



Return  
from  
EXILE

**LENTEN MIDWEEK 2**

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

*"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"*

March 16, 2022

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**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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month, and at the 11:00 service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.

(**P**) = Pastor, (**C**) = Congregation, (**A**) = Reader/Assisting)

✠ PREPARATION ✠

### RETURN FROM EXILE

#### Mountain to Mountain: Mount Moriah to Mount Zion

**AS WE GATHER:** Today, we journey from mountain to mountain. Mountains are amazing and awe-inspiring, but to journey through or to climb them is no easy task. When Abraham saw Mount Moriah, he was neither inspired nor amazed. His heart was filled with fear and dread, for on this mountain he had been told to provide a sacrifice: his son Isaac. It was a difficult mountain to climb. But on this mountain, the Lord God will provide. God rescued Isaac from the knife of Abraham in order that He might provide another sacrifice, a perfect Lamb without blemish or spot. Later, Mount Moriah would become Mount Zion, where the Jerusalem temple would be built. Although Jesus was sacrificed on Mount Calvary, His blood was brought to the Holy of Holies in the temple and sprinkled for our forgiveness, life, and salvation. It was a difficult mountain to climb, but the journey to that mountain leads us to the mountain of the new Zion—heaven.

## HYMN

### **“We Are Exiles From The Garden”** (Tune: “Stricken, Smitten And Afflicted”)

We are exiles from the garden,  
Banished by our sinful choice,  
Terrified to seek His pardon,  
Hiding from our Father’s voice.  
Underneath the branches swaying,  
Sweat and blood fall to the ground.  
In the darkness, Christ is praying;  
He comes forward to be bound.

Leaves will fail our vain concealing  
Our true nakedness and shame.  
We must rend our hearts, revealing  
All our guilt and sinful blame.

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Jesus takes our flesh and sentence  
As His clothes are claimed below.  
We fall down in true repentance;  
His new robe He will bestow.

On the mount, the Lord is waiting  
For the proper sacrifice.  
What is worth His wrath abating?  
Who could pay the dreadful price?  
God the Son will be the scion.  
God the Father will provide.  
God the Spirit points to Zion;  
There, with God, we will abide.

On this journey we are taking,  
We fear not what lies in store.  
Though our feeble wills are breaking,  
We know Christ has gone before.  
As we walk the way completed,  
On His throne, the Savior waits.  
Death and hell have been unseated.  
We behold the open gates!

## INVOCATION

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

## OPENING RESPONSES

- P** Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; hold not Your peace at my tears!
- C** **For I am a sojourner with You, a guest, like all my fathers.**  
*Ps. 39:12*
- P** Thus declares the Lord of hosts: Return to Me, says the Lord of hosts,
- C** **and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.** *Zech. 1:3*
- P** Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
- C** **let him return to the Lord, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.**  
*Is. 55:7*

## CONFESSION

- P** We are on a journey from a deserved exile to a gracious promised land. Although we merit nothing, because our heavenly Father promises forgiveness and mercy to all who call on Him for Jesus' sake, let us go to Him, confessing our sin.
- Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination*
- P** Heavenly Father, we are fallen creatures, prone to hiding our faults from one another, yet knowing our sins are laid bare before You.
- C** **Forgive us and clothe us with Christ's own righteousness.**
- P** We have erred and strayed from Your way.
- C** **Forgive us and turn our feet toward the paradise You promise.**

- P** We have attempted to placate Your just demands by our own efforts.
- C** **Forgive us for the sake of Your Son’s sacrifice in our stead.**
- P** We have often failed to reflect the new life You granted us in our Baptism.
- C** **Forgive us and drown the old Adam within us.**
- P** We have eaten “forbidden fruit” in our disobedient thinking, speaking, and acting.
- C** **Forgive us and grant us the new life won on the tree of the cross.**
- P** We have failed to trust Your care and protection as we journey through this wilderness.
- C** **Forgive us and accompany us on our pilgrim way.**

## FORGIVENESS

- P** Our gracious God, even when we were dead in our trespasses, has made us alive together with Christ (*Eph. 2:5*). You who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ (*Eph. 2:13*). May He who began this good work in you bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ (*Phil. 1:6*). In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

## † THE WORD †

### PSALM (*Psalm 118:22–29*)



- <sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders re- | jected\*  
has become the | cornerstone.
- <sup>23</sup> **This is the Lord’s | doing;\***  
**it is marvelous | in our eyes.**

24 This is the day that the | LORD has made;\*  
let us rejoice and be | glad in it.

25 **Save us, we pray, | O Lord!\***  
**O Lord, we pray, give | us success!**

26 Blessed is he who comes in the name | of the LORD!\*

We bless you from the house | of the LORD.

