



And He shall be
their peace.

Ascension Lutheran Church and School
"A Church for Families and a Family for Everyone"
December 19, 2021 ~ Fourth Sunday in Advent

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 19, 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 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: “He Shall Be Their Peace”

AS WE GATHER: “And He shall be their peace.” That is how the prophet Micah described the coming Messiah. God’s people will not find their peace in a big bank account. Nor will our peace be found in being part of the right social circle. Nor will our peace be found in a political leader or even in a political ideology. Nor will our peace be found in our living good and upright lives. Our peace is found in the Messiah, in Jesus, in the Good Shepherd whose strength is the Lord. Mary’s circumstances were difficult; the angel’s announcement of her pregnancy had to be quite a surprise. Pondering all these things in her heart, she found peace in God, who blessed her. So she sang God’s praises, a song that we sing still today, the Magnificat, a powerful reminder that “He shall be their peace.”

PRELUDE

Thanks to Peggy Hall for her musical leadership in this morning’s service.

WELCOME

HYMN

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

O come, O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, our Wisdom from on high,
Who ordered all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show
And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
From every foe deliver them
That trust Your mighty pow'r to save;
Bring them in vict'ry through the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease,
And be Yourself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

Light one candle for **joy**, One bright candle for joy,
Every nation will find salvation in Beth'lem's baby boy.

Light one candle for **love**, One bright candle for love,
He brings love to ev'ry heart, He comes! He Comes!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 25:6–7*

P Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God's new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

A time of silence is observed.

P We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have not always been instruments of Your peace. Our homes have at times been places of strife and turmoil by our own fault. Even in the church sometimes we have chosen to fight rather than to make peace.

C **Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

P Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
C **according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

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.

Into this world of turmoil, You, O Lord, bring peace. Let the peace that calmed the troubled heart of Mary so rule in our hearts and minds that by Your power we may all become peacemakers in our homes, in our community, and in our church; 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

Micah 5:2–5a (ESV)

(Out of little Bethlehem will be born a ruler for God's people,
a Good Shepherd, who will bring peace.)

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me One who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

³ Therefore He shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of His brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And He shall stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God. And they shall dwell secure, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵ And He shall be their peace.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Hebrews 10:5–10 (ESV)

(Because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, we live.)

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, He said, "Sacrifices and offerings You have not desired, but a body have you prepared for Me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings You have taken no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God, as it is written of Me in the scroll of the book.'" ⁸ When He said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then He added, "Behold, I have come to do Your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

LAMBS' LESSON

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-56 (ESV)

(Even while in Mary's womb, the presence of Jesus caused Elizabeth and the baby in her womb to rejoice!)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." ⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for He has looked on the humble estate of His servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name.

⁵⁰ And His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵² He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, ⁵⁵ as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to His offspring forever.” ⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

PRAYER REQUESTS GATHERED BY AN ELDER

HYMN

“O Little Town Of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav’n.

No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

SERMON

“WHERE CAN WE FIND IT?”

Micah 5:2–5a

Pastor Jim Sprengle

NICENE CREED

(After hearing the word of God read and proclaimed, the worshiper responds with this confession of faith. 1Corinthians 15:1ff; 1Pet. 3:18ff; 1Tim. 3:16. In some churches you will hear a testimony from one of the faithful – today we all give our testimony together.)

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. 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.)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Matthew 1:19, 21; Romans 1:5; Psalm 24:1, 5–6; James 5:7*

P As the time of Advent comes to an end, let us go to our heavenly Father on behalf of the Church around the world and all people in their various needs.

“Call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” For people who have not heard a word of forgiveness from their society or circle of friends, that God would use the Church to bring them news of God’s mercy and grace, available from His Son, born in a stable, killed on a cross, and risen from the grave, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the Church around the world, wherever it experiences active persecution or increasing indifference, that God would strengthen, guide, and protect laity and clergy alike and that it receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who are weighed down by illness, strife, or oppression, and for our friends and neighbors who are troubled, that God would bring healing, peace of body and mind, including...let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who are celebrating milestones and other blessings, especially...that their lives would shine the light of Christ wherever the Lord has called them, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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 14 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 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

“Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord”

Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you out-poured;
Offered was He for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and Himself the priest.

He, Who His saints in this world rules and shields,
To all believers, life eternal yields;
With Heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.

Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

“Your Table I Approach”

Your table I approach; Dear Savior hear my prayer.
Oh, let no unrepented sin Prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands
A contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table Lord, In blest reality.

Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.

Oh grant, most blessed Lord, That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh may I never fail To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

Lord God, we give You thanks for Christ's body and blood, this amazing gift by which we receive a renewed relationship of peace with You and with one another. Help us all to grow as peacemakers; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION *Luke 1:54–55; Numbers 6:24–26*

P The Lord has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.

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 "Hark the Glad Sound"

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne And every voice a song.

He comes the pris'ners to release, in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Your welcome shall proclaim,
And Heav'n's eternal arches ring With Your beloved Name.

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.

Sections of this service were taken from *Creative Worship*, Copyright © 2019 Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted by permission.

Unless otherwise noted, all hymns printed in this service are in the Public Domain.

