



SECOND WEDNESDAY  
*in*  
LENT

Ascension Lutheran Church  
*"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"*  
Lenten Midweek Two – March 12, 2025

## LENTEN MIDWEEK TWO

**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.

### + PREPARATION +

#### **THEME: The Good News of a Savior Who Conquers Evil**

**AS WE GATHER:** Who is the greatest conqueror ever to have walked on earth? Using the criterion of how much territory a conqueror ruled over, the Mongol warrior Genghis Khan could be considered the greatest conqueror in history. At the peak of his power in the thirteenth century AD, his rule extended over 4,860,000 square miles. Coming in at the second spot was the Macedonian ruler Alexander the Great. The borders of his empire in the fourth century BC included much of Europe and North Africa and parts of the Middle East and Asia, which totaled some 2,180,000 square miles. History reveals that those massive empires did not survive long past the deaths of these warrior leaders. In our worship, we acknowledge Jesus Christ as the “Conqueror renowned” (*LSB* 554:1) who “triumphed over cross and grave” (*LSB* 551:4). His coming to earth to bring about a matchless victory for us over evil and all that oppresses us is eternal and limitless!

#### **WELCOME**

##### **“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”**

- 1 Alas! And did my Savior bleed,  
And did my sov'reign die?  
Would He devote that sacred head  
For such a worm as I?

- 2 Was it for crimes that I had done  
He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown,  
And love beyond degree!
- 3 Well might the sun in darkness hide  
And shut his glories in  
When God, the mighty maker, died  
For His own creatures' sin.
- 4 Thus might I hide my blushing face  
While His dear cross appears,  
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,  
And melt mine eyes to tears.
- 5 But drops of grief can ne'er repay  
The debt of love I owe;  
Here, Lord, I give myself away:  
'Tis all that I can do.

"Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed", Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt., Text: Public domain

## INVOCATION

- A** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## PSALM (Cantor - odd verses; Congregation - even)

Psalm 8



- <sup>1</sup>O LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is Your name in | all the earth!\*
- You have set Your glory above the | heavens.
- <sup>2</sup>**Out of the mouth of babes and infants,**  
**You have established strength because | of Your foes,\***  
**to still the enemy and the a- | venger.**
- <sup>3</sup>When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your | fingers,\*  
the moon and the stars, which You have | set in place,

**<sup>4</sup>what is man that You are mind- | ful of him,\***

**and the son of man that You | care for him?**

**<sup>5</sup>Yet You have made him a little lower than the heavenly | beings\***

**and crowned him with glory and | honor.**

**<sup>6</sup>You have given him dominion over the works | of Your hands;\***

**You have put all things under | his feet,**

**<sup>7</sup>all sheep and | oxen,\***

**and also the beasts | of the field,**

**<sup>8</sup>the birds of the heavens, and the fish | of the sea,\***

**whatever passes along the paths | of the seas.**

**<sup>9</sup>O | LORD, our Lord,\***

**how majestic is Your name in | all the earth!**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**[A]** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**[C]** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**[A]** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**[C]** Amen.

## **SALUTATION**

**[A]** The Lord be with you.

**[C]** And also with you.

## PRAYER

**A** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, when we, by our sin, had fallen away from You, You graciously came down to us. You became man to save humanity. You lived among us in lowliness that we may live with You in glory. You endured Satan's attacks for us that You could crush the serpent's head for us. By Your humble incarnation, Your life of purity and selfless service, and Your sacrificial death, You have redeemed us. Therefore, God our Father has highly exalted You and put everything under Your feet, and we humbly bow before You, for You are our Lord, and You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## + THE WORD +

### Genesis 3:14–15

Genesis 3:14-15 (ESV)

<sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to the serpent,  
“Because you have done this,  
cursed are you above all livestock  
and above all beasts of the field;  
on your belly you shall go,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
He shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise His heel.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Hebrews 2:11–15

Hebrews 2:11-15 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup>For He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why He is not ashamed to call them brothers, <sup>12</sup>saying,

“I will tell of Your name to My brothers;  
in the midst of the congregation I will sing Your praise.”

<sup>13</sup>And again,

“I will put My trust in Him.” And again,

“Behold, I and the children God has given Me.”

<sup>14</sup>Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### John 12:20–33

John 12:20-33 (ESV)

**A** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

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

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him. <sup>27</sup>“Now is My soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify Your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to Him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not Mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to show by what kind of death He was going to die.

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


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

# HYMN INTRODUCTION


**A** Although the deep and grand texts of many of the hymns of the Lenten season have been used in the church for centuries, there are also new texts in other sections of the hymnal that highlight certain features of the Passion of our Lord in this holy season. One of those hymn texts is “The Tree of Life,” written in the 1990s by Pastor Stephen Starke. It contrasts the tree in the Garden of Eden—having fruit eaten in disobedience to God’s command by Eve and Adam—with the tree of the cross of Calvary, where Jesus overcame the power of Satan by His sacrificial death to pay the price of the sins of mankind. Both trees have power, and each has beauty as well. Both are central to the message of the Gospel. The text of this next hymn invites prayerful reflection as it musically expresses the words of the Proper Preface for Holy Week that proclaim Jesus’ great victory over Satan: “that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome.”

