

*ADVENT
ONE
MIDWEEK*

*“But
when
anything
is exposed
by the light, it
becomes visible”*

Ephesians 5:13

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
“A Church for Families and a Family for Everyone”
Advent 1 Midweek ~ December 1, 2021

ADVENT MIDWEEK 1

December 1, 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: “Caught Up”

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.

“Anticipation”

AS WE GATHER: Christmas lights are going up all through the neighborhoods as Thanksgiving Day is the cue for holiday decorators. Lights are the hallmark of the season, but they are artificial and fleeting. Only one light can shine in the darkness, our coming Savior Jesus Christ.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

HYMN

“The Advent of Our God”

The advent of our God
Shall be our theme for prayer;
Come, let us meet Him on the road
And place for Him prepare.

The everlasting Son
Incarnate stoops to be,
Himself the servant's form puts on
To set His people free.

Come, Zion's daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.

All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever
One Through all eternity.

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

P Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

C He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!

P God came to Adam and Eve after they had sinned.

C He clothed them, hiding their shame.

P God came to Israel when they were enslaved in Egypt.

C He delivered them out of the house of slavery.

P Christ came in flesh to our world.

C He cast out demons, healed our diseases, and preached good news to the poor.

P Christ came into Jerusalem on a donkey.
C **And He died and rose again for us and for our salvation.**

P Christ promised He will come again.
C **We wait for His return and the resurrection of the dead.**

P Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!
C **He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!**

PSALM 36:7–12 (ESV)

⁷ How precious is Your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of Your wings. ⁸ They feast on the abundance of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your delights. ⁹ For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light do we see light. ¹⁰ Oh, continue Your steadfast love to those who know You, and Your righteousness to the upright of heart!

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. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

† THE WORD †

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 60:1–3 (ESV)

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you. ³ And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

EPISTLE

Ephesians 5:6–14 (ESV)

⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

⁷ Therefore do not become partners with them; ⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:19–21 (ESV)

¹⁹ “And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

HYMN

“While We Are Waiting Come”

While we are waiting come,
while we are waiting come
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel,
while we are waiting come

With pow'r and glory come,
with pow'r and glory come
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel,
while we are waiting come

Come Savior quickly come,
come Savior quickly come
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel,
while we are waiting come

MESSAGE

“LIGHT IT UP!”

Ephesians 5:6–14
Pastor Jim Sprenkle

PRAYERS (following each petition)

P “Lord, we look for You,”

C “the true Light of the world.”

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 almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.
C **Amen.**

HYMN

“The King Shall Come”

The King shall come when morning dawns
And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills
And life to joy awakes.

Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes
And we shall see His face.

The King shall come when morning dawns
And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings.

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.

Unless otherwise noted, all hymns printed in this service are in the Public Domain.

"While We Are Waiting, Come", Claire Cloninger / Don Cason CCLI Song No. 27525 © 1986 Word Music, Inc. (a div. of Word Music Group, Inc.)

For use solely in accordance with the SongSelect Basic Terms of Agreement. All rights Reserved. CCLI License No. 759893

Ascension Lutheran Church

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):

STAFF

Rev. Jim Sprengle, Pastor

pastor@alcportland.org

Ruberto Ek Yah, Vicar

vicar@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