"Light One Candle" Text: Natalie Sleeth, 1930-92. Copyright © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER 19, 2021

† **NEW FLOWER CHART FOR 2022 IS POSTED!**

SIGN-UP TO BEAUTIFY OUR WORSHIP! The new flower chart is posted in the hallway across from the mailboxes on the bulletin board.

† **MILESTONES**

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS: None

BIRTHDAYS

Brandy Webber	12/21	Jerry Bangs	12/21
---------------	-------	-------------	-------

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

Rich and Karen Zahursky Dec. 20, 1963

† **PRAYER NEEDS?**

Contact the church office with any requests e-mail:
office@alcportland.org

† **PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:**

The family of Carolyn Erdmann, The Family of Bill Ritchie, The Family of Lyle Guericke, Bob Rekdahl, Ray Brown, Mike Hatley, Lorraine Haggard, Larry Hart, Esperanza Gutierrez, Marty Blankenburg, Elaina Ritchie, Richard Robertson, 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 — Little Rock, Arkansas (sister-in-law of Wanda Cassetty);
Dakota Saunders, US Navy — Based in Cecilia Italy (godson of Carrie Graham);

† **PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY:** (Cont.)

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).

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ASCENSION

THIS WEEK – Sunday, Dec. 19 – Saturday, Dec. 25

Sunday, Dec. 19 <i>(Advent 4)</i>	8:30am	Worship with Communion
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Monday Dec. 20		Newsletter Items Due
Tuesday Dec. 21	6:00pm	No 3:10 Group
Wednesday, Dec. 22	7:00pm	Online Bible Study Posted
Thursday, Dec. 23	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Dec. 24	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Worship
Saturday, Dec. 25	10:00am	Christmas Day Worship

NEXT WEEK – Sunday, Dec. 26 – Saturday, Jan. 1

Sunday, Dec. 26 <i>(Advent 4)</i>	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship with Communion
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Monday Dec. 27		Office Closed
		Newsletter Items Due
Wednesday, Dec. 29	7:00pm	Online Bible Study Posted
Thursday, Dec. 30	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Dec. 31	7:00pm	New Year's Eve Worship

ASSISTING IN SERVICE THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>11:00am</u>
Elder:	Randy Bryant	John Hazen
Acolytes:		Jaden Mundo
Ushers:	Marcus Young	Jonathan Mundo
	Bob Rekdahl	Joshua Mundo

	Jim Eckart	
	Needed	
Audio/Visual:	Stan Chapulis	Morgan Sprengle
PowerPoint:	Debbie Rekdahl	Michele Sprengle
Greeters:	Norma Dillon	Margaret Hubbard
	Esperanza Gutierrez	
Readers:	Jim Eckart	Morgan Berg
Altar Circle:	Both Services	Wendy Hazen
Flowers:	Both Services	Karen Zahursky
Counters:	Both Services	Bonnie and Rebecca

ASSISTING CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24, 7:00PM

7:00pm

Elder:	Randy Schroeder
Usher:	Stan Chapulis
Audio/Visual:	Laura Potter
PowerPoint:	Rebecca Williamson
Greeter:	Bonnie Webber
	Michele Sprengle
Reader:	Andy Berg
Altar Circle:	Karen Zahursky and Karla Deal
Counters:	Karon Keup and Sheryl Maier

ASSISTING CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25, 10:00AM

10:00am

Elder:	Dan Parshall
Usher:	<i>Need</i>
Audio/Visual:	Stan Chapulis
PowerPoint:	Rebecca Williamson
Greeter:	Bonnie Webber
Reader:	None Needed
Altar Circle:	Karen Zahursky and Karla Deal
Counters:	Karon Keup and Sheryl Maier

ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>11:00am</u>
Elder:	Randy Schroeder	Dan Parshall
Acolytes:		
Ushers:	Marcus Young	Matthias McInaney
	Jim Eckart	Bob Freeman

Audio/Visual:	Stan Chapulis	James Freeman
PowerPoint:	Jenny Schuldheisz	Richard Robertson
Greeters:	Karla Deal	Laura Potter
Readers:	Karla Deal	Rebecca Williamson
Altar Circle:	Both Services	Christian Freeman
Flowers:	Both Services	Julie Williamson
		Jan Oswald
		Rebecca and Julie Williamson
Counters:	Both Services	Karon Keup and Sheryl Meier

ASSISTING NEW YEAR'S EVE, DECEMBER 31, 7:00PM

	<u>7:00pm</u>
Elder:	<i>Need</i>
Usher:	<i>Need</i>
Audio/Visual:	Michele Sprengle
PowerPoint:	<i>Need</i>
Greeter:	Bonnie Webber
	Michele Sprengle
Reader:	Bonnie Webber
Altar Circle:	Margo Bachhuber
Counters:	Dave and Jan Oswald

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 Sprengle, Pastor

pastor@alcportland.org

Ruberto Ek Yah, Vicar

vicar@alcportland.org

Brad Hall, Worship and Music Coordinator

worship@alcportland.org

Michele Sprengle, Office Administrator

office@alcportland.org

Bonnie Webber and Rebecca Williamson, Treasurers

treasurer@alcportland.org

Wanda Cassetty, Council Secretary

council@alcportland.org

