



*“Come to Me, all who labor and are
heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

Matthew 11:28

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

“A Church for Families and a Family for Everyone”

Advent 3 Midweek ~ December 15, 2021

ADVENT MIDWEEK 3

December 15, 2021

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.

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

✠ PREPARATION ✠

The Journey to Christmas

The days leading up to Christmas are a wonderful blessing. We celebrate the connection of family and friends. We look forward to the decorations, the food, the gifts to purchase and wrap, along with many traditions. In all the commotion and busy days, it's easy to lose our focus on Jesus. The purpose of Advent is to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of our Savior. However, the world has other plans. The world wants us to be caught up in the hype and commercialism of the season. Over the next several weeks, we will consider how Advent leads us closer to our coming Savior.

“Weariness”

As we gather: Midway through December means the pressure is on. Stress and frustration rise, while love and charity wane. God calls us into the loving arms of our Savior, who is a respite and blessing in our time of need.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

HYMN

“Hark the Glad Sound”

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And every voice a song.

He comes the pris'ners to release,
in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Your welcome shall proclaim,
And Heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Your beloved Name.

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
C the light no darkness can overcome.

P Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
C and the day is almost over.

P Let Your light scatter the darkness
C and illumine Your Church.

PSALM 73:24–28 (ESV)

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might He increases strength. ³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; ³¹ but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsel, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

✠ THE WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40:28–31 (ESV)

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might He increases strength. ³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; ³¹ but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 12:9–10 (ESV)

⁹ But [Jesus] said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:28–30 (ESV)

²⁸ “Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.”

HYMN

“Come, O Precious Ransom”

Come, O precious Ransom, come,
Only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world!
Open are to Thee all portals.
Come, Thy beauty let us see;
Anxiously we wait for Thee.

Enter now my waiting heart,
Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart,
Though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine
When Thou art my guest divine!

Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!
Jesus, hear our supplication!
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,
Bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing:
Hail! Hosanna to our King.

MESSAGE

“A GOOD TRADE”

Matthew 11:28–30
Pastor Jim Sprengle

PRAYERS (following each petition)

- P** “Lord, in Your mercy,”
C “hear our prayer.”

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Mt 6:9ff; Lk 11:2ff)*

- P** Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us 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.**

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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.

C Amen.

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.

For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above;
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is giv'n;
So God imparts to human hearts, The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin;
Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.

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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Ascension Lutheran Church

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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.

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