



Matthew 13:24-30

Ascension Lutheran Church

"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"

July 23, 2023

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER THE PENTECOST

Sunday July 23, 2023

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.

For those wishing to commune at the Lords 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 Lords Supper implies a four-level commitment to Christ. We believe that communicants must: (1) be baptized Christians; (2) accept the real presence of Christs body in the bread and His blood in the wine; (3) confess and repent of ones 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 do 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 +

Theme: “Awaiting God’s Good Harvest”

As We Gather: To us in daily living it doesn’t make sense that God allows evil to grow outside and even inside the Church. But as we await God’s good harvest, we do so in hope, which does not depend on what our eyes see, but on the faith given us by the Holy Spirit. With faith, our ears hear God calling us His children and His listening to the Spirit’s groaning for us. As precious wheat protected in God’s barn, we can wait patiently for the harvest when by grace the “righteous will shine like the sun” in our Father’s kingdom.

Prelude

Welcome

Baptized In Water

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
Cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;
Heirs of salvation, trusting His promise,
Faithfully now, God’s praise we sing!

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
Dead in the tomb with Christ our King;
One with His rising, freed and forgiven,
Thankfully now, God’s praise we sing!

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
Marked with the sign of Christ our King;
Born of one Father, we are His children,
Joyfully now, God’s praise we sing!

Baptized In Water, Jeffrey Rickard / Michael Saward CCLI Song No. 2160232 © 1982, 1994 Selah Publishing Company, Inc./Jubilate Hymns Limited (Admin. by Hope Publishing Company) For use solely in accordance with the SongSelect Basic Terms of Agreement. All rights Reserved. CCLI License No. 759893

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession (sung)

P Let us confess our sin to the Lord as we pray and sing:

I confess to You, O Lord, that I have sinned.
I confess to You, O Lord, all my sin within.
I have failed to live for You
In the things I say and do,
And have fallen short of living in Your love.

Chorus

**Lord, have mercy on me.
Lord, have mercy, set me free.
O forgive me, Lord, I pray,
And take my sin away
By the cross and empty grave for my soul.**

I confess to You, O Lord, that I have sinned.
I confess to You, O Lord, all my sin within.
I have placed myself above,
And have hurt the ones I love,
And I know that only You can set me free. **(chorus)**

Take us back to the water. Wash away our sins.
Welcome us, O Father, Back to Your home again.
Bless Your sons and daughters,
And let the feast begin, Let it begin! **(chorus)**

"Confession", words and music by Michael A. Schmid. Copyright © 2008 by Michael A. Schmid c/o True Vine Music, Napa CA. Truevinemusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission under CCLI License No. 759893

Absolution

P The promises of God are sure; one day creation will be set free from corruption. Your sins were taken to Christ's cross, where you were redeemed as God's beloved children. 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.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, who has ordered all things for our good, grant us faithfulness and patience as we endure the evil around us, until we rejoice at Christ's coming at the end of time; 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.

+ THE WORD +

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 44:6-8 (ESV)

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel
and His Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

"I am the first and I am the last;
besides Me there is no God.

⁷Who is like Me? Let him proclaim it.

Let him declare and set it before Me,
since I appointed an ancient people.

Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.

⁸Fear not, nor be afraid;

have I not told you from of old and declared it?

And you are My witnesses!

Is there a God besides Me?

There is no Rock; I know not any."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Romans 8:18-27 (ESV)

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Lambs' Lesson

Pr. Jim Sprengle

Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (ESV)

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

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

P [Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him,

C **'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?'**

P He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him,

C **'Then do you want us to go and gather them?'**

P But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" . . . Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying,

C **"Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."**

P He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. The Son of Man will send His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Prayer/Love in Action Requests Gathered

Hark, The Voice Of Jesus Calling

- 1 Hark, the voice of Jesus calling,
 "Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting—
 Who will bear the sheaves away?"
Loud and long the Master calleth;
 Rich reward He offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying,
 "Here am I, send me, send me"?
- 2 Some take up His task in morning,
 To their Lord responding soon;
Some are called in heat of midday,
 Others late in afternoon;
Even as the sun is setting,
 Some are sent into the fields,
There to gather in the bounty
 That God's Word so richly yields.

