

*Immediately
they left their
nets and
followed Him.*

MATTHEW 4:20 (ESV)



Ascension Lutheran Church

"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"

January 22, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 22, 2023

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 comulgar 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: “Invading Our Hearts”

AS WE GATHER: The land where the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali settled was repeatedly overrun by the armies of other nations. It was the invasion route into the Promised Land, the route for conquerors God allowed to punish errant Israel. But another “invader” would come one day on another mission: Isaiah used the land as a metaphor for our Lord’s coming to begin a new rule in our hearts. He would be as light in the darkness and joy in the harvest. His coming to save us by going to the cross was so different that it seemed to be folly. Yet, to those who came to know our Lord personally, like the disciples in today’s Gospel, there was no question but that they would follow this Man. Today’s worship is an opportunity to rejoice over the light, joy, and salvation Christ brought from heaven to this dark, sad, and fallen world.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

HYMN “The People That In Darkness Sat”

The people that in darkness sat A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long.
In shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.

To us a Child of hope is born, To us a Son is giv’n,
And on His shoulder ever rests
All pow’r in earth and heav’n, All pow’r in earth and heav’n.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
The God by all adored, The God by all adored.

Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one, And Holy Spirit, one.

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:18; Psalm 27:14

- P** The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing,
C **but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**
- P** Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage;
C **wait for the LORD!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Matthew 4:17; Philippians 3:20; 1 Corinthians 1:18

- P** St. Matthew writes that Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Let us respond by confessing our sins and asking our Lord's forgiveness.
- C** **Heavenly Father, we confess our sins to You. We struggle to love You more than the things of the world. Because our citizenship is in heaven, please help our thoughts, words, and deeds reflect You. Amen.**
- P** "For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." Be assured that through Jesus' rescue, you are already citizens in the Kingdom of heaven. In the stead and by the command of our 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.**

SALUTATION

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, who came from heaven to earth, heal us in body, soul, and spirit that we may serve You in joy, now and always; for You live and reign with the Father 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

1 Corinthians 1:10–18 (ESV)

(There should not be divisions in the one Church.)

¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹ For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹² What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. ¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12–25 (ESV)

(In Galilee, Jesus calls the first four disciples.)

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹² Now when He heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew into Galilee. ¹³ And leaving Nazareth He went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵ “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—¹⁶ the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.” ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ¹⁸ While walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. ²¹ And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and He called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him. ²³ And He went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴ So His fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought Him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and He healed them. ²⁵ And great crowds followed Him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

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

PRAYER and LOVE IN ACTION REQUESTS GATHERED

HYMN

“I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light”

I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The Star of my life is Jesus.

(Chorus)

**In Him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father. **(chorus)**

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus. **(chorus)**

SERMON

“THE FOLLY OF FOLLOWING”

**Matthew 4:12–25
Pr. Jim Sprengle**

CREED (sung)

“In God We Believe”

(tune: Immortal, Invisible)

In God we believe: the Creator whose pow'r
In mercy has brought us for worship this hour.
He graciously grants us our years and our days
And blesses with kindness our work and our ways.

In Jesus, the Savior, our hope is secured.
True God and true man once the cross He endured
To grant our lives wholeness, forgiveness of sin.
With hearts freed from guilt, we know true peace within.

God's Spirit at work in our lives we confess;
With power and truth the church now He does bless.
As saints, God's forgiven, one day we shall then
Be living in glory forever. 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)

“Let Light Shine Out Of Darkness”

(based on 2 Corinthians 4:5-6)

John A. Behnke

Ascension Choir

*Let light shine out of darkness;
What we proclaim is not our own, but Jesus Christ.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

Lord of all nations, Your Son became flesh to enlighten a world darkened by sin with His grace. Visit us with His gifts of forgiveness and life, that our way may be glorious with His salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty Lord, Your Son's cross and crucifixion is folly to the world, but it is the source of repentance and forgiveness for all His elect. Preserve the preaching of the cross in our midst, that from this life-giving tree we would continue to receive Your faith-preserving gifts. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, You have called us to be united in the same mind and judgment in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Preserve us from divisions and quarreling wrought by false teaching and cults of personality, and fix our eyes on the Word of the cross. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Holy God, Your Son welcomed the sick, the afflicted and those oppressed by demons and healed them. Have mercy upon all whom we bring before You in prayer, *especially...*and deliver them according to Your gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, we thank You for the milestones and occasions for celebration in the lives of these brothers and sisters...Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Hear us as we pray the prayer You have taught us:
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 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 SONGS

