



*“Stay dressed for
action and keep your
lamps burning”*

luke 12:35 (ESV)

Ascension Lutheran Church
New Year's Eve ~ December 31, 2025

NEW YEAR'S EVE 2025

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.

+ PREPARATION +

THEME: “WATCHING WITH REJOICING”

AS WE GATHER: Although not an official church holiday, New Year's Eve has been, for many centuries, a time for Christian people to gather for worship. The psalmist exclaims: “I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth” (Psalm 34:1). The changing of the calendar year is a most appropriate time for God's people to bless Him and thank Him for the time of the old year now ending and for the time yet to come in the new year. King David, the psalmist, shares this blessed invitation with us: “Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together!” (Psalm 34:3). In another of his thoughtfully reflective psalms, David says to the Lord: “But I trust in You, O Lord; I say, ‘You are my God.’ My times are in Your hand” (Psalm 31:14–15a). In our worship this New Year's Eve, we echo the faith-filled expression of King David, joyfully committing our time and commending our times to our gracious and faithful God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

“Across the Sky the Shades of Night”

LSB 899

- 1 Across the sky the shades of night
 This New Year's Eve are fleeting.
We deck Your altar, Lord, with light,
 In solemn worship meeting;
And as the year's last hours go by,
We raise to You our earnest cry,
 Once more Your love entreating.
- 2 Before the cross subdued we bow,
 To You our prayer addressing,
Recounting all Your mercies now,
 And all our sins confessing;
Beseeching You this coming year
To keep us in Your faith and fear
 And crown us with Your blessing.
- 3 We gather up in this brief hour
 The mem'ry of Your mercies:
Your wondrous goodness, love, and pow'r
 Our grateful song rehearses;
For You have been our strength and stay
In many_a dark and dreary day
 Of sorrow and reverses.
- 5 Then, gracious God, in years to come,
 We pray Your hand may guide us,
And, onward through our journey home,
 Your mercy walk beside us
Until at last our ransomed life
Is safe from peril, toil, and strife
 When heav'n itself shall hide us.

“Across the Sky the Shades of Night”, Text: James Hamilton, 1819–96, alt., Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

¶ In the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

¶ Amen.

OPENING SCRIPTURE

Psalm 98:1–3; antiphon: Psalm 124:8

P Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

C **Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.**

P The Lord has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

C **He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

CONFSSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Reflecting on the year that is passing, let us make confession to God, our heavenly Father.

C **Gracious Lord, as this year now ends, we confess our sins, once again beseeching Your mercy and asking Your forgiveness. We are fallen creatures, stained by sin from the beginning of our lives. During the year now closing, we have sinned against You repeatedly in thought, word, and deed. We deserve nothing but Your condemnation and punishment. Yet, as penitent people, we come before You, humbly asking Your pardon and seeking the peace that only You can grant.**

P 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

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 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

Isaiah 30:15-17 (ESV)

¹⁵For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel,
“In returning and rest you shall be saved;
 in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”

But you were unwilling, ¹⁶and you said,
“No! We will flee upon horses”;

 therefore you shall flee away;
and, “We will ride upon swift steeds”;

 therefore your pursuers shall be swift.

¹⁷A thousand shall flee at the threat of one;
 at the threat of five you shall flee,
till you are left

 like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain,
 like a signal on a hill.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God.

C You return man to dust and say, “Return, O children of man!” For a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

P You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

C For we are brought to an end by Your anger; by Your wrath we are dismayed. You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence.

P For all our days pass away under Your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

C Who considers the power of Your anger, and Your wrath according to the fear of You? So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 8:31b-39 (ESV)

³¹If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the One who died—more than that, Who was raised—Who is at the right hand of God, Who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For Your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 12:35-40 (ESV)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³⁵[Jesus said:] “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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

“Another Year Is Dawning”

(tune: The Church’s One Foundation)

Another year is dawning; Dear Father, let it be,
In working or in waiting, Another year with Thee;
Another year of progress, Another year of praise,
Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.

Another year of mercies, Of faithfulness and grace
Another year of gladness In the shining of Thy face;
Another year of leaning Upon Thy loving breast;
Another year of trusting, Of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of service, Of witness for Thy love;
Another year of training For holier work above
Another year is dawning: Dear Father, let it be,
On earth or else in Heaven, Another year for Thee.

