



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sermon Series ~ Mosaic - The Christian Life
Week 3 - Sunday, August 5, 2021

Sermon Series for August 2021

Mosaic – The Christian Life

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.

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 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).

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Mosaic – Stewardship

Mosaics are a form of art that date back thousands of years. During a trip to the Holy Land, our group saw several large mosaics that form beautiful scenes. Mosaics are usually made with small tiles or broken bits that, when put together in the right way, form something beautiful. Each person in the body of Christ is a small piece in a much larger scene. As we look at God’s work in the end, we will see a beautiful picture made up of many pieces. Join us each Sunday in August as we examine the important pieces that make up our individual Christian life, and our place in the bigger picture of God’s work in the body of Christ.

“God’s Gifts, Our Response”

As we gather: Who or what receives the credit for the good things you have? Many people take credit for their success, wealth, or talent because of their own efforts. Others consider themselves “lucky” or “favored” by some unknown, universal power. In both the Apostles’ Creed and the Lord’s Prayer we look to God as the giver of all good things – including our time, talents and treasure. God does not decry wealth; He decries using it selfishly and failing to give Him credit for the blessings He bestows. Stewardship is simply managing the good gifts God provides and acknowledging the Giver.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

HYMN

“Seek Ye First”

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you,
Allelu, alleluia.

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by ev'ry word
That proceeds from the mouth of God,
Allelu, alleluia.

Ask, and it shall be given unto you. Seek, and ye shall find.
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you,
Allelu, alleluia.

INVOCATION

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

- P** All that we are is a gift from God.
C **The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,**
- P** All that we have is a gift from God.
C **The world, and those who live in it;**
- P** There are no words to describe the wonders of God's creation.
C **For God has founded it on the seas,**
- P** Rejoice as we join in praise for God's great gifts.
C **God established it on the rivers.**

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

1 John 1:6–10

- P** Acknowledging that in our sin we have not been mindful of the gifts that have been provided by God, let us confess our sins together.

(In silence, we confess to God, "What troubles me particularly is that...")

P God of grace, You have called us to give ourselves completely to You. We do not commit fully.

C **Lord, in Your mercy, forgive us.**

P You have given us the gift of time. You give us time to serve, time to learn, time to grow, time to share. We spend our time serving self.

C **Lord, in Your mercy, forgive us.**

P You provide us with opportunity to serve, using the talents and abilities we have been given. We tend to hide our gifts.

C **Lord, in Your mercy, forgive us.**

P You have provided even the least among us with greater financial resources than most of the world. We resist sharing.

C **Lord, in Your mercy, forgive us.**

P You have provided us with Your beautiful creation. We take it for granted and abuse this incredible earth.

C **Lord, in Your mercy, forgive us.**

P While God knows our sin, He also hears our cries. In our sin, God still reaches out to forgive and restore us. Having confessed our sins, rejoice in forgiveness through Christ and live in God's love. 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.**

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

(The reading of God's Word is central to our worship, our life, and our faith; this portion of the service concludes with the sermon, or the preached Word.)

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O Lord, grant us wisdom to recognize the treasures You have stored up for us in heaven, that we may never despair but always rejoice and be thankful for the riches of Your grace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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.

C And also with you.

SONG FOR STEWARDSHIP

“Take My Life, Lead Me, Lord”

1. Take my life, lead me, Lord; Take my life, lead me, Lord;
2. Take my life, teach me, Lord; Take my life, teach me, Lord;
3. Here am I, send me, Lord; Here am I, send me, Lord;

Make my life use-ful to Thee. Take my life, lead me, Lord;
Make my life use-ful to Thee. Take my life, teach me, Lord;
Make my life use-ful to Thee. Here am I, send me, Lord;

Take my life, lead me, Lord; Make my life use-ful to Thee.
Take my life, teach me, Lord; Make my life use-ful to Thee.
Here am I, send me, Lord; Make my life use-ful to Thee.

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It features a vocal line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The first system contains three lines of lyrics. The second system contains three lines of lyrics, with the first line having a fermata over the word 'Thee'. The third system contains three lines of lyrics, with the first line having a fermata over the word 'Thee'.

