sits on His holy throne.

P He rules by His might forever.
C His eyes keep watch on the nations.

P Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
C For God judges the peoples with equity and guides the nations upon earth.

P O Lord, be gracious to us and bless us,
C And make Your face to shine upon us.

P May Your ways be known upon the earth,
C Your saving power among all peoples.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*1 Corinthians 10:12–13; Hebrews 4:15–16
Philippians 1:6; 2:7–8*

P Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man.
C God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

P For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.
C Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(Silence to reflect upon our sins.)

P Most merciful God,
C **we confess to You our pride, arrogance, and boasting. Forgive us for all our sins in our thoughts, words, and works for the sake of Jesus, who “made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us. For Jesus’ sake, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you for all of your sins of thoughts, words, and works in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Gracious and ever-loving God, we thank and praise You for the freedom we have in You and also the freedom we celebrate today in our nation. As Your grace has been sufficient for Your people throughout all time, grant that it be sufficient for us as well for Your power is made perfect in our weaknesses; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, 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

Ezekiel 2:1–5 (ESV)

(Share God’s Word with the rebellious.)

¹ And He said to me, “Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you.” ² And as He spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard Him speaking to me. ³ And He said to me, “Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against Me. They and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day. ⁴ The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD.’ ⁵ And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 12:1–10 (ESV)

(Paul boasts in his weaknesses.)

¹ I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ² I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. ³ And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— ⁴ and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. ⁵ On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses— ⁶ though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. ⁷ So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹ But He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

LAMBS LESSON

Pr. Jim Sprenkle

(A Prophet rejected.)

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixth chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹ He went away from there and came to His hometown, and His disciples followed Him. ² And on the Sabbath He began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard Him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to Him? How are such mighty works done by His hands? ³ Is not this the carpenter, the Son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?" And they took offense at Him. ⁴ And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household." ⁵ And He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶ And He marveled because of their unbelief. And He went about among the villages teaching.

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

PRAYER REQUESTS GATHERED BY AN ELDER

HYMN

“The Law Of God Is Good And Wise”

The Law of God is good and wise
And sets His will before our eyes,
Shows us the way of righteousness,
And dooms to death when we transgress.

Its light of holiness imparts
The knowledge of our sinful hearts
That we may see our lost estate
And turn from sin before too late.

But those who scornfully disdain
God’s Law shall then in sin remain;
Its terror in their ear resounds
And keeps their wickedness in bounds.

To Jesus we for refuge flee,
Who from the curse has set us free,
And humbly worship at His throne,
Saved by His grace through faith alone.

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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.)

“Freedom Hymn”

(tune: “Eternal Father, Strong to Save”)

How sweet the freedom we enjoy!
How precious is our liberty!
O what a price have others paid
To save, protect, and keep us free!

**Our Father, may the lives we live
Bring honor to this gift You give.**

A greater freedom now is ours
Through Jesus Christ, Your precious Son.
The brutal pow’r of sin is gone,
The war with death forever won. **(refrain)**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God and all people according to their needs.

P Almighty and most holy God, we thank and praise You for all You provide us freely by Your grace. We are especially thankful for the freedoms we enjoy and celebrate today as we gather to worship You. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for the leaders of our nation, state, and community. We acknowledge that You have placed them in these positions to govern us and all people of this land. Grant them wisdom and lead them to make decisions that are in line with Your will for all people. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P We live in a nation and in communities where we are thankful to have brothers and sisters in Christ, yet there are also many who have either disconnected from You and Your Church or who have never known You. Lead us to share Your grace with others. Guide our conversations and grow our relationships with those who do not share the hope we have. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Amid the thorns of this life, we lean on Your grace, knowing that it is sufficient for us and in our weakness Your strength shines through. We ask for Your grace and healing for those struggling in body, mind, and spirit, especially...Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P We give You thanks for these milestones being celebrated...Lord in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P No matter where life takes us, we know we are in Your hands. So, we confidently come before You as Your children and place these prayers and all our concerns into Your gracious hands, in Jesus' name.
C **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.**

(11:00 service, please turn to page 12 for the Benediction)

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

**We believe in the real presence of the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion.
Here our Lord offers to us the forgiveness of all our sins.**

*(Grape juice is available in the center of the trays for those who do not drink alcohol
and gluten free wafers are available upon request.)*

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

(Latin for "Peace of the Lord" - the response is, "Amen!", or "So be it!")

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

"Faith Of Our Fathers"

Faith of our fathers, living still in spite of dungeon, fire and sword!
O how our hearts beat high with joy whene'er we hear that glorious word!
Faith of our fathers! Holy faith! We will be true to Thee till death!

Our fathers, chained in prisons dark, were still in heart and conscience free.
How sweet would be their children's fate if they, like them could die for thee!
Faith of our fathers! Holy faith! We will be true to Thee till death!

Faith of our fathers! God's great power shall win all nations unto thee;
And through the truth that comes from God mankind shall then be truly free.
Faith of our fathers! Holy faith! We will be true to thee till death!

