



*"No, I tell you; but unless you repent,
you will all likewise perish."
Luke 13:3*

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"
March 20, 2022

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 20, 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.

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 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.)*

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

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Theme: “Turn to Life”

AS WE GATHER: It seems that much time is spent deciding which sins are worse and which sinners are worst. In the Gospel for today, Jesus is confronted with this question and turns it into a call for all sinners to repent. But this is not only a call to confess your sins, it is a call to turn away from those sins and become the fruitful trees of the Spirit’s planting. These fruits are displayed in us when we turn away from our self-interest and benefit and behold our neighbor in need. The call of the day is to repent and live the righteous life that flows from repentance and faith under the power of the Holy Spirit. Repentance always involves turning and this turn is away from sin and to life!

**PRELUDE
(8:30)**

“The Lord Is My Light”
(based on Psalm 27)

Words and Music by Alberto Taulé
Julie Williamson and Bonnie Webber, duo

WELCOME

HYMN

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided.
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **(refrain)**

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 1:6; 5:4, 7, adapt.

P The LORD knows the way of the righteous,

C **but the way of the wicked will perish.**

P You are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with You.

C **Through the abundance of Your steadfast love, I will enter Your house.**

Silence for meditation and reflection.

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

Ezekiel 33:7–11 (ESV)

(The Lord seeks not the death of the sinner but that he turn from his wickedness and live.)

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from My mouth, you shall give them warning from Me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul. ¹⁰“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ ¹¹Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 10:12–13 (ESV)

(God is faithful; He will not allow you to be tempted beyond your ability.)

¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 13:1–9 (ESV)

(Unless you repent, you also will perish.)

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

¹ There were some present at that very time who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² And He answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." ⁶ And He told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷ And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' ⁸ And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹ Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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

HYMN

"Jesus Sinners Doth Receive"

Jesus sinners doth receive;
 Oh, may all this saying ponder
 Who in sin's delusions live
 And from God and heaven wander!
 Here is hope for all who grieve:
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

We deserve but grief and shame,
 Yet His words, rich grace revealing,
 Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;
 Here our ills have perfect healing.

Firmly in these words believe:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

I, a sinner, come to Thee
With a penitent confession.
Savior, mercy show to me;
Grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

Oh, how blest it is to know:
Were as scarlet my transgression,
It shall be as white as snow
By Thy blood and bitter passion;
For these words I now believe:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

SERMON

“STANDING BEFORE GOD”

Luke 13:1–9
Pr. Jim Sprengle

APOSTLES' CREED

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

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.

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.

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.)

(8:30)

“The First Song of Isaiah”

(based on Isaiah 12:2-6)

Jack Noble White

Ascension Choir & Congregation

*Surely it is God who saves me;
I will trust in Him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure defense,
And He will be my Savior.*

C

Refrain

**Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust in Him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure defense,
And He will be my Savior.**

*Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing
From the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say,
Give thanks to the Lord, and call upon His Name. (refrain)*

*Make His deeds know among the peoples;
See that they remember that His Name is exalted
Sing the praises of the Lord, for He has done great things,
And this is known in all the world. (refrain)*

*Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion,
Ring out your joy, for the Great One in the midst of you
Is the Holy One of Israel. (refrain, sung twice)*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Restore us, O Lord, according to Your promise, and hear the prayers of Your people who cry to You in need.