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 8:11-18 (ESV)

¹¹ “Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments and His rules and his statutes, which I command you today, ¹² lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, ¹³ and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴ then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, ¹⁵ who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, ¹⁶ who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. ¹⁷ Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ ¹⁸ You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may confirm His covenant that He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 12:1-6 (ESV)

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

LAMBS' LESSON

Pr. Jim Sprengle

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 12:13-21 (ESV)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

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

¹³Someone in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." ¹⁴But He said to him, "Man, who made Me a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵And He said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." ¹⁶And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' ¹⁸And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." ²⁰But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

PRAYER REQUESTS GATHERED BY AN ELDER

HYMN

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

(tune: Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness)

God, whose giving knows no ending,
From Your rich and endless store:
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
Costly cross, grave's shattered door;
Gifted by You, we turn to You,
Offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful songs shall rise forever,
Gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing
Toward the goals of Christ, Your Son:
All at peace in health and freedom,
Races joined, the Church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
Lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants
Fit to answer at Your throne.

Treasure, too, You have entrusted,
Gain through powers Your grace conferred:
Ours to use for home and kindred,
And to spread the Gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
As we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
Serving You by loving all.

SERMON

“GIFTS THAT GIVE”

Romans 12:1-6
Pastor Jim Sprengle

APOSTLES' CREED FIRST ARTICLE

(Luther's explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed)

P We confess together the first Article of the Apostles' Creed:

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth.**

P What does this mean?

C **I believe that He has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still preserves them; also clothing and shoes, meat and drink, house and home, fields, cattle, all of my goods; that He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life; defends me against all danger, and guards and protects me from all evil, and all this purely out of divine goodness and mercy, for all which it is my duty to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him.**

This is most certainly true.

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)

“We Give Thee But Thine Own”

We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be.
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus,
As stewards true receive.
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,
To Thee our firstfruits give.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Gracious God, You have given us life and freedom. Everything we have and everything we are is a gift from you. You call us to be stewards of this gift. As caretakers of all that you have provided, we give back a portion and dedicate these gifts to you. Help us to always use Your gifts wisely. Lead us as we share them generously with others. Help our faithful stewardship to show Christ to others. We pray these things in the name of our Messiah, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for all the people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people in their various needs.

Silence for personal prayer.

P Lord Jesus Christ, You call us to follow You as disciples. Help us to respond without counting the cost. As You invite us to proclaim Your gospel of hope and salvation at home and to all nations, teach us to be faithful evangelists in word and action. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P** Gracious Lord, show us how to share Your gifts with others and inspire us to follow Your example of generous self-giving. Teach us to give with a joyful heart that we may provide hope, comfort, and loving care to Your people and thus honor Your holy name.
Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Heavenly Father, urge us through Your Spirit to spend time in Your Word and in prayer that You might nourish the faith You give us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** We pray that we would be wise and fruitful stewards of the gifts you have given and that we would allow You to open our eyes to the opportunities You give us to use them. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** We pray for the ill and suffering and all who mourn...Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** We pray for those who are celebrating...Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

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

- P** 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.**

(11:00 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.

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

(Jesus instituted, or established the Lord's Supper for us; 1Cor 11:23-26; Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20)

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

"Come Share The Lord"

We gather here in Jesus' name,
His love is burning in our hearts
Like living flame.

For through the loving Son,
The Father makes us one.
Come take the bread,
Come drink the wine,
Come share the Lord.

He joins us here,
He breaks the bread.
The Lord Who pours the cup
Is risen from the dead.
The One we love the most
Is now our gracious host.
Come take the bread,
Come drink the wine,
Come share the Lord.

We'll gather soon
Where angels sing,
We'll see the glory of our Lord
And coming King.
Now we anticipate
The feast for which we wait.
Come take the bread,
Come drink the wine,
Come share the Lord.

“Nothing But the Blood of Jesus”

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

**Oh! Precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.**

For my pardon, this I see,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my cleansing this my plea,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus. **(refrain)**

Nothing can for sin atone,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Naught of good that I have done,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus. **(refrain)**

This is all my hope and peace,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus. **(refrain)**

Glory! Glory! This I sing
Nothing but the blood of Jesus,
All my praise for this I bring
Nothing but the blood of Jesus. **(refrain)**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Gracious God, our heavenly Father, we give thanks that we have again received the body and blood of Christ, the bread from heaven. Keep us firm in the true faith that we may build up the Body of Christ until the day we see You face-to-face; 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 *Numbers 6:24–26*

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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please read the FYI for additional announcements and information.)

HYMN “Glorious Is Thy Name, Most Holy” (familiar tune: *HOLY MANNA*)

Glorious is Thy name, Most Holy,
God and Father of us all;
We Thy servants bow before Thee,
Strive to answer every call.

Thou with life's great good hast blest us,
Cared for us from earliest years;
Unto Thee our thanks we render;
Thy deep love overcomes all fears.

