

FAITH

HOPE

& LOVE

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
January 30, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 30, 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: “Cruciform Love”

AS WE GATHER: A popular Christmas hymn title sums up what we’ve recently celebrated, that “Love Came Down at Christmas.” Indeed, the Bible says, “God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son” (John 3:16). It is only on Good Friday, however, that we discover the depth and power of God’s love in the cross of the Lord’s death. And so it was that ever since the beginning of His earthly ministry, after His Baptism, we are given clear hints about the true nature of God’s love. Initially people marveled at Jesus’ preaching and miraculous healings. Yet not only did the crowds quickly reject our Lord, but Satan also was actively opposing Him from the beginning. The love of God is the power of God to defeat Satan and free the world from the grip of sin and death. The standard of love is the cross of Christ. In today’s Epistle, Paul describes love in and through Christ. Substitute “Christ” for “love” and you get, “Christ is patient and kind; Christ does not envy or boast;...Christ rejoices with the truth.” This love of Christ is given to us and through us. “Faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these” is the cross of Christ!

PRELUDE

WELCOME

HYMN

“How Wide The Love Of Christ”

(tune: I Love Your Kingdom, Lord – *ST. THOMAS*)

How wide the love of Christ!
It knows not class or race
But holds our one humanity
Within its broad embrace.

How long the love of Christ!
Its patience will not cease
Until this broken world is bound
In everlasting peace.

How high the love of Christ!
Beyond all thought it soars,
And yet upon our passing lives
Unmeasured mercy pours.

How deep the love of Christ,
Descending to a cross!
He bears within His wounded hands
All human pain and loss.

All praise to You, O Christ,
For love whose depth and height,
Whose length and breadth fill time and space
With endless life and light!

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *John 1:10–12*

P Jesus Christ was in the world, and the world was made through Him,

C yet the world did not know Him.

P He came to His own,

C and His own people did not receive Him.

- P** But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name,
C **He gave the right to become children of God.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

John 1:14

- P** God has come to us to make us His own children. Let us confess our sins of unbelief that He may give us faith to receive Him and His love.
- C** **O God, we confess that we have ignored Your voice and Spirit by choosing to go our own way. Without You, we are lost and without hope. Without You, we do not know love. Come now to us and forgive our waywardness and weakness. Give us Your gifts of faith, hope, and love. Receive us again into the family of Your redeemed. Amen.**
- P** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 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.
- C** **Amen.**

SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.
- Lord God, You have shown the world Your love chiefly in the deliverance by the cross of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Make us to know this self-sacrificing love and share it with all in every kind of need; 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

Jeremiah 1:4–8 (ESV)

(The call of Jeremiah)

⁴ Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” ⁶ Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.” ⁷ But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the Lord.”

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

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 12:31b–13:13 (ESV)

(The more excellent way of love)

^{31b} And I will show you a still more excellent way. ¹ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned but have not love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child.

When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

LAMBS' LESSON

Pastor Jim Sprenkle

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 4:31–37 (ESV)

(Jesus heals many.)

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

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

³¹ And He went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And He was teaching them on the Sabbath, ³² and they were astonished at His teaching, for His word possessed authority. ³³ And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴ "Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." ³⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. ³⁶ And they were all amazed and said to one another, "What is this word? For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!" ³⁷ And reports about Him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

SONG

"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!

SERMON
1 Corinthians 12:31b–13:13

“THE EXCELLENT WAY”
Pr. Jim Sprengle

THE CREED IN SONG **“We Believe”**
(tune: Joyful, Joyful)

We believe in God the Father,
Maker of the Universe,
And in Christ, His Son our Savior,
come to us by virgin birth.
We believe He died to save us,
bore our sins, was crucified;
Then from death He rose victorious,
ascended to the Father’s side.

Jesus, Jesus is our Savior,
Jesus, Jesus is our Lord,
Jesus, name above all others,
Son of God, the living Word.
We believe He sends His Spirit on
His church with gifts of power;
God, His Word of truth affirming,
Sends us to the nations now.

He will come again in glory,
Judge the living and the dead,
Every knee shall bow before Him,
Then must every tongue confess:
Jesus, Jesus is our Savior,
Jesus, Jesus is our Lord,
Jesus, name above all others,
Son of God, the living Word.

