



*“I am the true vine, and  
My Father is the vinedresser.  
Every branch in Me that  
does not bear fruit He takes  
away, and every branch that  
does bear fruit He prunes,  
that it may bear more fruit.*

*John 15:1-2*

Ascension Lutheran Church and School  
May 02, 2021 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter

**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 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 obleas libres de gluten están disponibles bajo petición).

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

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

Theme: “Growing in Grace”

### AS WE GATHER

The images Jesus uses as He proclaims the kingdom of God often come from the world of agriculture. His parables are filled with plants and trees and birds and animals. Grapes, grapevines, and vineyards are all used as illustrations by Jesus as He teaches the people who are His first hearers and us also. As people who have been grafted as branches into Christ the Vine through Holy Baptism, we seek ways to strengthen that connection as the Holy Spirit works in and through us. We now nourish our faith as branches in Christ’s vineyard as we grow in Him by Word and Sacrament.

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

### HYMN

#### “Life In The Vine”

(tune: “For The Beauty of the Earth” – *DIX*)

Father, all Your being flows  
Full and free through Christ the Vine.  
See how heaven’s wonders grow!  
Water changes into wine.  
All Your fullness flows within  
As I just abide in Him.

Prune me, Father. Cut away  
Every fruitless stem from me.  
Trim from what I do and say  
All that’s less than I should be,  
All that darkens love’s pure light,  
All that is not Jesus Christ.

Flow unhindered, Love divine,  
Heaven’s rich and holy Breath!  
Fill my hands and heart and mind,  
Sharing all His life and death!  
Every moment, truth and light!  
Every moment, Jesus Christ!

## INVOCATION

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

## CONFESSION (sung)

**P** As the Lord desires for us to abide in Christ, the True Vine, we come before Him to confess our sin, asking for Him to remove that which would keep us from bearing fruit in our lives.

I confess to You, O Lord, that I have sinned.  
I confess to You, O Lord, all my sin within.  
I have failed to live for You  
In the things I say and do,  
And have fallen short of living in Your love. **(chorus)**

**(Chorus)**  
**Lord, have mercy on me.**  
**Lord, have mercy, set me free.**  
**O forgive me, Lord, I pray,**  
**And take my sin away**  
**By the cross and empty grave for my soul.**

I confess to You, O Lord, that I have sinned.  
I confess to You, O Lord, all my sin within.  
I have placed myself above,  
And have hurt the ones I love,  
And I know that only You can set me free. **(chorus)**

Take us back to the water. Wash away our sins.  
Welcome us, O Father, Back to Your home again.  
Bless Your sons and daughters,  
And let the feast begin, Let it begin! **(chorus)**

## ABSOLUTION

**P** The Lord has had mercy on you and has sent His Son Jesus Christ as the atoning sacrifice for your sins. By His Word and Promise I declare to you the forgiveness of all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. You are forgiven. You are set free.  
**C** Amen.

## SALUTATION

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.  
Risen and ascended Lord, You are the vine, and we are the branches. Apart from You there is no life. By Baptism, You have grafted us into Your gracious life. Cause Your Word to abide in us and make us fruitful to the glory of Your Father, 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 ✠

### FIRST READING

**Acts 8:26–40 (ESV)**

(Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.)

- P** <sup>26</sup> Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. <sup>27</sup> And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup> and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”
- C** <sup>31</sup> **And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?”**
- P** And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep He was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so He opens not His mouth. <sup>33</sup> In His humiliation justice was denied Him. Who can describe His generation? For His life is taken away from the earth.” <sup>34</sup> And the eunuch said to Philip,
- C** **“About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?”**

**P** <sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said,

**C** “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?”

**P** <sup>38</sup> And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup> And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE

1 John 4:7–11 (ESV)

(The power of God resides in you.)

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## LAMBS' LESSON

## HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1–8 (ESV)

(Jesus says that He is the vine and His people are the branches.)

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

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

<sup>1</sup> “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine,

neither can you, unless you abide in Me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not abide in Me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## SCRIPTURE SONG

### “Abide In Me”

*(based on today’s Gospel reading – John 15:1-8)*

**(ALL on “Refrain”; Verses – sung by leader)**

#### **(REFRAIN)**

**Abide in Me, and I in you,  
As the branch cannot bear fruit  
Of itself unless it abides in the vine,  
so neither can you  
unless you abide in Me.**

I am the vine,  
You are the branches,  
He who abides in Me and I in him.  
He bears much fruit  
For apart from Me you can do nothing. **(refrain)**

If you abide in Me and My words abide in you  
Ask whatever you will and it will be done for you.  
When we abide in the Lord and let His words abide in us,  
We actually are one with Him as He works within us.  
Then, when we ask in prayer for whatever we will,  
It is not only we who are praying;  
He too is praying, in our praying.  
This kind of prayer is related to fruit bearing  
and will surely be answered. **(refrain)**

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and I sent you,  
That you should go forth and bear fruit,  
And that your fruit should remain,  
That whatever you ask the Father in My name,  
He may give you. **(refrain)**

**SECOND ARTICLE of the APOSTLES’ CREED and LUTHER’S EXPLANATION**

- P** As we celebrate the risen Christ this Easter season, we now speak together the words of the Apostles’ Creed regarding our Savior, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity.
- C** **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.**
- P** What does this mean?
- C** **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

**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.)*

**(8:30)****“Beloved, Let Us Love One Another”**

(based on today’s Epistle reading: 1 John 4: 7-8; 5:3 and 4)

by: Daniel Burton

**Ascension Choir**

*Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God;  
And ev’ry one that loveth is born of God and knoweth God,  
For God is love, for God is love.*

*This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments:  
For whatsoever is born of God, for whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world;  
For this is the love of God, That we keep His commandments;  
For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world;  
For God is love, God is love.*



## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** Let us pray together in Christ Jesus for all people according to their needs.