## “The Tree of Life”

LSB 561




1 The tree of life with ev - 'ry good In E - den's  
2 The still - ness of that sa - cred grove Was bro - ken,  
3 What mer - cy God showed to our race, A plan of  
4 Now from that tree of Je - sus' shame Flows life e -



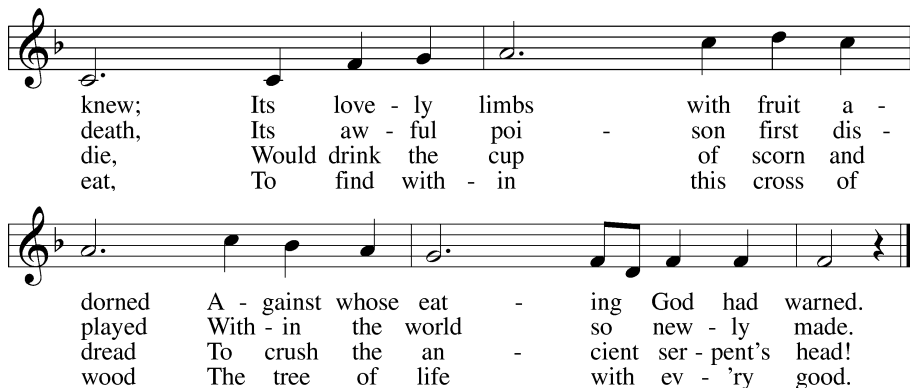
ho - ly or - chard stood, And of its fruit so pure and  
as the ser - pent strove With tempt - ing voice Eve to be -  
res - cue by His grace: In send - ing One from wom - an's  
ter - nal in His name; For all who trust and will be -



sweet God let the man and wom - an eat. Yet in this  
guile And Ad - am too by sin de - file. O day of  
seed, The One to fill our great - est need— For on a  
lieve, Sal - va - tion's liv - ing fruit re - ceive. And of this



gar - den al - so grew An - oth - er tree, of which they  
sad - ness when the breath Of fear and dark - ness, doubt and  
tree up - lift - ed high His on - ly Son for sin would  
fruit so pure and sweet The Lord in - vites the world to



knew; Its love - ly limbs with fruit a -  
 death, Its aw - ful poi - son first dis -  
 die, Would drink the cup of scorn and  
 eat, To find with - in this cross of

dorned A - gainst whose eat - ing God had warned.  
 played With - in the world so new - ly made.  
 dread To crush the an - cient ser - pent's head!  
 wood The tree of life with ev - 'ry good.

"The Tree of Life", Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955, Tune: Bruce W. Becker, 1952, Text: © 1993 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673, Tune: © 1995 Bruce W. Becker. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

## SERMON

"The Good News of a Savior Who Conquers Evil"

Pr. Jim Sprengle

Genesis 3:14-15

## TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Please place your offering in the basket in the aisle. (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.)

### "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

LSB 770

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus,  
 All our sins and griefs to bear!  
 What a privilege to carry  
 Ev'rything to God in prayer!  
 Oh, what peace we often forfeit;  
 Oh, what needless pain we bear—  
 All because we do not carry  
 Ev'rything to God in prayer!
- 2 Have we trials and temptations?  
 Is there trouble anywhere?  
 We should never be discouraged—  
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 Can we find a friend so faithful  
 Who will all our sorrows share?  
 Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—  
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.



- 3 Are we weak and heavy laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge—  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee;  
Thou wilt find a solace there.

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus", Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819–86, Text: Public domain

## PRAYER

*(following each petition):*

- P** Hear us, O Lord,  
**C** for Your mercy is great.

## RESPONSIVE LITANY

- P** Hear our prayer, O Lord.  
**C** Let our cry come to You.
- P** Almighty God, in the fullness of time, You sent the promised offspring, Your Son, Jesus Christ, to save us.  
**C** By His redeeming death, He has crushed the serpent's head for us.
- P** Saved from sin, death, and the devil by His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death,  
**C** help us to find healing in His wounds  
**P** and grant us eyes of faith  
**C** to see that His cross is, for us, the tree of life.
- P** Throughout these forty days, O Lord, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus  
**C** and help us to run with perseverance the race marked out for us,  
**P** until the day when we and all the faithful rest and rejoice with You in paradise

- C** and experience the fullness of Your peace; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **LORD’S PRAYER**

- 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.

### **LUTHER’S EVENING PRAYER**

- C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

### **BENEDICTION**

- P** The Lord bless you, defend you from all evil, and bring you to everlasting life.  
**C** Amen.

### **“Beneath The Cross Of Jesus”**

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand;  
The shadow of a mighty rock Within a weary land,  
A home within the wilderness, A rest upon the way  
From the burning of the noontide heat And the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus Mine eyes at times can see  
The very dying form of One Who suffered there for me.  
And from my smitten heart, with tears, These wonders I confess:  
The wonder of His glorious love, And my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow For my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than The sunshine of His face;  
Content to let the world go by, To know no gain nor loss,  
My sinful self - my only shame, My glory - all the cross.

## DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace, serve the Lord!

**C** Thanks be to God.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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# Ascension Lutheran Church

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Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9am to 3pm

## Our Mission Statement:

*~Go and Share Jesus Christ~*

## Our Vision Statement:

*“Take part...Join Jesus on His mission.”*

The members of Ascension Lutheran Church are committed to being God’s witnesses in Gresham, and in all of Portland and the Northwest, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8):

With the universal Christian Church, we believe, teach and respond to the love of the Triune God— the Father, Creator of all that exists; the Son Jesus Christ, Who left His home in Heaven to become flesh and blood, to suffer and die for the sins of all peoples of the world, and Who rose from the grave, victorious over sin, death and the devil, that we too might live with Him in Heaven; and the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts in Christ Jesus through God’s Word and Sacrament. The three Persons of the Holy Trinity are one God, co-equal and co-eternal. The core teachings of our faith from the Lutheran perspective can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace alone, Scripture alone, Faith alone.

## STAFF

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