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)

“The Gift of Love”

(based on 1 Corinthians 13 – today’s Epistle)
words and music by Hal Hopson

Ascension Choir

*Though I may speak with bravest fire,
And have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love; my words are vain,
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.*

*Though I may give all I possess,
And striving so my love profess,
But not be giv’n by love within,
The profit soon turns strangely thin.*

*Come, Spirit come, our hearts control.
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide ev’ry deed.
By this we worship and are freed.
Amen.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P O God of love, thanks and praise be to You for sending Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to open Your kingdom by means of His love and deliverance and glory on the cross. Greater love has no one than this. Work in us, Your children, the gift of Your love, that we be enabled to endure the struggles of faith and hope and to reflect Your true glory all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Establish Your whole Church and this congregation to be walking and serving together in love for You and love toward one another and the world, that many come to the knowledge of Your truth and salvation. Grant Your strength and blessing to all who preach Your life-giving Word and those who serve as Your loving hands to all who are in any need. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant Your grace and wisdom to all who serve in the government of our country. Give strength and integrity to those in the armed forces and to all who serve and protect us in our communities. Give all agencies dedicated to the service of helping and healing people the freedom to do their good works for the support of all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Hear also now our prayers for all who are sick or hospitalized, the injured and the lonely, especially...Grant that Your healing love be administered faithfully by the medical professionals and those who supply the needy in any way. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God, whose love is shown in the blessings that we enjoy, we thank You that we might rejoice today with 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, through Your Son, 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.**

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

“I Love To Tell The Story”

I love to tell the story
Of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory,
Of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story
Because I know 'tis true,
It satisfies my longings
As nothing else can do.

(Refrain)

**I love to tell the story,
'Twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and His love.**

I love to tell the story,
'Tis pleasant to repeat
What seems, each time I tell it,
More wonderfully sweet.

I love to tell the story,
For some have never heard
The message of salvation From
God's own holy Word. **(refrain)**

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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ANNOUNCEMENTS

JANUARY 30, 2022

† **VOTER'S ASSEMBLY** - After the 11am service today!

† MILESTONES

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:

George Maier	1/31	Brandy Webber	2/1
Lillian Lambert	2/2		

BIRTHDAYS

Ron Barendse	1/30	Celia Kreps	1/30
Gabby Webber	1/30	Alma Bangs	2/1
Nekayla Maier	2/1	Barbara Nelsen	2/4
Frances Rippon	2/4		

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: None

† PRAYER NEEDS?

Contact the church office with any requests e-mail:
office@alcportland.org

† 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 — Assigned to USS Harry S. Truman (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);
Tyler Young, Navy — Deployed (nephew of Karen Arronson).

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Members and friends with Covid, The Family of Bill Ritchie, Bob Rekdahl, Fred Greco, Ray Brown, Mike Hatley, Karon Keup, Lorraine Haggard, Larry Hart, Esperanza Gutierrez, Rich Zahursky, 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.

ASSISTING IN SERVICE THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Dave Oswald	John Hazen
Acolytes:		
Ushers:	Marcus Young Bob Rekdahl	John Knoke Johnnie Driessner
Audio/Visual:	Michele Sprengle	Rebecca Williamson (Sound)
PowerPoint:	Jenny Schuldheisz	Rebecca Williamson
Greeters:	Sue Lewis Heather Gulde	Riki Neagle
Readers:	Bonnie Webber	Carol Hoefler
Altar Circle:	Both Services	MaryLou May
Flowers:	Both Services	No Volunteer
Counters:	Both Services	Dave and Jan Oswald

ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Randy Schroeder	Dan Parshall
Acolytes:		
Ushers:	Marcus Young Bob Rekdahl Stan Chapulis <i>Needed</i>	John Knoke Marcus Young
Audio/Visual:	Laura Potter	John Hazen (Sound)
PowerPoint:	Debbie Rekdahl	John Hazen
Greeters:	Elizabeth Alvarado Margo Bachhuber	Riki Neagle
Readers:	Rebecca Williamson	Virginia Jacobs
Altar Circle:	Both Services	Wendy Hazen
Flowers:	Both Services	MaryLou May
Counters:	Both Services	Bob and Elaina Ritchie

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ASCENSION

THIS WEEK – Sunday, Jan. 30 – Saturday, Feb. 6

Sunday, Jan. 30	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Tuesday Feb. 1	6:00pm	Elder Meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 2	7:00pm	Online Bible Study Posted
Thursday, Feb. 3	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Feb. 4	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
	7:00pm	Confirmation
Saturday, Feb. 5	9:30am	Network Part 2

NEXT WEEK – Sunday, Feb. 6 – Saturday, Feb. 12

Sunday, Feb. 6	8:30am	Worship with Communion
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Tuesday Feb. 8	6:00pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 9	11:00am	CareConnect
	7:00pm	Online Bible Study Posted
Thursday, Feb. 10	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Feb. 11	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
	7:00pm	Confirmation

Ascension Lutheran Church

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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