



Ascension Lutheran Church and School
"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"
December 24, 2022

**Christmas Eve
December 24, 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.

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

✠ PREPARATION ✠

THEME: “God Fulfills His Promises”

The original title of the Christmas carol “In dulci jubilo” (“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”) was interpreted by the famous French organist and composer Marcel Dupre as “In Quiet Joy.” Another familiar hymn tells of the birth of the Savior in the words “How silently the wondrous gift is given!” Though there were moments of rage and loud opposition through His earthly ministry, many of our Lord’s activities happened in the quiet and stillness of His presence. On this night let us gather in quiet joy contemplating the mystery that, in this little babe in the little town of Bethlehem of Judea, fulfilled God’s ancient promise of redemption and peace for all who believe in Him.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

“Were You There On That Christmas Night?”

Natalie Sleeth

Karin Richardson, soloist

“Jesus Is Born”

S. Green/P. Naish/C. Green

Ensemble

“He Is Born Now The Prince Of Peace”

N. Lorenz/J. Purifoy

Ascension Choir

WELCOME

HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels,
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him!
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Habakkuk 2:20*

P In quiet joy! In quiet joy, we gather this evening, this very special night.

C **The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.**

P We gather from our busy lives, our hurried routines, the loud noises of life,

C **in quiet joy.**

P We bring our wearied bodies, our troubled hearts, our restless souls in hope,

C **in quiet joy.**

P God is here, the LORD is in His holy temple;

C **let all the earth keep silence before Him.**

HYMN

“It Came Upon The Midnight Clear”

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold.

Peace on the earth good will to men
From heaven's all gracious King.
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the silence of this moment, let us prepare ourselves, and confess our sin to God.

Silence for reflection...

P Holy and gracious God,

C **I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.**

P In the silence of this night, by the mercy of God, we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and in quiet joy.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER

P Let us pray.

In quiet joy, O God, we praise and thank You for the gift of Your light, Your joy, and Your peace in Your blessed Son, the Prince of Glory. Grant us to join our voices with Your holy angels in new songs of peace and joy this night and always; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

✠ **SCRIPTURE and SONG** ✠

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 7:14 (ESV)

(Immanuel – God with us)

¹⁴ Therefore the LORD Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel,” [which means, God with us.]

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.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

SCRIPTURE

Micah 5:2, 5a (ESV)

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.

⁵ And He shall be their peace.

SCRIPTURE**Isaiah 9:2, 7 (ESV)**

(The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.)

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. ⁶For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

HYMN**“Hark, The Herald Angels Sing”**

Hark, the herald angels sing;
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful all ye nations, rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th’ angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the Heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark, the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

SCRIPTURE**Luke 1:26-31 (ESV)**

(The angel Gabriel visits Mary and the birth of Jesus foretold.)

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”

²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus.

HYMN

“From East To West”

(tune: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come)

From east to west, from shore to shore
Let ev’ry heart awake and sing
The holy child whom Mary bore,
The Christ, the everlasting king.

For this how wondrously He wrought!
A maiden, in her lowly place,
Became, in ways beyond all thought,
The chosen vessel of His grace.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1–7 (ESV)

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

MUSIC

“Stranger In The Straw”

Words and Music by Don Blackley

Karon Keup, soloist

SCRIPTURE**Luke 2:8-14 (ESV)**

(The angels and the shepherds.)

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a Baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

HYMN**"Angels We Have Heard On High"**

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains;
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains:
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King!
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

SCRIPTURE**Luke 2:15-20 (ESV)**

(The shepherds visit the manger.)

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.

¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹
But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.
²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they
had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

MUSIC

“What Child Is This”
Hana Laughton, soloist

LAMBS’ LESSON

Pr Jim Sprengle

“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear”

All you, beneath your heavy load,
By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way
With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour,
Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace;
Of Him the angels sing.

For lo, the days have come to pass
By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years
Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth
God’s ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear
The song the angels sing.

SERMON

“THE COST OF PEACE”

Luke 2:1-20
Pr. Jim Sprengle

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)*

Karlee Wood, trumpet

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Let us pray to God our Father and worship Christ our Savior. Heavenly Father, to whom glory is sung in the highest and peace is proclaimed to people on earth, give us the peace of sins forgiven and Your merciful good will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** On Christmas night You sent the angels to preach the good news of Jesus' birth. Help us share the good news about this Child, that more people may be given faith to confess Him as Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Remember, we pray, the homeless, hungry, and oppressed, and give them hope. Protect the lonely and homebound. Grant peace and healing to the sick and suffering and those in the hospital. Guide the journeys of those who travel. Comfort those who mourn. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord God, help us to treasure and ponder the marvelous gifts of salvation you give through the Lord Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** We praise You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** On this blessed night, in quiet joy and assurance, let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:
- 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.

MUSIC

“All Is Well”

Wayne Kirkpatrick and Michael W. Smith
arr. Lloyd Larson
Ascension Choir

CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT

(The choir will exit the chancel. Their candles will be lit first. They will then share with everyone in the pews. Always keep lit candles upright, tipping to the unlit candle to keep wax from spilling.)

P As the light of these candles illumine our faces, it symbolizes the light of Christ, a child in the manger at Bethlehem, a Savior suffering our death on the cross, and soon to come from His throne on high as Judge of all. He is our Light here on earth and the eternal Light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice, for the Light of the world has come, who transforms us with the brightness of His glory.

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin mother and child
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace;
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from Heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth; Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

PRAYER

P Loving God, in the darkest of times, when all seems lost, You pierce the darkness with Light. Never again shall we be alone. No more shall we sit in fear. For Christ, the Light of the World and of our lives, is born. Let us celebrate again this miracle, this wonder that You became one with us. May we receive Him in the peace of forgiven hearts and proclaim Your good and gracious will to all people on earth. In the precious name of Jesus, our Lord and King, who was born for us this Christmastide,

C **Amen.**

(please extinguish candles and allow them to cool)

BENEDICTION

P May God our Father, Who sent us Baby Jesus, bless us and keep us; may God the Son, Who was born to save us, be with us always as He promised; and may God the Holy Spirit, give us and preserve in us faith in this Jesus, Who is our Savior.

C **Amen. Glory to God in the Highest! And peace to His people on earth!**

HYMN

“Joy To The World”

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And Heav'n and nature sing,
And Heav'n and nature sing,
And Heav'n, and Heav'n,
and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love
And wonders and wonders of His love!

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
G Thanks be to God!

*We invite you to continue your
Christmas with worship!*

*10:00am Worship Service
Christmas Day ~ Sunday, Dec. 25*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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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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Ascension Lutheran Church

1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233
Church: 503-665-8821 · 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, Pastor
pastorekyah@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

Laura Potter, Property Management
property@alcportland.org

