



Ascension Lutheran Church
December 26, 2021 ~ First Sunday after Christmas

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 26, 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!

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: “Promises, promises”

AS WE GATHER: Our Heavenly Father is a God of promises kept. We look back to see His loving hand in delivering His chosen people and caring for their needs. In a broken world, we often lose sight of God’s promises. Today in our Gospel reading, Simeon is granted an encounter with the living God as he holds the baby Jesus in his arms. In all the years of waiting, he finally saw the salvation of God’s people – a promise kept.

PRELUDE
(11:00)

Barbara Greco, cello

“In A Tiny Manger”

Mary Lynn Lightfoot

Karin Richardson and Carlyn Staudt, duo

WELCOME

HYMN “Angels From The Realms Of Glory”

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night;
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant Light.
Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

All creation, join in praising,
God, the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising,
To the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 124:8; 130:3, adapt.*

P Our help is in the name of the LORD,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are sinful and unclean. We have taken for granted the free gift of salvation You give us through Jesus. Help us to focus on the reason for the season, the birth of Your Son. Forgive us, O God, and let us depart in peace, according to Your Word, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus, who came to save us from our sins.**

P Receive the free gift that Jesus offers: the forgiveness of sins. As a called and ordained servant of our newborn King, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Thank You, Jesus! Amen.**

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, our Savior, we praise and thank You for coming to be born of Mary so that through faith in You we might depart this life in peace. Grant that we may ever share this gift; through Jesus Christ, 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.**

MUSIC **“Were You There On That Christmas Night?”**

(11:00)

Natalie Sleeth

Karon Keup and Brad Hall, duo

✠ THE WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 13:1–3a, 11–15 (ESV)

(The Israelites are to consecrate their firstborn to the Lord.)

¹The Lord said to Moses, ²“Consecrate to Me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is Mine.”³ Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the Lord brought you out from this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten.

¹¹“When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as He swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you,¹² you shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the Lord’s. ¹³Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery.

¹⁵For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Colossians 3:12–17 (ESV)

(Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, which anchors you to the promises of God.)

¹²Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

LAMBS' LESSON

Pastor Jim Sprengle

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:22–40 (ESV)

(Jesus is brought to the temple.)

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

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

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen Your salvation ³¹ that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel.” ³³ And His father and His mother marveled at what was said about Him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.” ³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.

She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of Him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the Child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him.

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

PRAYER REQUESTS GATHERED BY AN ELDER

HYMN “Lord, Bid Your Servant Go In Peace”

Lord, bid Your servant go in peace,
Your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation’s dawn,
This child so long foretold.

This is the Savior of the world,
The Gentiles’ promised light,
God’s glory dwelling in our midst,
The joy of Israel.

With saints of old, with saints to come,
To You we lift our voice;
To Father, Son, and Spirit blest
Be honor, love, and praise.

SERMON “A PROMISE KEPT” Luke 2:22–40
Seminarian Andy Berg

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.)

(11:00)

“Noel”

C. Tomlin/E. Cash/M. Redman

Alexa Pagan, soloist

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God and all people according to their needs.

Wonderful Counselor, we praise and thank You for guiding us with the Word of Christ, which dwells richly in us. Bless all pastors and teachers of Your Word, that they teach and admonish Your people with all of Your wisdom so that whatever we do, in word or deed, we do it in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. God of our salvation,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Mighty God, You created this world and everything in it through Your powerful Word and still take care of it. Continue to watch over and work through all who lead and serve our nation, state, and local communities. Lead and guide all first responders and members of the military as they carry out their duties to protect and serve. O God of our salvation,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Everlasting Father, You are gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. We ask for Your encouragement, healing, and care for all who are struggling with their health, especially...Heal the broken hearts of those who grieve the loss of those close to them. O God of our salvation,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Prince of Peace, we praise and thank You for the peace we have in You. Empower us and all of your missionary people to embrace the opportunities You give us to share the gift of Your redemption. O God of our salvation,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, we remember before You those who are not at peace because of illness, conflict, loss, and sadness, especially...O God of our salvation,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord of all joy, we give You thanks for blessing us and those who are celebrating this week especially...O God of our salvation,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our newborn King.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Taught by our Lord, who was born to save us, we pray 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.**

(8:30 service, please turn to page 14 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 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 HYMNS

“A Great And Mighty Wonder”

A great and mighty wonder,

A full and holy cure:

The virgin bears the infant

With virgin honor pure!

Repeat the hymn again:

“To God on high be glory

And peace on earth to men!”

The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky.
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!"

While thus they sing Your monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, O vales and mountains,
And oceans clap your hands.
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!"

Since all He comes to ransom,
By all be He adored,
The infant born in Beth'lem,
The Savior and the Lord.
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!"

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see
evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed
when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed His sacred face
evermore and evermore.

This is He whom seers and sages
sang of old with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets
promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long-expected;
let creation praise its Lord
evermore and evermore.

Let the heights of heav'n adore Him,
angel hosts His praises sing,
pow'rs, dominions bow before Him
and extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
ev'ry voice in concert ring
evermore and evermore.

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unending praises be,
honor, glory, and dominion
and eternal victory
evermore and evermore.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good.

C **His steadfast love endures forever.**

P Let us pray.

