



Ascension Lutheran Church and School
"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"
January 02, 2022

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 02, 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: “God Loves You Dearly!”

AS WE GATHER: God loves you! He chose you before the foundation of the world and knew that you would be part of His family through faith in Jesus Christ. Whom do you know who needs to experience God’s unconditional, all-accepting, no-strings-attached love? As we are reminded throughout the Scriptures, God’s love is for all people. Who is near to you who may still be far from God? How can you connect with them this year so that they might come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved?

PRELUDE

(The true beginning of our church service. Music helps draw us into an attitude of prayer and praise. Be mindful of others in preparation for worship. Quietly consider your encounter with the living God.)

WELCOME

HYMN “Let All Together Praise Our God”

Let all together praise our God Before His glorious throne;
 Today He opens heav’n again,
To give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.

He undertakes a great exchange, Puts on our mortal frame;
 And in return gives us His realm,
His glory and His name, His glory and His name.

He is a servant, I a lord; How great a mystery;
 How strong the tender Christ-child’s love,
No truer friend than He, No truer friend than He.

Your grace and lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus we adore;
 And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore. We praise You evermore.

INVOCATION

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

G Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *John 3:16; Titus 2:11; 1 Timothy 2:3–4;*
1 John 2:2

- P** For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.
- C** **For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people.**
- P** This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
- C** **He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Romans 3:22b–25a, 6:23*

- P** For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith.
- C** **For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**
- P** Let us confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **O Giver of all good gifts, we come to You today acknowledging our foolishness and shortsightedness. As we live in this world, we succumb to the thinking of this world, which does not always align with Your thoughts. Amid the strains and stresses of life, we forget about Your unfailing love for us and for all in our world. For the sake of Jesus, Your Son our Lord, forgive our sins and renew us by Your love.**
- P** Our God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, loves us dearly and blesses us with every spiritual blessing. We have redemption through Jesus' blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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.

Gracious heavenly Father, You have shown repeatedly throughout history how much You love Your chosen people. Fill our lives with Your love so we may share it with all whom we interact; 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 ✠

EPISTLE

Ephesians 1:3–14 (ESV)

(In His infinite wisdom, God gives us an eternal inheritance.)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us for adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, ⁶ to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, ⁸ which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of His glory. ¹³ In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation,

and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,
¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession
of it, to the praise of His glory.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

LAMBS' LESSON

Pastor Jim Sprengle

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:40–52 (ESV)

(Jesus is found sharing His wisdom in the temple.)

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

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

P The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him. Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing Him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for Him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for Him. After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

C **And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.**

P And when His parents saw Him, they were astonished. And His mother said to Him,

Women: ***“Son, why have You treated us so? Behold, Your father and I have been searching for You in great distress.”***

P And He said to them,
Men: ***“Why were you looking for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father’s house?”***

P And they did not understand the saying that He spoke to them. And He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them.

Women: *And His mother treasured up all these things in her heart.*

Men: *And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.*

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN “Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing”

Come, Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I’ve come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand’ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I’m constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand’ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.
Here’s my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.

Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen, How I’ll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; Take my ransom’d soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry Me to realms of endless day.

SERMON “I CHOOSE YOU” Ephesians 1:3–14
Pr. Jim Sprengle

THE SECOND ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES’ CREED and Luther’s Explanation

C **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.**

P What does this mean?

C **I believe that Jesus Christ is true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary; and that He is my Lord, Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood, and with His innocent suffering and death; in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness; even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

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.)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us go to God in prayer for ourselves, for God's people around the world, and for all people in their various circumstances.

Lord, we pray for this New Year that is here, that You continue to bless us, Your people chosen before the foundation of the world, so that we may be a blessing to others. Fill us with the wisdom of Your Word. Lead and guide our visioning, goal setting, and planning so that we have a positive impact in our world both now and for eternity. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, we pray for all who lead—in government, in the public and private sectors, and in Your Church—that they lead with Your wisdom so that the decisions they make are in line with Your will for all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, we pray for all who are hurting, grieving, and struggling in their heart, soul, strength, and mind, *especially...* that they experience Your dear, sweet love for them as You lead, guide, and provide for them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, You are the giver of every good and perfect gift, and we thank You for the many blessings You have bestowed upon our brothers and sisters, *especially*...May they give You thanks and praise for Your goodness as You continue to bless and preserve them in the coming year. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, we pray for those who are beginning this year with goals to read the Bible and learn more about You, that You connect them with Your people so that, as with Philip and the Ethiopian, there is someone to help them understand the mystery of Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your dear love; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold 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.**

(1100 service, please turn to page **11** 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

“This Is the Feast”

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb Who was slain,
Whose blood set us free To be people of God.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
And honor, blessing, and glory are His.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God,
And join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
Be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb Who was slain Has begun His reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

“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 Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness,
love, and grace, in Your immense love for us from all eternity
You sent Your Son, Jesus, to be born of Mary. He died for the
sins of the world and rose to life victoriously. Through Him we
have obtained an inheritance as Your dearly loved children.
We ask that You continue to walk with us as You rule our
hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit, that we be empowered
constantly by Your love for all humanity; through Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with the Father 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

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! The herald angels sing; “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; Join the triumph of the skies;
With th’angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest Heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time, behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, th’ incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark, the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the Heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hark, the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

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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† 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:

Elliot Noonan	1/2	Jeff Latter	1/5
Savannah Spencer	1/8		

BIRTHDAYS

Debbie Noonan	1/2	Sheryl Maier	1/5
Linda Strefling	1/6		

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

Cody and Danielle Brown January 5, 2019

† PRAYER NEEDS?

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

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

The Family of Bill Ritchie, Bob Rekdahl, Fred Greco, Ray Brown, Mike Hatley, 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.

† 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).

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ASCENSION

THIS 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

NEXT WEEK – Sunday, Jan. 9 – Saturday, Jan. 15

Sunday, Jan. 9	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship with Communion
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Tuesday Jan. 11	6:00pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 12	7:00pm	Online Bible Study Posted
Thursday, Jan. 13	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Jan. 14	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
	7:00pm	Confirmation
Saturday, Jan. 15	8:00am	Church Clean-up

ASSISTING IN SERVICE THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022

	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>11:00am</u>
Elder:	Randy Schroeder	Dan Parshall
Acolytes:		
Ushers:	Marcus Young Stan Chapulis Bob Rekdahl NEED	John Knoke Marcus Young
Audio/Visual:	Stan Chapulis	John Hazen (Sound)
PowerPoint:	Debbie Rekdahl	John Hazen
Greeters:	Margo Bachhuber Elizabeth Alvarado	Riki Neagle
Readers:	Rebecca Williamson	Virginia Jacobs
Altar Circle:	Both Services	Virginia Jacobs
Flowers:	Both Services	
Counters:	Both Services	Dave and Jan Oswald

ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>11:00am</u>
Elder:	Dave Oswald	Bob Ritchie
Acolytes:		
Ushers:	Marcus Young NEEDED	Matthias McInaney Eric Kreps Evan Kreps Johnnie Driessner
Audio/Visual:	Teresa Osgood	Rebecca Williamson (Sound)
PowerPoint:	Taylor Osgood	Rebecca Williamson
Greeters:	Sue Lewis Heather Gulde	Julie Williamson
Readers:	Travis Osgood	Julie Williamson
Altar Circle:	Both Services	Debbie Rekdahl
Flowers:	Both Services	
Counters:	Both Services	Bob and Elaina Ritchie

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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