- 3 For as rain and snow from heaven
 Water seeds in dusty soil,
 Causing them to bud and flower,
 Giving bread to those who toil;
 So the Lord sends forth His promise,
 Words of life and joy and peace—
 Never void to Him returning,
 Bearing fruit with great increase.
- 4 Hearken to the Lord whose coming
 Marks the time when grace shall end,
 When with His angelic reapers
 He in glory shall descend.
 Soon the night, the final harvest;
 Soon the time for work shall cease.
 Then the souls His grace has garnered
 Shall enjoy His Sabbath peace.

Hark, The Voice Of Jesus Calling, Text (st. 1): Daniel March, 1816–1909, alt.; (sts. 2–4): Stephen P. Starke, 1955, Text (st. 1): Public domain, Text (sts. 2–4): © 2001 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

Sermon
“MADE RIGHT”

Pr. Jim Sprengle
Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43

Apostles’ Creed the Third Article

P In the Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed, we confess our faith in the Holy Spirit, who intercedes for us.

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.**

P What does this mean?

C **I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.**

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

**On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.
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.)

Prayer of the Church

P When we look at the storms gathering around us, many people are in dire straits. Let us pray for them, for the Church around the world, and all people in their various circumstances.

For the human powers that be, that God would enable them to make and administer laws to order society within their borders and to establish peace across them, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.**

P For the disenfranchised and homeless, the forgotten and oppressed, the unemployed and disheartened, that God would protect and defend them, open doors of opportunity for them, and move them to rely on Him for all their needs, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.**

P For those who tend flocks and till the soil, who provide transportation and manage shops, who provide protection in their communities and defense of their nation, and who respond to sudden emergencies and work to increase health and wellbeing, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.**

P For those near and dear to us in their illnesses, anger, grief, or despair...and those whom we name in our hearts now [*pause for silent prayer*], that God would visit, relieve, strengthen, and renew them according to His gracious plan, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.**

P For those celebrating this week...let us pray to the Lord.

C **Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.**

- P** These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father,
C **grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray. 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.**

(8:30am service, please turn to page 12 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.

(Grape juice is available in the center of the trays for those who do not drink alcohol, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request.)

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 SONGS +

Come To The Table

Come to the table of mercy, Prepared with the wine and the bread.
All who are hungry and thirsty, Come and your souls will be fed.
Come at the Lord's invitation, Receive from His nail scarred hand;
Eat of the bread of salvation, Drink of the blood of the Lamb.

(repeat from beginning)

Come To The Table, Cloninger, Claire / Nystrom, Martin J. © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music
CCLI License No. 759893

I Come To The Cross

I come to the cross, Seeking mercy and grace,
I come to the cross, Where You died in my place.
Out of my weakness, And into Your strength,
Humbly, I come to the cross.

Your arms are open, You call me by name.
You welcome this child that was lost.
You paid the price For my guilt and my shame.
Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come to the cross.

(repeat from beginning)

"I Come To The Cross", CCLI Song # 1965249, by Bill Batstone | Bob Somma. © 1996 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) Meadowgreen Music Company (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing).. For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com. CCLI License # 759893.

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, heavenly Father, that You have refreshed us with this foretaste of the feast to come. Grant that Your Son's body and blood will increase our faith and patience until the hope that is within us is realized in glory at the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom; 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 God almighty—the Father, who has adopted You as His own children; the Son, who has given His life for You; and the Holy Spirit, who brings your groaning prayers to the throne of grace—be with you and keep you, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Announcements

(See the FYI in the back of the Bulletin for more information.)

Christ Be My Leader

- 1 Christ be my Leader by night as by day;
Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care,
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.
- 2 Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand,
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.
- 3 Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.

Christ Be My Leader, Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926

Text: © 1964, renewed 1992 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

Dismissal

- P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Acknowledgments

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 3.

Copyright © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

*Thank you to Merci McInaney for the lovely Altar flowers,
in honor of Keilah, Keilynne, Kaileah and Gabe's baptisms.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JULY 23, 2023

† FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY AND CHURCH POTLUCK

There will be **ONE** worship service at 10:30am on August 20th, followed by a potluck lunch in the Community Room. Fried and grilled chicken, drinks, and dinnerware will be provided. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex if you would like to bring your favorite main, side, salad, or dessert. Make sure it serves 8 to 10 people.