SERMON
“CLOTHED IN CONFIDENCE”

Pr. Jim Sprengle
Luke 12:35-40

CREED/HYMN

Apostles' Creed with “God Is for Us”

P As the old year comes to its close and the new year of God's grace begins, we speak and sing together words of faith in our God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

“God Is for Us”

(tune: Angels, From the Realms Of Glory)

1 God is for us, our Creator
Who abiding love displays;
As a Father, our Defender
Cares for us through all our days.
Ever gracious, God protects us
At all times and in all ways.

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.**

“God Is for Us”

2 Christ is with us as our Savior;
We are baptized in the Lord.
Through the Gospel's call we hear Him
In the Scripture's living Word.
At His Supper we receive Him
Who by all shall be adored.

C 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.

“God Is for Us”

3 From the Spirit comes the blessing
Of the gift of faith that's free.
As the Church, God's grateful people
Sanctified in unity,
Confident we share the truth that
God is for us endlessly.

“God Is for Us”, Text: Gregory J. Wismar, Text: © 2009 Gregory J. Wismar. Used by permission: Creative Worship License no. 110004673

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

P The Word became flesh in order that all people might be revealed as God's children. Let us pray for our own parish community, for the church throughout the world, and for everyone, that we may respond wholeheartedly to the appeal of God's love.

In this special hour, we pray for the church, the visible sign of Christ's saving presence among us. We pray for pastors, missionaries, and all church workers. We pray for the spread of the Gospel here and throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for the leaders of our nation and for those entrusted with leadership of the nations of the world, that they strive earnestly for peace and unity among nations. As the new year begins, we pray for a rededication to causes of peace, charity, and justice, that the good and gracious will of God may find expression in our daily lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for the members of the armed services and for all first responders and those who maintain the safety and well-being of our communities. And we pray for those who are working on our behalf as the old year closes and the new year begins that they may rejoice in their labor today and each day. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for those in need of our prayers at this time, including the ill and hospitalized, the homebound, those dealing with declining health, and all those for whom the coming year includes significant challenges...Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for our household of faith and all who joyfully watch with us for the coming of the Lord among us. Gratefully, we remember those whose earthly journeys are now complete and who are in our God's eternal care. Bless and inspire us by the goodly heritage that has come to us through the witness of the faithful from generations past. Guard us by Your grace, O Lord, and guide us as the Holy Spirit works in us and through us in the coming months. Grant us peace of heart and mind and fill our days with faith and hope and love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Trusting in Your mercy, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the Lord of time and of eternity.

C **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.**

+ 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 on
the cup return table.)*

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.**

+ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS +

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees.

(chorus)
When I fall on my knees,
With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
Let us drink wine together on our knees. **(chorus)**

Let us praise God together on our knees;
Let us praise God together on our knees. **(chorus)**

1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
 Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
 Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
 How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
 How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
 I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
 And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; **(refrain)**

3 But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
 Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in—
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
 He bled and died to take away my sin; **(refrain)**

4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
 And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
 And there proclaim: “My God, how great Thou art!” **(refrain)**

“How Great Thou Art”, Text: Carl Gustaf Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899–1989, Text: © 1949, 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust, admin. EMI CMG and Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have refreshed us through this Sacrament, and we pray that, strengthened thereby, we will be blessings in Your name in all that we do in our daily living throughout the coming year and at all times; 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

P The blessing of God Almighty—the Father, who is ever with us and for us; the Son, who reveals to us God's grace, mercy, and love in all of our years; and the Holy Spirit, who guides us in ways of peace and faithfulness—abide with you now and forevermore.

C Amen.

“God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven”

LSB 877

- 1 God, who made the earth and heaven, Darkness and light:
You the day for work have given, For rest the night.
May Your angel guards defend us,
Slumber sweet Your mercy send us,
Holy dreams and hopes attend us All through the night.
- 2 And when morn again shall call us To run life's way,
May we still, whate'er befall us, Your will obey.
From the pow'r of evil hide us,
In the narrow pathway guide us,
Never be Your smile denied us All through the day.
- 3 Guard us waking, guard us sleeping, And when we die,
May we in Your mighty keeping All peaceful lie.
When the last dread call shall wake us,
Then, O Lord, do not forsake us,
But to reign in glory take us With You on high.

“God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven”, Text (st. 1): Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.; (st. 2): William Mercer, 1811–73, alt.; (st. 3): Richard Whately, 1787–1863, alt., Text: Public domain

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Acknowledgments

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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.

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