

Ascension Lutheran Church and School "A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"
October 23, 2022

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost October 23, 2022

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. The nursery has audio and video so you may hear and see the worship service while attending to your child.

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: "Certainty"

AS WE GATHER: "How can you be so sure?" That is the question we may find ourselves asking when we read the confidence expressed by Paul in today's Epistle: "There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness" (2 Timothy 4:8); "The Lord stood by me and strengthened me. . .I was rescued from the lion's mouth. . .The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom" (2 Timothy 4:17–18a). "Paul, how can you be so sure?" Today's service will help us to see that Paul's certainty was not based upon his strength of faith or his works of ministry; no, it was based solely on God's faithfulness to him in Jesus Christ, the Crucified! Through His Word and Spirit, God provides such confidence and certainty to us also as we gather in His presence and are received by Him as members of His heavenly kingdom. "To Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen" (2 Timothy 4:18b).

PRELUDE

WELCOME

HYMN

"God Himself Is Present"

God Himself is present:
Let us now adore Him
And with awe appear before Him.
God is in His temple;
All within keep silence;
Humbly kneel in deepest rev'rence.
He alone on His throne
Is our God and Savior;
Praise His Name forever!

God Himself is present:
Hear the harps resounding;
See the hosts the throne surrounding.
"Holy, Holy, Holy!"
Hear the hymn ascending,
Songs of saints and angels blending.
Bow Your ear
To us here:
Hear, O Christ, the praises
That Your church now raises.

Fount of every blessing,
Purify my spirit,
Trusting only in Your merit.
Like the holy angels,
Worshiping before You,
May I ceaselessly adore You.
Let Your will
Ever still
Rule Your Church terrestrial
As the hosts celestial.

INVOCATION

- In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

OPENING SCRIPTURE from Psalm 5

- P Give ear to my words, O LORD; consider my groaning.
- Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to You do I pray.
- P O LORD, in the morning You hear my voice;
- in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for You and watch. Let all who take refuge in You rejoice; let them ever sing for joy!
- I, through the abundance of Your steadfast love, will enter Your house.
- I will bow down toward Your holy temple in the fear of You. Let all who take refuge in You rejoice; let them ever sing for joy!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- Through faith in Jesus Christ, we are adopted as God's sons and daughters and drawn into His kingdom. Because of our sins of thought, word, and action, we are unworthy of the grace we receive. Therefore, at our Lord's invitation, let us come before our heavenly Father in humility and faith, seeking His pardon for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
- Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.
- Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Received into the certainty and security of His eternal kingdom, be assured that you belong to Him—He is your Father, and you are His children! 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.
- And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You are always more ready to hear than we are to pray and always ready to give more than we either desire or deserve. Strengthen us in the certainty of the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting in Your heavenly kingdom, that we may always trust in Him who was crucified for our salvation; through Jesus Christ, 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.
- And also with you.

→ THE WORD →

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 4:1-15 (ESV)

(Cain and Abel bring their offerings to the Lord.)

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering He had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?

⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it." 8 Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. 9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" 10 And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground. 11 And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." ¹³ Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. ¹⁴ Behold, You have driven me today away from the ground, and from Your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." 15 Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 (ESV)

(The Lord will bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom.)

⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing. ¹⁶ At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom. To Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

LAMBS' LESSON

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 18:9-17 (ESV)

(The kingdom of God belongs to the children who come to Jesus.)

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the eighteenth chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: 10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." 15 Now they were bringing even infants to Him that He might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. 16 But Jesus called them to Him, saying, "Let the children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁷ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

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

PRAYER and LOVE IN ACTION REQUESTS GATHERED

HYMN "Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense"

Jesus Christ, my sure defense
And my Savior now is living!
Knowing this, my confidence
Rests upon the hope here given
Though the night of death be caught
Still in many an anxious thought.

Jesus, my Redeemer lives; Likewise I to life shall waken. He will bring me where He is; Shall my courage then be shaken? Shall I fear, or could the head Rise and leave His members dead?

No, I am too closely bound By my hope to Christ forever; Faith's strong hand the rock has found, Grasped it, and will leave it never; Even death now cannot part From its Lord the trusting heart.

I am flesh and must return
To the dust, whence I am taken;
But by faith I now discern
That from death I will awaken
With my Savior to abide
In His glory, at His side.