“I Am The Bread Of Life”

“I am the Bread of Life, you who come to Me shall not hunger,
and who believe in Me shall not thirst.
No one can come to Me unless the Father beckons.”

(Refrain)

**“And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
And I will raise you up on the last day.”**

“The bread that I will give is My flesh for the life of the world,
And if you eat of this bread, you shall live forever,
you shall live forever.” **(refrain)**

“Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man
And drink of His blood, and drink of His blood,
You shall not have life within you.” **(refrain)**

“I am the Resurrection, I am the Life.
If you believe in Me, even though you die,
You shall live forever.” **(refrain)**

Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ,
The Son of God, Who has come into the world. **(refrain)**

“What Is This Bread?”

What is this bread? Christ’s body risen from the dead:
This bread we break, This life we take,
Was crushed to pay for our release.
O taste and see—the Lord is peace.

What is this wine? The blood of Jesus shed for mine;
The cup of grace brings His embrace Of life and love until I sing!
O taste and see—the Lord is King.

So who am I, That I should live and He should and He should die
Under the rod? My God, my God, Why have You not forsaken me?
Oh, taste and see---The Lord is free.

Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear.
In mouth and soul He makes us whole—
Christ, truly present in this meal.
Oh, taste and see---The Lord is real.

Is this for me? I am forgiven and set free!
I do believe that I receive His very body and His blood.
O taste and see—the Lord is good.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

O God the Father, who sent Your Son into this dark world from the Kingdom of heaven, we thank You that for His sake You have declared us to be citizens of heaven, and You have given us this Sacrament so that His blood-bought peace may rule our hearts and minds; grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may walk in Your ways as we carry Your name to all we meet; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

CLOSING SCRIPTURE *from Psalm 27*

P The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

C **The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

BENEDICTION

P The peace of God Almighty—the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit—be with you this day and forever.

C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

SONG

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

Lord, the light of Your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness shining,
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth You now bring us,
Shine on me, shine on me.

(Chorus)

**Shine, Jesus, shine.
Fill this land with the Father’s glory,
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, Set our hearts on fire!
Flow, river, flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy,
Send forth Your Word, Lord,
And let there be light!**

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
From the shadows into Your radiance,
By the blood I may enter Your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness,
Shine on me, shine on me. **(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. Sections of this service were taken from *Creative Worship*, Copyright © 2021 Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted by permission.

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

“I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light”, CCLI Song No. 89848 © 1970, 1975 Celebration. Words and Music by Kathleen Thomerson. For use solely in accordance with the SongSelect Basic Terms of Agreement. All rights Reserved. CCLI License No. 759893.

“In God We Believe”, words by Rev. Gregory J. Wismar.

“Let Light Shine Out of Darkness” Copyright © 2019 Concordia Publishing House. Internet streaming permission under OneLicense #A-729093. All rights reserved.

“I Am the Bread Of Life”, by Sr. Suzanne Toolan. © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993, GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission under OneLicense, LLC annual license # A-727428.

“What Is This Bread”, song #665CW21, Text and music: © 1991 Fred and Jean Baue. Used with permission under OneLicense annual license.

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”, Graham Kendrick © 1987 Make Way Music (Admin. by Music Services)
CCLI Song No. 30426. CCLI License No. 759893

ANNOUNCEMENTS JANUARY 22, 2022

VOTERS ASSEMBLY TODAY!

After late service

† SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 12

Human Care is collecting soups, chili and socks for SnowCap. Please bring your items to church by February 12.