27 **The Lord is God, and He has made His light**  
**to shine up- | on us.\***  
**Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,**  
**up to the horns of the | altar!**

28 You are my God, and I will give | thanks to You;\*

You are my God; I will ex- | tol You.

29 **Oh give thanks to the Lord, for | He is good;\***  
**for His steadfast love endures for- | ever!**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

## Genesis 22:1–14 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>2</sup> He 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.” <sup>3</sup> So 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. <sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. <sup>5</sup> Then 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.” <sup>6</sup> And 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. <sup>7</sup> And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” <sup>8</sup> Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

<sup>9</sup> When 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. <sup>10</sup> Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. <sup>11</sup> But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>12</sup> He 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.” <sup>13</sup> And 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. <sup>14</sup> So 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.”

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE

Hebrews 9:22, 11:17–19 (ESV)

<sup>9:22</sup> Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. <sup>11:17</sup> By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, <sup>18</sup> of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” <sup>19</sup> He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:16 (ESV)

**P** <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## HYMN

### **“The Lamb”**

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

### **Refrain**

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

The Lamb, the Lamb,  
One perfect final offering.  
The Lamb, the Lamb,  
Let earth join heav’n His praise to sing. **(refrain)**

The Lamb, the Lamb,  
As wayward sheep their shepherd kill  
So still, His will  
On our behalf the Law to fill. **(refrain)**

He sighs, He dies,  
He takes my sin and wretchedness.  
He lives, forgives,  
He gives me His own righteousness. **(refrain)**

## SERMON

### **“MORIAH TO ZION”**

**Genesis 22:1–14  
Pastor Jim Sprengle**

## CANTICLE

**“Come, My Soul, With Every Care”**  
*(tune: Take My Life and Let It Be)*

Come, my soul, with ev’ry care,  
Jesus loves to answer prayer.  
He Himself has bid thee pray,  
Therefore will not turn away.

While I am a pilgrim here,  
Let Thy love my spirit cheer;  
As my guide, my guard, my friend,  
Lead me to my journey’s end.



## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** We are returning from exile, listening to the inviting Word of God, full of grace and truth. Let us respond to Him in prayer.
- Gracious God, offering full and free forgiveness, we come in spiritual sackcloth and ashes, painfully aware of our sins and failings. Graciously wash us and clothe us with the robe of Christ's own righteousness,
- C** **so that we may live eternally with all Your saints.**
- P** Eden's Lord and ours, hear us and all who call out to You in pain and sorrow, sweat or tears. Remind us of Your painful victory over every temptation,
- C** **and strengthen us to follow where You have led the way.**
- P** Loving Father, calling us to Mount Calvary, remove from us our fear of Your righteous judgment for our sins; strengthen our faith
- C** **in the all-availing sacrifice of Your Son in our stead.**
- P** Spirit of life, remind us again of our Baptism, in which our old Adam was drowned; strengthen us
- C** **to live in the freedom of the children of God.**
- P** Lord Jesus, Savior and Guide, give us the eyes of faith to see the tree of life awaiting us in heaven, and guide us
- C** **to follow where You have led the way.**
- P** Protecting Father, assure us of Your presence on our journey through the desert of this world and bring us at last
- C** **to the paradise purchased by Your Son.**
- P** O Holy Spirit, nourish our faith and restore our souls each time we come to the Table of the Lord and receive His body and blood,
- C** **a foretaste of the feast to come.**
- P** Holy and merciful Lord over all, we feel the burden of our sin; renew in us the firm faith that Your Son has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows,
- C** **giving His life for ours.**

**P** Everlasting Father, our Savior has conquered death. Fill us with rejoicing, confident that we shall therefore gather around the eternal throne of the Lamb, Your Son, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## BENEDICTION

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, and ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you

**C** Amen.

## HYMN

### “I Lay My Sins On Jesus”

I lay my sins on Jesus,  
The spotless Lamb of God;  
He bears them all and frees us  
From the accursèd load.  
I bring my guilt to Jesus  
To wash my crimson stains  
Clean in His blood most precious  
Till not a spot remains.

I lay my wants on Jesus;  
All fullness dwells in Him;  
He heals all my diseases;  
My soul He does redeem.

I lay my griefs on Jesus,  
My burdens and my cares;  
He from them all releases;  
He all my sorrows shares.

I rest my soul on Jesus,  
This weary soul of mine;  
His right hand me embraces;  
I on His breast recline.  
I love the name of Jesus,  
Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;  
Like fragrance on the breezes  
His name abroad is poured.

## 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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# Ascension Lutheran Church

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Web Site: [www.alcportland.org](http://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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