O Prince of Peace, You bless us with the peace of Your divine presence in this meal of bread and wine, granting us the forgiveness of all our sins. We thank You for preparing us to enter Your heavenly gates as You meet us in this banquet of Your body and blood, which You have prepared to guide us on our journey to Your kingdom, which has no end; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Luke 2:29–32

P Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel.

C Amen.

P The Lord be with you all. The blessing of almighty God—the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit—abide with you, now and forever.

C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please read the FYI in your bulletin for additional announcements and information.)

SONG

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

(Chorus)

**Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.**

While shepherds kept their watching,
O'er silent flocks by night;
Behold throughout the heavens,
There shone a holy light. **(chorus)**

The shepherds feared and trembled,
When lo above the earth;
Rang out the angel chorus,
That hailed our Savior's birth. **(chorus)**

Down in a lowly manger,
The humble Christ was born;
And brought us God's salvation,
That bless-ed Christmas morn. **(chorus)**

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 to Julie and Rebecca Williamson for the lovely altar flowers
in memory of Bud, husband and father.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS DECEMBER 26, 2021

† NEW FLOWER CHART FOR 2022 IS POSTED!

SIGN-UP TO BEAUTIFY OUR WORSHIP! The new flower chart is posted in the hallway across from the mailboxes on the bulletin board.

† NETWORK DISCOVERY SESSIONS ARE COMING!

- † 2 Saturdays—January 29 and February 5
- † From 9:30am until no later than 3:00pm
- † Refreshments and lunch are provided
- † Discovery tools and assessments will teach you to evaluate your spiritual gifts, personality, and passions for ministry
- † Maybe you have already taken Network! You can take it again.

Contact Pr. Jim if you want to attend, as books need to be ordered (\$8.99 plus shipping if you wish to donate the cost.)

† MILESTONES

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:

Francis Rippon	12/28	Mae Smith	12/28
Virginia Hunt	12/29	Jerry Bangs	1/1
Kim Driessner	1/1	Lorraine Haggard	1/1
Bonnie Webber	1/1		

BIRTHDAYS

Lillian Lambert	12/26	Kim Driessner	12/28
Sarah Greco	1/1		

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

Dale and Sherry Porath	Dec 27, 1966
Mel and Lorraine Haggard	Dec 29, 1956

† PRAYER NEEDS?

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

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

The family of Carolyn Erdmann, The Family of Bill Ritchie, The Family of Lyle Guericke, Bob Rekdahl, Ray Brown, Mike Hatley, Lorraine Haggard, Larry Hart, Esperanza Gutierrez, Marty

Blankenburg, Elaina Ritchie, Richard Robertson, Rich Zahursky, Alan Bauch, Leonard Murphy, Bruce Blubaum, 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.

† 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).

ASSISTING IN SERVICE THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>11:00am</u>
Elder:	Randy Schroeder	Dan Parshall
Acolytes:		
Ushers:	Marcus Young Jim Eckart	Matthias McInaney Bob Freeman James Freeman Richard Robertson
Audio/Visual:	Stan Chapulis	Laura Potter
PowerPoint:	Jenny Schuldheisz	Rebecca Williamson
Greeters:	Karla Deal	Christian Freeman
Readers:	Karla Deal	Julie Williamson
Altar Circle:	Both Services	Jan Oswald
Flowers:	Both Services	Rebecca and Julie Williamson
Counters:	Both Services	Karon Keup and Sheryl Meier

ASSISTING NEW YEAR'S EVE, DECEMBER 31, 7:00PM

7:00pm

Elder: *Need*
Usher: *Need*
Audio/Visual: Michele Sprengle
PowerPoint: *Need*
Greeter: Bonnie Webber
Michele Sprengle
Reader: Bonnie Webber
Altar Circle: Margo Bachhuber
Counters: Dave and Jan Oswald

ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

8:30am

Elder: Herb Hofer
Acolytes:
Ushers: Marcus Young
Stan Chapulis
Randy Schroeder
Bob Freeman
Audio/Visual: Stan Chapulis
PowerPoint: Debbie Rekdahl
Greeters: Margo Bachhuber
Elizabeth Alvarado
Readers: Rebecca Williamson
Altar Circle: Both Services
Flowers: Both Services
Counters: Both Services

11:00am

Dan Parshall
John Knoke
Marcus Young
John Hazen (Sound)
John Hazen
Riki Neagle
Virginia Jacobs
Virginia Jacobs

Dave and Jan Oswald

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ASCENSION

THIS WEEK – Sunday, Dec. 26 – Saturday, Jan. 1

Sunday, Dec. 26	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship with Communion
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Monday Dec. 27		Office Closed
		Newsletter Items Due
Wednesday, Dec. 29	7:00pm	Online Bible Study Posted
Thursday, Dec. 30	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Dec. 31	7:00pm	New Year's Eve Worship

NEXT WEEK – Sunday, Jan. 2 – Saturday, Jan. 8

Sunday, Jan. 2	8:30am	Worship with Communion
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Monday Jan. 3		Office Closed
Tuesday Jan. 4	6:00pm	Elder Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 5	11:00am	Care Connect
	7:00pm	Online Bible Study Posted
Thursday, Jan. 6	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Jan. 7	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
	7:00pm	Confirmation

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.

STAFF

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