† MANY THANKS TO OUR ASCENSION FAMILY

Your Ascension Staff would like to give you our heartfelt thanks for our Christmas gift! Your support and generosity come through year-round, but we are especially aware of it during Thanksgiving and Christmas. Your warm wishes, cards and gifts are so appreciated! The Lord has blessed us through you, and we give thanks to Him for all the ways you care for us!

† 2023 FLOWER CHART

The 2023 Flower Chart is up and waiting for you to sign up for your special day. Check out what is left and get your date early!

† THANKS FROM CARRIE GRAHAM

I want to Thank each one of you for the Christmas gift. It warms my heart and soul to know that you wanted to share with me. I have been cleaning our church for 16 years (17 in February) now and have always felt blessed to have this job for many reasons. Many blessings and good health for each one of you in 2023. Thank you again and know it was so appreciated. Love, Carrie Graham

† MILESTONES

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Olive Sylvia	Jan. 24	Fredia Moore	Jan. 27
--------------	---------	--------------	---------

BIRTHDAYS

Marty Blankenburg	Jan 24	Bob Freeman	Jan 24
Luke Teyema	Jan 25	Bruce Blubaum	Jan 26

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

Ed and Margaret Hubbard January 27, 1968

ASSISTING IN SERVICE SUNDAY, JAN. 22

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Dave Oswald	Randy Schroeder
Acolytes:		
Ushers:	Jim Eckart Bob Rekdahl	Matthias McInaney Marcus Young James Freeman Bob Freeman John Hazen
Audio/Visual:	Stan Chapulis	Rebecca Williamson
PowerPoint:	Wanda Cassetty	Christina Freeman
Greeters:	Sue Lewis Heather Gulde	
Readers:	Carol Hoefer	Jim Eckart
Altar Circle:	Both Services	Karen Zahursky
Flowers:	Both Services	Klara Schmidt
Counters:	Both Services	Karon Keup/Sheryl Maier

ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, JAN. 29

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Bruce Blubaum	Dan Parshall
Acolytes:		
Ushers:	Stan Chapulis Needed	Eric Kreps Marcus Young
Audio/Visual:	Laura Potter	Michele Sprengle
PowerPoint:	Jennie Schuldheisz	Jessica Brown
Greeters:	Needed	Celia Kreps Riki Neagle
Readers:	Sheryl Maier	Karon Keup
Altar Circle:	Both Services	Jan Oswald
Flowers:	Both Services	Ed and Margaret Hubbard
Counters:	Both Services	Dave and Jan Oswald

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Gina Kreps, Jessica Brown, Bill and Sylvia Guthrie, Kevin McInaney, Judy Blubaum, Robert (Virginia Jacob's Brother), Cindy Linnemann, Brian Laxton, Carlyn Staudt, Karla Deal, Mike Fogarty, Emily Kohnke (member of the Webber Family), Rich Zahursky, Mike Hatley, Lorraine Haggard, Esperanza Gutierrez, Kim Laxton, Antonia Martinez (mother of Esperanza Gutierrez), Ava Wentela (Sue Wentela's granddaughter), *Barbara Schrader, *Larry Hart, *Dale Porath. *Home Bound.

† PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY:

Marie Cassetty Brown, Air Force — Retired after 23 years of service
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 — (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);

Tyler Young, Navy — Deployed (nephew of Karen Arronson).

† PRAYER NEEDS?

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

EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., JAN. 22 - SAT., JAN. 28

Sunday, Jan. 22	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship w/ Comm.
	12:15pm	Voters Assembly
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Monday Jan. 23		Newsletter Items Due
Wednesday Jan. 25	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
Thursday, Jan. 26	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Jan. 27	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
	7:00pm	Confirmation

EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., JAN. 29 - SAT., FEB. 4

Sunday, Jan. 29	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Wednesday Feb. 1	11:00am	CareConnect
	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
Thursday, Feb. 2	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Feb 3	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
	7:00pm	Confirmation

Ascension Lutheran Church

1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233

Church: 503-665-8821 • 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

Rev. Jim Sprengle, Pastor

pastor@alcportland.org

Ruberto Ek Yah, Pastor

pastorekyah@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

Laura Potter, Property Management

property@alcportland.org