In the midst of time we journey,
From Thy hand comes each new day;
We would use it in Thy service,
Humbly, wisely, while we may.
So to Thee, Lord and Creator,
Praise and honor we accord;
Thine the earth and Thine the heavens,
Through all the Eternal Word.

DISMISSAL

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

Thanks to Bonnie Webber for the beautiful Altar flowers this week!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUGUST 15, 2021

† ATTENTION 'PICNIC' SET UP TEAM!

Meet us in the Community Room on August 28th at 10 a.m. Several of you have offered to help and there is plenty to do. With many hands, it shouldn't take long. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

† WORSHIP AND A PICNIC LUNCH AUG. 29

Invite your friends and family to join us for worship and a picnic lunch in our **new Community Room**.

- **ONE** Church Service at 10:30 a.m. (in the sanctuary)
- Potluck Picnic in the Community Room will follow at about noon
- And...Brad will lead us in a sing-a-long!

Crispy fried chicken, drinks, and chips will be supplied. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex if you would like to bring a main dish or salad or dessert to share.

Join us for worship and fellowship with friends, family, and good food.

† MILESTONES

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Marty Blankenburg	8/16	Jessica Brown	8/17
Barbara Lewis	8/17	Dan Parshall	8/17
KaiLeah Woods	8/20		

BIRTHDAYS

Randy Bryant	8/16	Barbara Greco	8/18
Ellen Rawls	8/18	Dan Parshall	8/19
Jessica Brown	8/20	Matthias McInaney	8/21

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Don and Jessica Brown Aug 20, 1993

ASSISTING IN SERVICE TODAY, AUG. 15

	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>11:00am</u>
Elder:	Dave Oswald	Tony Aguilar (WA)
Acolytes:		
Ushers:	Randy Schroeder	Jonathan Mundo Joshua Mundo
Audio/Visual:	Stan Chapulis	Wyatt Brown
PowerPoint:	Rebecca Williamson Michele Sprengle	Jessica Brown
Greeters:	Norma Dillon	Carrie Graham
Readers:	Wanda Cassetty	Karon Keup
Altar Circle:	Both Services	Karen Zahursky
Counters:	Both Services	J. E. and Rosemary Knox
Flowers:	Both Services	Bonnie Webber

ASSISTING IN SERVICE SUNDAY, AUG. 22

	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>11:00am</u>
Elder:	Randy Bryant	John Hazen
Acolytes:		
Ushers:	Bob Rekdahl	Matthias McInaney
Audio/Visual:	Laura Potter	Riki Neagle (sound)
PowerPoint:	Debbie Rekdahl	Riki Neagle
Greeters:	Jan Oswald	Rebecca Williamson
Readers:	Randy Bryant	Rebecca Williamson
Altar Circle:	Both Services	Jan Oswald
Counters:	Both Services	Dave and Jan Oswald
Flowers:	Both Services	Lottie Guericke

† PRAYER NEEDS?

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

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Ray Brown, Elly Brown, Mike Hatley, Karon Keup, Bonnie Webber, Carolyn Erdmann, Lorraine Haggard, Larry Hart, Bill Ritchie, Colleen Ek Yah, Esperanza Gutierrez, Brian Laxton, Virginia Hunt, Marty Blankenburg, Richard Robertson, Lewis Eilers, Rich Zahursky, Alan Bauch, Leonard Murphy, Bruce Blubaum, Judy Blubaum, Antonia Martinez (mother of Esperanza Gutierrez), Ava Wentela (Sue Wentela's granddaughter), Carol Santorufo (sister of Sue Wentela), *Barbara Schrader, *Dale Porath.

*Home Bound.

† PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY:

Marie Cassetty Brown, Air Force — Ramstein Air Base, Germany AFB LA (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 — Assigned to USS Harry S. Truman (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);

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

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ASCENSION

THIS WEEK – August 15–21

Sunday, Aug. 15	8:30am	Worship with Communion
	9:45am	Adult Education
	11:00am	Worship
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Tuesday, Aug. 17	6:00pm	3:10 Group
Wed., Aug. 18	7:00pm	Online Bible Study Posted
Friday, Aug. 20	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
Saturday, Aug. 21	8:30am	Church Work Party

NEXT WEEK – August 22–29

Sunday, Aug. 22	8:30am	Worship with Communion
	9:45am	Adult Education
	11:00am	Worship
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Monday, Aug. 23		Newsletter Articles Due
Wed., Aug. 25	7:00pm	Online Bible Study Posted
Friday, Aug. 27	6:30pm	Noche Familiar

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

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