Can you help with setup or cleanup? You can let us know by filling in your name on the sign-up sheet.

Join us! It's a great opportunity to invite your friends and family for a time of worship, good food and fellowship!

† MILESTONES - SUN., JULY 23 - SAT., JULY 29

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| Gabrielle Webber | July 25 | Ayde Alvarado | July 27 |
| Jennifer Alvarado | July 27 | Victor R. Alvarado | July 27 |
| Keilynn Woods | July 27 | Keilah Woods | July 28 |

BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|------------------|---------|------------------|---------|
| Carolyn Barendse | July 23 | Lorraine Haggard | July 25 |
| Judy Blubaum | July 26 | Barbara Schrader | July 26 |

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

None

† PRAYER NEEDS?

Contact the church office with any requests, please e-mail: office@alcportland.org or call 503-665-8821 Monday through Friday 9am to 3pm.

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

The Family of Rich Zahursky, The Brown Family, Carolyn Barendse, Gina Kreps, Kevin McInaney, Alma Bangs, Judy Blubaum, Robert (Virginia Jacobs' Brother), Cindy Linnemann, Brian Laxton, Karla Deal, Mike Fogarty, Emily Kohnke (member of the Webber Family), Mike Hatley, Lorraine Haggard, Esperanza Gutierrez, Kim Laxton, Antonia Martinez (mother of Esperanza Gutierrez), *Barbara Schrader, *Larry Hart. *Home Bound.

EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., JULY 23 - SAT., JULY 29

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|
| Sunday, July 23 | 8:30am | Worship |
| | 9:45am | Education Hour |
| | 11:00am | Worship with Communion |
| | 5:00pm | Worship in Spanish with Comm. |
| | 6:00pm | Online Worship Posted |
| Wednesday, July 26 | 2:00pm | Crafting Get-Together |
| Thursday, July 27 | 6:00pm | Praise Team |
| Friday, July 28 | 6:30pm | Noche Familiar |

EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., JULY 30 - SAT., AUG. 5

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Sunday, July 30 | 8:30am | Worship |
| | 9:45am | Education Hour |
| | 11:00am | Worship |
| | 5:00pm | Worship in Spanish |
| | 6:00pm | Online Worship Posted |
| Tuesday, Aug. 1 | 6:00pm | Elder Meeting |
| Wednesday, Aug. 2 | 2:00pm | Crafting Get-Together |
| Thursday, Aug. 3 | 6:00pm | Praise Team |
| Friday, Aug. 4 | 6:30pm | Noche Familiar |

ASSISTING IN SERVICE TODAY, JULY 23, 2023

| | 8:30am | 11:00am |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Elder: | Bruce Blubaum | Bob Ritchie |
| Acolytes: | | |
| Ushers: | Stan Chapulis Jim Eckart | Marcus Young Matthias McInaney Eric Kreps Evan Kreps |
| Audio/Visual: | Stan Chapulis | NEEDED |
| PowerPoint: | Michele Sprengle | Rebecca Williamson |
| Greeters: | NEEDED | Riki Neagle |
| Readers: | Jim Eckart | Carlyn Staudt |
| Altar Guild: | Both Services | Karen Zahursky |
| Flowers: | Both Services | Merci McInaney |
| Counters: | Both Services | Bob and Elaina Ritchie |

ASSISTING IN SERVICE SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2023

| | 8:30am | 11:00am |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Elder: | Randy Schroeder | Dan Parshall |
| Acolytes: | | |
| Ushers: | Bob Rekdahl Stan Chapulis | Marcus Young Matthias McInaney |
| Audio/Visual: | Stan Chapulis | J.E. Knox |
| PowerPoint: | Jenny Schuldheisz | Rosemary Knox |
| Greeters: | Sheryl Maier | Virginia Jacobs |
| Readers: | Sheryl Maier | Karon Keup |
| Altar Guild: | Both Services | Virginia Jacobs |
| Flowers: | Both Services | NEEDED |
| Counters: | Both Services | Bonnie Webber and Rebecca Williamson |

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