P Blessed Lord, it is Your good and gracious will not to condemn but to save the sinner through the merits of Christ alone. Open our hearts to the voice of Your call, lead us to repentance, and grant us Your Holy Spirit so that we may show forth the good fruits of that repentance in our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, we live in a world filled with temptation, fear, and threat. Grant us a refuge in Your Word that our hearts may not despair. Deliver us from all our enemies and bring us to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Merciful Lord, the tragedies and disasters of this life unsettle our hearts and feed our anxieties. Remind us of Your great compassion and faithfulness. Support the victims of such events as well as the emergency personnel who imperil themselves on our behalf. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, bless us with good and faithful leaders who will hear and heed Your Word. Move us to have compassion on the oppressed, to seek justice for those who suffer wrongly, and to sustain goodness in our life and conduct. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Deliver, O Lord, the sick from their afflictions, the sorrowing from their grief, the troubled in mind from depression, and the dying from fear. Hear us *especially for...*and for all who cry to You in need. Hear us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P For the blessings You richly bestow on us, we thank You and we rejoice with those celebrating this week...Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P As our Lord Jesus has taught us in scripture, we pray with boldness in His name:

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.

(11:00am Turn to page 13 for 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 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

“Just As I Am (I Come Broken)”
Karon Keup, soloist

“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)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, You desire not the death of a sinner, but rather that we turn from our evil ways and live. Graciously spare us those punishments that we by our sins have deserved, and grant us always to serve You in holiness and pureness of living; 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 in your bulletin for additional announcements and information.)

HYMN

“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”

Guide me ever, great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but You are mighty,
Hold me with Your pow’rful hand.
Bread of Heaven, Bread of Heaven,
Feed me now and evermore;
Feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain
Where the healing waters flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliv’rer, Strong Deliv’rer,
Shield me with Your mighty arm;
Shield me with Your mighty arm.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell’s destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan’s side.
Songs and praises, Songs and praises,
I will raise forevermore;
I will raise forevermore.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

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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*Thank you Merci McNaney for the lovely Altar flowers
in honor of Kevin’s birthday and baptism.*

† BRACELET ASSEMBLY AND DINNER! JOIN US!

Join us from 5:30-6:30pm this coming Wednesday, March 23 for the last bracelet assembly night for Lent. Supper will be served! The Bracelets will be sent to the LCMS Board for Missions to be distributed through seminary students in India and elsewhere around the world.

† THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY SEASON I CONTINUES

Our Next Class is Saturday, March 26 from 10:30am to noon. 8 Sessions left: March 26; April 9, 23; May 14, 28; June 11, 25; July 9 Sessions will include discussion and Bible study, followed by an episode of the series to reflect upon for the following weeks Bible study session and maybe even some movie theater snacks! We have a couple extra study guides if you would like to join in a little late.

† THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Looking for an easy way to support and strengthen Ascension? If you have a Thrivent account, you may be able to Participate in Thrivent Choice®, Thrivent's charitable outreach program. Eligible Thrivent clients with membership can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its outreach funding by directing Choice Dollars® to any of the thousands of enrolled churches and nonprofit organizations, including Ascension.

If you previously donated or directed Choice Dollars to us, we thank you for your support! If you haven't yet participated in Thrivent Choice but would like to do so or learn more about it, visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice. You may also contact your Thrivent financial professional or talk to Lottie Guericke for help.

† SOLVE SPRING COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

The Mission Board has registered for ten volunteer positions with the SOLVE Spring community clean-up event in Gresham on April 23. The Barlow School District wants to develop an outdoor field study location at the Clear Creek Middle School. The team of up to 50 volunteers will clear the area of blackberry canes, holly, and ivy to then spread native seed. The event is sponsored by Portland General Electric and will run from 10:00am to 12:00pm. Ascension is a witness that God's church is part of the solution. To sign up email Herb Hofer: herbhofer@gmail.com

† **TRUMPET RECITAL POSTPONED**

Due to unforeseen circumstances the trumpet recital planned for March 18, featuring Karlee Woods, is postponed until further notice.

