



FOURTH WEDNESDAY
in
LENT

Ascension Lutheran Church
"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"
Lenten Midweek Four – March 26, 2025

LENTEN MIDWEEK FOUR

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!

+ PREPARATION +

“THE GOOD NEWS OF A SAVIOR WHO GIVES HIMSELF IN OUR PLACE”

AS WE GATHER: One of the newest jobs on offer today is being a “tasker.” A tasker does jobs that people do not have the time or the inclination to do—like holding a place in line for a concert, sports event, or any kind of sale. Websites and apps invite potential customers to describe their task, choose their tasker from the list provided, and thus get their job done. They list locations where taskers can be hired across the United States and even internationally. Then, taskers can choose from a list of jobs where they might take the customer’s place. Throughout the season of Lent, we tell and retell how Jesus, the very Son of God, took our place and became a sacrifice to pay the price of our sins. This greatest of tasks He did not for any material payment but because of His dying love for us!

WELCOME

“How Deep The Father’s Love For Us”

How deep the Father’s love for us, How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss, The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross, My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life, I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything, No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart -- His wounds have paid my ransom!

INVOCATION

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

PSALM (Cantor - odd verses; Congregation - even)

Psalm 32



- ¹Blessèd is the one whose transgression is for- | given,*
whose sin is | covered.
- ²**Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no in- |
iquity,* and in whose spirit there is | no deceit.**
- ³For when I kept silent, my bones wast- | ed away*
through my groaning | all day long.
- ⁴**For day and night Your hand was heavy up- | on me;*
my strength was dried up as by the heat of | summer.**
- ⁵I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my in- | iquity;*
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and You forgave the iniquity | of my sin.
- ⁶**Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to You at a time when You | may be found;*
surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not | reach him.**
- ⁷You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from | trouble;*
You surround me with shouts of de- | liverance.
- ⁸**I will instruct you and teach you in the way | you should go;*
I will counsel you with My eye up- | on you.**
- ⁹Be not like a horse or a mule, without under- | standing,*
which must be curbed with bit and bridle,
or it will not stay | near you.
- ¹⁰**Many are the sorrows of the | wicked,*
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts | in the LORD.**
- ¹¹Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O | righteous,*
and shout for joy, all you up- | right in heart!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

A O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

A 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

P Let us pray.

God of love, You lifted up Your Son on the cross so that You could draw all people to Him. Fill us with thanksgiving for this incredible love that we dare to believe is ours. Help us to be faithful servants of Your new covenant, reaching out to all those whom You claim; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

HYMN INTRODUCTION

- A** Although located in the “Redeemer” section of the hymnal, the contemporary hymn “The Lamb” is appropriate to the Lenten season as it highlights the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Recalling the story of Abraham’s sacrifice of a ram on the mountain in place of his son Isaac, the hymn’s refrain is an ascription of praise that echoes the heavenly praise of Christ the Lamb recorded in the book of Revelation: “Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain, and by Your blood You ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation” (Revelation 5:9). The praise of the Lamb is a never-ending song for His faithful people.

“The Lamb”

LSB 547

- 1 The Lamb, the Lamb,
O Father, where’s the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes
God will provide the Lamb of price!

**Refrain Worthy is the Lamb
Whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

- 2 The Lamb, the Lamb,
One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb,
Let earth join heav’n His praise to sing. **(refrain)**
- 3 The Lamb, the Lamb,
As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will
On our behalf the Law to fill. **(refrain)**
- 4 He sighs, He dies,
He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives,
He gives me His own righteousness. **(refrain)**

“The Lamb”, Text: Gerald P. Coleman, 1953–2023, Text: © 1987 and 1997 MorningStar Music Publishers.
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+ THE WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 22:1-18 (ESV)

¹After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." ²He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." ³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." ⁶And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. ⁹When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." ¹²He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." ¹³And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." ¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Galatians 3:7-14 (ESV)

⁷Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham.

⁸And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." ⁹So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. ¹⁰For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." ¹¹Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith." ¹²But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them."

¹³Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"—¹⁴so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:16-17 (ESV)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

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

¹⁶"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

"For God So Loved The World"

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,
That whosoever believes in Him should not perish, But...

**have life everlasting, have life everlasting,
have life everlasting, have life everlasting.
For God so loved the world that
He gave His only begotten Son.**

For God did not send His Son into the world to bring condemnation;
But rather that through the receiving of Him, men might find salvation
And...

**have life everlasting, have life everlasting,
have life everlasting, have life everlasting.
For God so loved the world that
He gave His only begotten Son.**

He came into the world and He dwelt among His own;
But His own they would not receive Him.
But pow'r to become the sons of God He gave to all who believed.
He...

**gave life everlasting, His life everlasting,
His life everlasting, His life everlasting.
For God so loved the world that
He gave His only begotten Son.**

"For God So Loved The World", Words and Music by Stuart Dauermann. © 1972 by Lillenas Publishing Co.
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SERMON

Pr. Jim Sprengle

"The Good News of A Savior Who Gives Himself in Our Place"
Genesis 21:1-18

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Please place your offering in the basket in the aisle. (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.)

"Sweet Hour Of Prayer"

Sweet hour of prayer, Sweet hour of prayer,
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare
By Thy return sweet hour of prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer, Sweet hour of prayer,
The joys I feel, the bliss I share,
Of those, whose anxious spirits burn
With strong desires for Thy return.
With such, I hasten to the place
Where God my Savior shows His face,
And gladly take my station there
And wait for Thee sweet hour of prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer, Sweet hour of prayer,
Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him, Whose truth and faithfulness
Engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since He bids me seek His face,
Believe His word and trust His grace,
I'll cast on Him my ev'ry care,
And wait for Thee sweet hour of prayer.

PRAYER

(following each petition):

- P** Hear us, O Lord,
- C** hear our prayer.

RESPONSIVE LITANY

- P** Hear our prayer, O Lord.
- C** Let our cry come to You.
- P** Gracious God, heavenly Father, as You did not withhold Your Son, Your only Son,
- C** but gave Him up for us,
- P** grant us peace and assurance
- C** in the knowledge of Your saving love.
- P** For this is love—not that we have loved You but that You have loved us
- C** and have given Your Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

- P** Grant that this Good News spread throughout creation that more people in every place may know that You so loved the world that You gave Your only Son,
- C** that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 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.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

- C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you, defend you from all evil, and bring you to everlasting life.
- C** Amen.

- 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 as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Ascension Lutheran Church

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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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