Lord Jesus Christ, You are greater than all and have been given the name that is above every name. Grant us discernment to test all spirits. Tune our hearts to listen to Your voice, and draw us away from the voices that clamor to deceive us according to the spirits of this age. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Gracious King, Your kingdom is greater than all, and Your rule is limitless and unbounded. Grant that the rulers of the kingdoms of this world would bow their knees to Your gracious reign, seeking only the knowledge of Your will and the power to carry it out. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Great Physician, Your healing power is greater than all the technology of human invention. Be at work for good through the vocations of all healthcare professionals, workers, and caregivers that those who suffer any affliction of body, mind, or spirit, especially...that they would know the nearness of Your presence and experience the joy that comes from abiding in Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** For those who are celebrating...Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Hope of all the saints, You have purposed and prepared a future greater than we can imagine in Your creation of a new heaven and a new earth where righteousness dwells. Bring us together with all Your saints to experience Your love as we gather around the throne of the Lamb, who loves all people and gave Himself for us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Christ Jesus, 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 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 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**

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

**C** **Amen.**

**DURING THE DISTRIBUTION**

**“Come Share The Lord”**

We gather here in Jesus' name,  
His love is burning in our hearts Like living flame.  
For through the loving Son, The Father makes us one.  
Come take the bread, Come drink the wine,  
Come share the Lord.

He joins us here, He breaks the bread.  
The Lord Who pours the cup Is risen from the dead.  
The One we love the most Is now our gracious host.  
Come take the bread, Come drink the wine,  
Come share the Lord.

We'll gather soon where angels sing,  
We'll see the glory of our Lord And coming King.  
Now we anticipate the feast for which we wait.  
Come take the bread, Come drink the wine,  
Come share the Lord.

### **“Jesus Messiah”**

He became sin, who knew no sin;  
That we might become His righteousness;  
He humbled Himself, and carried the cross.  
Love so amazing, love so amazing.

#### **(Chorus)**

**Jesus Messiah, Name above all names;  
Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel.  
The Rescue for sinners, the Ransom from Heaven;  
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.**

His body the bread, His blood the wine  
Broken and poured out, all for love.  
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn.  
Love so amazing, love so amazing. **(Chorus)**

All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You;  
All the glory to You, God, the Light of the world. **(Chorus)**

## **POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

**P** Let us pray.

Holy Father, we ask You now, by this blessed food and drink, to deliver Your Church from every evil, to teach it to love You perfectly, and to make it truly one, even as this bread was made from many grains of wheat to become the carrier of the body of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and the wine was drawn from the fruitfulness of many grapes. Grant that we ever abide in the Word, Christ Himself, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**C** **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

### “Almighty Father, Bless the Word”

Almighty Father, bless the Word Which through Your grace we now have heard.  
Oh, may the precious seed take root, Spring up, and bear abundant fruit!

We praise You for the means of grace As homeward now our steps we trace.  
Grant, Lord, that we who worshipped here May all at last in Heav’n appear.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. AMEN.

## 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

8:30 and 11:00am with adult education class at 9:45am. Approximately 40 per service can attend. Please call or email the office to save your space! 503-665-8821 or office at [alcpportland.org](http://alcpportland.org)

## † ALTERNATIVES FOR HOMEBOUND WORSHIP AND DEVOTIONS

- Radio: KPDQ on 93.9FM Sunday mornings at 7:00am.
- [alcpportland.org](http://alcpportland.org) for Bible Studies and Worship Services

## † HELP NEEDED FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

## † PRESCHOOL LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY:

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Vancouver, WA currently seeks a part-time PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR for the 2021-2022 school year to lead a Christ-centered educational environment for learning and nurturing young children through Jesus' love. Start date: Summer 2021. For more information and a complete job description, please contact: Krista Moore at [preschool@vanflock.org](mailto:preschool@vanflock.org) and Lisa Hergert at [lhergert0324@gmail.com](mailto:lhergert0324@gmail.com)

## † PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

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 Santorufo (sister of Sue Wentela), \*Barbara Schrader, \*Dale Porath, All those suffering or infected with Covid-19. *\*Home Bound.*

## † PRAYER NEEDS?

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

## † 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).

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## EVENTS AT ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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### THIS WEEK

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#### Sunday, May 2

8:30am Worship with Communion

9:45am Adult Education

11:00am Worship

#### Thursday, May 6

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

### NEXT WEEK

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#### Sunday, May 9

8:30am Worship

9:45am Adult Education

11:00am Worship with Communion

#### Thursday, May 13

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

## † MILESTONES

### BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Eli Deal	5/2	Ellie Graham	5/2
Janice Hart	5/3	Mark Schiely	5/5
Hilary Sylvia	5/5	Rebecca Williamson	5/5
Karin Richardson	5/8		

### BIRTHDAYS

Sonia Bublies	5/4	Wanda Cassetty	5/5
Millie Edwards	5/5	Lily Fogarty, Ty	5/5
Herb Hoefler	5/5		

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Sue and Keith Wentela    May 2, 1981

# Ascension Lutheran Church

Church: 503-665-8821 · Childcare Center: 503-667-6750

Web Site: [www.alcportland.org](http://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**  
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