SERMON "TITLE"

Text Pr. Herb Hoefer

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

(11:00) "Let The Little Children Come To Me"
Theodore Beck
Ascension Choir

Let the little children come to Me, And do not hinder them, For the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

I tell you the truth:

Anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child

Will never enter it.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for all the children of God, members of His heavenly kingdom, and also for all others whose needs are known to the Lord, that they may experience the certainty of His promises and blessings in their lives.

Gracious Father, we are richly blessed to come unto Jesus at His gracious invitation and to be assured of our identity as Your children and members of Your eternal kingdom. Inspire in us, O Lord, that we may dedicate ourselves to worshiping You and to making Your love known to all the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

- hear Your children pray!
- Loving Savior, many things in this world distract us from Your Word and draw us away from spending time in Your presence. Renew us, dear Jesus, by the Word that we have heard this day. Remind us of Your forgiveness for our trespasses and restoration for our brokenness, so that we might live in the freedom You won. Lord, in Your mercy,
- hear Your children pray!

- P Heavenly Father, Your Word instructs us to lift before You our leaders and all those who serve in positions of authority among us. Grant Your blessing to all who make, administer, and judge our nation's laws. Protect those who lay down their lives for their fellow citizens. Uplift those who are weary and downtrodden in their daily lives that they may find joy in the roles they have in their families, communities, and congregations, knowing that their labor in the Lord is never in vain. Lord, in Your mercy,
- hear Your children pray!
- Healing Savior, Your ministry on earth included bringing heaven's touch to many who were afflicted with pain and suffering. Each of us has upon our hearts and minds people in need of healing mercies this day, and, for these and for all others who are sick, hurting, and undergoing procedures, we ask for Your special care and healing touch to be extended. Today we especially pray for...Lord, in Your mercy,
- hear Your children pray!
- Lord of grace and blessing, we praise You for all Your good gifts, and we pray for those who celebrate this week...May their rejoicing be a witness to others of Your goodness and love. Lord, in Your mercy,
- hear Your children pray!
- Into Your hands of mercy, faithful Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Him who invites us to experience the certainty of faith that belongs to members of His heavenly kingdom, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

(8:30am 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 do not drink alcohol, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request.)

PREFACE

- P The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- 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

"Communion Song"

Take this bread I give to you, And as you do, remember Me.

This bread is My body broken just for you.

Take it (take it), eat it (eat it),

Each time you do;

Remember Me, remember Me.

Take this cup I fill for you, And as you do, remember Me.

This cup is the new cov'nant I'm makin' with you. Take it (take it), drink it (drink it), Each time you do; Remember Me, remember Me.

Take this love I've given you, And as you do, remember Me, Remember Me, remember Me.

"Beautiful Savior" (contemporary)

All my days I will sing this song of gladness, Give my praise to the Fountain of delights; For in my helplessness You heard my cry, And waves of mercy poured down on my life.

I will trust in the cross of my Redeemer, I will sing of the blood that never fails; Of sins forgiven, of conscience cleansed, Of death defeated and life without end.

(Chorus)

Beautiful Savior, Wonderful Counselor, Clothed in majesty, Lord of history, You're the Way, the Truth, the Life. Star of the Morning, glorious in holiness, You're the Risen One, heaven's Champion And You reign, You reign over all.

I long to be where the praise is never-ending, Yearn to dwell where the glory never fades; Where countless worshippers will share one song, And cries of 'worthy' will honor the Lamb! **(chorus)**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

O God the Father, who in love and mercy sent Your onlybegotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. Strengthen us in the certainty of our Savior's work to save us that we may live securely as members of Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BENEDICTION 2 Timothy 4:18; Numbers 6:24–26

- The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom.
- To Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.
- P Go forth now with the certainty of the Lord's blessing:

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SONG "Grace Alone"

Ev'ry promise we can make,
Ev'ry prayer and step of faith,
Ev'ry diff'rence we will make is only by His grace.
Ev'ry mountain we will climb,
Ev'ry ray of hope we shine,
Ev'ry blessing left behind is only by His grace.

(Chorus)
Grace alone which God supplies,

Strength unknown He will provide, Christ in us our cornerstone, We will go forth in grace alone.

Ev'ry soul we long to reach,
Ev'ry heart we hope to teach,
Ev'rywhere we share His peace is only by His grace.
Ev'ry loving word we say,
Ev'ry tear we wipe away,
Ev'ry sorrow turned to praise is only by His grace. (chorus)

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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† THE HUMAN CARE BOARD FOOD COLLECTION

is once again collecting nonperishable food for SnowCap on Thanksgiving Eve. Blue Walmart bags are available on the table next to the front door for your use. If you give a monetary donation that night it will benefit the benevolence fund.