† **MILESTONES**

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:

Mike Potter	3/21	Corey Ritchie	3/21
Jenny Schuldheisz	3/21	Karen Zahursky	3/23
Tracy Schaffer	3/25		

BIRTHDAYS

Karon Keup	3/20	Kevin McInaney	3/21
Corey Ritchie	3/21	Shorty Bauch	3/22
Ruby Sylvia	3/22	Pam Eilers	3/23
Morgan Berg	3/25	Madison Fogarty	3/25

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: None

ASSISTING IN SERVICE THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 20, LENT 3

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Bruce Blubaum	John Hazen
Acolytes:		
Ushers:	Stan Chapulis Jim Eckart Randy Schroeder NEEDED	Jonathan Mundo Joshua Mundo
Audio/Visual:	Jenny S. (Sound)	Wyatt Brown
PowerPoint:	Jenny Schuldheisz	Jessica Brown
Greeters:	Norma Dillon Jean Dillon	Margaret Hubbard Esperanza Gutierrez
Readers:	Jim Eckart	Michele Sprengle
Altar Circle:	Both Services	Virginia Jacobs
Flowers:	Both Services	Merci and Kevin McInaney
Counters:	Both Services	Karon Keup and Sheryl Maier

ASSISTING IN MIDWEEK 3 - WEDNESDAY MARCH 23

	3:30pm	7:00pm
Ushers:	Bob Rekdahl	NEEDED
Audio/Visual:	Stan Chapulis	
Greeters:	Riki Neagle	Michele Sprengle
Altar Circle:	Both Services	Virginia Jacobs
Counters:	Both Services	Dave and Jan Oswald

ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 27, LENT 4

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Randy Bryant	Herb Hoefler
Acolytes:		
Ushers:	Stan Chapulis Bob Rekdahl	Matthias McInaney Marcus Young James Freeman Bob Freeman
Audio/Visual:	Michele Sprengle	Wanda Cassetty
PowerPoint:	Laura Potter	Rebecca Williamson
Greeters:	Karla Deal	Christina Freeman
Readers:	Randy Bryant	Carol Hoefler
Altar Circle:	Both Services	Karen Zahursky
Flowers:	Both Services	Margaret and Ed Hubbard
Counters:	Both Services	Dave and Jan Oswald

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ASCENSION

THIS WEEK – Sunday, March 20 – Saturday, March 26

Sunday, Mar. 20	8:30am	Worship with Communion
<i>LENT 3</i>	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Monday, Mar. 21	NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE	
	6:00pm	Altar Guild Meeting
Wednesday, Mar. 23	3:30pm	Lent Midweek Worship
<i>Lent Midweek 3</i>	5:30pm	Gospel Bracelet Assembly and Dinner
	7:00pm	Lent Midweek Worship
	7:00pm	Online Bible Study Posted
Thursday, Mar. 24	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Mar. 25	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
Saturday, Mar. 26	10:30am	Chosen Bible Study

NEXT WEEK – Sunday, March 27 – Saturday, April 2

Sunday, Mar. 27	8:30am	Worship
<i>LENT 4</i>	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship with Communion
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
	6:00pm	Altar Guild Meeting
Wednesday, Mar. 30	3:30pm	Lent Midweek Worship
<i>Lent Midweek 4</i>	7:00pm	Lent Midweek Worship
	7:00pm	Online Bible Study Posted
Thursday, Mar. 31	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Apr. 1	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
	7:00pm	Confirmation

† PRAYER NEEDS?

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

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Richard Robertson, Rich Zahursky, The family of Fred Greco, The family of Ray Brown, MaryLou May, Miki Etzel, Mike Hatley, Lorraine Haggard, Larry Hart, Esperanza Gutierrez, Joyce (friend of Randy Bryant), Judy Blubaum, Members and friends with Covid, Antonia Martinez (mother of Esperanza Gutierrez), Ava Wentela (Sue Wentela's granddaughter), Carol Santorufo (sister of Sue Wentela), The people of Ukraine, *Barbara Schrader, *Dale Porath. *Home Bound.

† PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY:

Marie Cassetty Brown, Air Force — Little Rock, Arkansas (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 — (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);
Tyler Young, Navy — Deployed (nephew of Karen Arronson).

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.

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