Faith of our fathers we will love both friend and foe in all our strife;
And preach Thee, too, as love knows how, by kindly words and virtuous life.
Faith of our fathers! Holy faith! We will be true to Thee till death!

Faith of our fathers we will strive to win all nations unto Thee!
And thro' the truth that comes from God mankind shall then be truly free:
Faith of our fathers! Holy faith! We will be true to Thee till death!

“America, The Beautiful”

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountains majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet, whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw.
Confirm thy soul in self control, thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife.
Who more than self their country loved and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness and every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

C **His steadfast love endures forever.**

P Let us pray.

We thank You, Lord, for You have again fed and nourished us on our way through this world to the one to come. Guide us in living out Your grace until that day when we experience it in all of its fullness; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

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.

C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

HYMN

“Battle Hymn Of The Republic”

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on.

Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never sound retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer Him! Be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on. **(refrain)**

In the beauty of the lilies, Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me;
As He died to make men holy, let us live to make men free,
While God is marching on. **(refrain)**

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks by 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. Sections of this service were taken from *Creative Worship*, Copyright © 2018 Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted by permission.

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† HELP NEEDED FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

If you are coming to service, think about offering to be a servant during worship. Running the Camera, Power Pointing, Ushering, Greeting, or reading. Please look at where you can step up.

† 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.

† PRAYER NEEDS?

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

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Ray Brown, Elly Brown, Mike Hatley, Karon Keup, Bonnie Webber, Carolyn Erdmann, Julie Williamson, Lorraine Haggard, Larry Hart, Sylvia Guthrie, Michele Sprengle, Bill Ritchie, Colleen Ek Yah, Esperanza Gutierrez, Brian Laxton, Virginia Hunt, Marty Blankenburg, Richard Robertson, Lewis Eilers, Rich Zahursky, Alan Bauch, Leonard Murphy, Bruce Blubaum, Judy Blubaum, Antonia Martinez (mother of Esperanza Gutierrez), Ava Wentela (Sue Wentela's granddaughter), Carol Santorufo (sister of Sue Wentela), *Barbara Schrader, *Dale Porath.

*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).

† MILESTONES

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Millie Edwards	7/4	Zachary Laxton	7/4
Teresa Osgood	7/6	Roberta Ritchie	7/6
Debbie Rekdahl	7/8	Jan Oswald	7/10

BIRTHDAYS

Joshua Mundo	7/4	Fabian Avendano	7/6
Merci McInaney	7/7	Bob Rekdahl	7/8
Travis Osgood	7/10		

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Jerry and Alma Bangs 7/10/1999
Hilary and Rich Sylvia 7/6/2016
Pastor Jim and Michele Sprengle 7/10/1994

ASSISTING IN SERVICE TODAY, SUNDAY, JULY 4, 2021

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Randy Schroeder	Bob Ritchie (WA)
Acolytes:		
Ushers:	Stan Chapulis	Needed
Audio/Visual:		J. E. Knox
PowerPoint:	Jenny Schuldheisz	Rosemary Knox
Greeters:	Elizabeth Alvarado Margo Bachhuber	Virginia Jacobs
Readers:	Ayde Alvarado	Virginia Jacobs
Altar Circle:	Both Services	Karla Deal
Counters:	Both Services	Karon Keup
Flowers:	Both Services	None

ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 11, 2021

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Herb Hoefer (WA)	Dan Parshall
Acolytes:		
Ushers:	Randy Schroeder	Matthias McInaney
Audio/Visual:	Teresa Osgood Laura Potter (Helping)	None
PowerPoint:	Taylor Osgood Laura Potter (Helping)	Riki Neagle
Greeters:	Sue Lewis Heather Goulde	Margaret Hubbard
Readers:	Travis Osgood	Marty Blankenberg
Altar Circle:	Both Services	Cindy Reinert
Counters:	Both Services	J. E. and Rosemary Knox
Flowers:	Both Services	None

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ASCENSION

THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 4

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

Tuesday, July 6

6:00pm Elder Meeting

Wednesday, July 7

6:30pm C-101 Insights to Christianity
7:00pm Online Bible Study

Friday, July 9

6:30pm Noche Familiar

NEXT WEEK

Sunday, July 11

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

Tuesday, July 13

6:00pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, July 14

6:30pm C-101 Insights to Christianity
7:00pm Online Bible Study

Friday, July 16

6:30pm Noche Familiar

Saturday, July 17

8:30am Church Work Party

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

Rev. Jim Sprenkle, Pastor
pastor@alcportland.org

Ruberto Ek Yah, Vicar
vicar@alcportland.org

Michele Sprenkle, Office Administrator
office@alcportland.org

Brad Hall, Worship and Music Coordinator
worship@alcportland.org

**Bonnie Webber and Rebecca
Williamson, Assistant Treasurer**
treasurer@alcportland.org

Wanda Cassetty, Council Secretary
council@alcportland.org