† FLOWER CHART OPENINGS

Look at the flower chart and see if there are any special dates for which you might want to bring flowers. There are still dates left for this year.

† THE CHOSEN SEASON 2 CONTINUES

Our next class is Saturday, November 12 at 10:30am.

† SECURITY GUIDELINES FOR OUR PREMISES

This important document will be posted in the Narthex. Please review so you will be aware of these procedures.

† CRAFTING CONTINUES EACH WEDNESDAY AT 2:00PM

† PRAYER NEEDS?

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

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Gina Kreps, Judy Blubaum, Cindy Linnemann, Brian Laxton, George and Carlee Metteer, Rev. Travis Leslie, Emily Kohnke (Webber Family), Alondra (a friend of Gina Kreps), Rich Zahursky, MaryLou May, Mike Hatley, Lorraine Haggard, Andrew May, Esperanza Gutierrez, Kim Laxton, Antonia Martinez (mother of Esperanza Gutierrez), Ava Wentela (Sue Wentela's granddaughter), Carol Santorufo (sister of Sue Wentela), Mike Fogarty, Members and friends with Covid, The people of Ukraine, *Barbara Schrader, *Larry Hart, *Dale Porath. *Home Bound.

ASSISTING IN SERVICE SUNDAY, OCT. 23, 2022

8:30am 11:00am
Elder: Bruce Blubaum Herb Hoefer

Acolytes:

Ushers: Jim Eckart Matthias McInaney

Bob Rekdahl Bob Freeman

James Freeman

Marcus Young **Audio/Visual:** Stan Chapulis Laura Potter

PowerPoint: Wanda Cassetty Rebecca Williamson

Greeters: Sue Lewis Christina Freeman

Heather Gulde

Readers: Carlyn Staudt Carol Hoefer Altar Circle: Both Services Karen Zahursky

Flowers: Both Services

Counters: Both Services Bonnie Webber

Rebecca Williamson

ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, OCT. 30, 2022

8:30am 11:00am

Elder: Dave Oswald John Hazen

Acolytes:

Ushers: Stan Chapulis John Knoke

Needed Marcus Young

Audio/Visual: Laura Potter Michele Sprengle **PowerPoint:** Jenny Schuldheisz Jessica Brown

Greeters: Karla Deal Riki Neagle

Readers: Karla Deal Julie Williamson **Altar Circle:** Both Services Jan Oswald

Flowers: Both Services

Counters: Both Services Dave and Jan Oswald

| EVENTS THIS WEEK - Sun., Oct. 23 - Sat., Oct. 29 | | | | |
|--|---------|-----------------------|--|--|
| Sunday, Oct. 23 | 8:30am | Worship | | |
| | 9:45am | Education Hour | | |
| | 11:00am | Worship w/ Communion | | |
| | 6:00pm | Online Worship Posted | | |
| Wednesday Oct. 26 | 2:00pm | Crafting Get-Together | | |
| Thursday, Oct. 27 | 6:00pm | Praise Team | | |
| | 7:00pm | Choir Rehearsal | | |
| Friday, Oct. 28 | 6:30pm | Noche Familiar | | |
| • | | | | |

EVENTS NEXT WEEK – Sunday, Oct. 30 – Sat., Nov. 5

| Sunday, Oct. 30 | 8:30am | Worship |
|------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| | 9:45am | Education Hour |
| | 11:00am | Worship |
| | 6:00pm | Online Worship Posted |
| Wednesday Nov 2 | 11:00am | CareConnect |
| | 2:00pm | Crafting Get-Together |
| Thursday, Oct. 3 | 6:00pm | Praise Team |
| | 7:00pm | Choir Rehearsal |
| Friday, Oct. 4 | 6:30pm | Noche Familiar |

† 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);

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 — (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);

Tyler Young, Navy — Deployed (nephew of Karen Arronson).

† MILESTONES

| 10/23 | Elly Brown | 10/26 |
|-------|----------------|---|
| 10/27 | Herb Reiniger | 10/27 |
| 10/27 | Elaina Ritchie | 10/28 |
| 10/29 | | |
| | 10/27 10/27 | 10/27 Herb Reiniger 10/27 Elaina Ritchie |

BIRTHDAYS

Cindy Reinert 10/23 Jon Hart 10/26

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

Rev. Jim Sprengle, Pastor pastor@alcportland.org

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