



(Jesus said)
"If anyone
would be first,
He must be last
of all and
servant of all."

Mark 9:35

Ascension Lutheran Church and School

"A Church for Families and a Family for Everyone"

September 19, 2021

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 19, 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!

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 obleas libres de gluten están disponibles bajo petición).

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

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Theme: “The Humbled Servant”

AS WE GATHER: Jesus’ disciples did not understand the prophecy about His death and resurrection. They focused, instead, on their personal greatness. So, He flipped the perspective, using a child to explain that true greatness is in humble servanthood, in welcoming even children (then considered to be without status). However, our inner passions rebel and war against such servanthood, as James explains in the Epistle. Fortunately, by the gracious gift of faith, in the face of personal struggles, we can rely on God, as Jeremiah does in the Old Testament Reading and David in today’s psalm. Our Lord is the most humble and therefore the greatest Servant, and by His death and resurrection He has proclaimed that God’s grace knows no bounds. Confidently, we can follow His lead and walk in humble servanthood each day.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

HYMN

“Welcome, Jesus Christ!”

(tune: Come, Ye Thankful People, Come)

Welcome, all who gather here!
As you join us, Christ comes near,
Christ in every human face,
Blessing now the commonplace,
Clothed in all our poverty,
Flesh and blood and mystery,
Leading us to love and life.
Welcome, welcome, Jesus Christ!

Bless us with Your presence here.
Let us make our welcome clear.
Let us serve You in Your need,
Stand beside you, help, and feed.
We have hearts and hands to lend
As Your family, as Your friends.
Loving You is our delight!
Welcome, welcome, Jesus Christ!

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** In today's Epistle, James urges, "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded." Let us go to God, echoing David's words in Psalm 54, appointed for today. O God, save me, by Your name,
- C** **and vindicate me by Your might.**

- P** O God, hear my prayer;
- C** **give ear to the words of my mouth.**

- P** James' words in today's Epistle guide our confession. Gracious God,
- C** **we confess that as we have desired friendship with the world, we forget that it would mean enmity with God. We confess that our passions are at war within us. In all humility, we come to You, holy Lord, seeking Your peace to calm the war within us.**

- P** God has not given up on you! Indeed, He gives more grace. James writes, "A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace," and in His death and resurrection, Jesus gave us His righteousness and established peace between us and God. 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** **Amen.**

SALUTATION

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, Your strength is made perfect in weakness. Grant us humility and childlike faith that we may please You in both will and deed; 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 11:18–20 (ESV)

(The prophet relies on God's protection as his opponents plot against him.)

¹⁸The Lord made it known to me and I knew; then You showed me their deeds. ¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. I did not know it was against me they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more." ²⁰But, O Lord of hosts, who judges righteously, who tests the heart and the mind, let me see Your vengeance upon them, for to You have I committed my cause.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

James 3:17–4:7 (ESV)

(The apostle proclaims God's peace even as we struggle with inner warfare.)

¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

¹ What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴ You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? ⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

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

LAMBS' LESSON

Pr. Jim Sprengle

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 9:30–37 (ESV)

(After prophesying His death and resurrection,
Jesus teaches the disciples how to serve humbly.)

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

³⁰ They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And He did not want anyone to know, ³¹ for He was teaching His disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And when He is killed, after three days He will rise.” ³² But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask Him. ³³ And they came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?” ³⁴ But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵ And He sat down and called the twelve. And He said to them, “If anyone would be first, He must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶ And He took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in His arms, He said to them, ³⁷ “Whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me, and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me.”

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

SONG**“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”**

Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To th'unthankful and the evil
With Your own unsparing hand.

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You
Gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness,
Melt our thankless hearts of stone.
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
'Tis to give than to receive.

Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly,
Hope, to stay our souls on You;
But, oh, best of all Your graces,
With Your love our love renew.

SERMON**“FIRST THINGS FIRST”**

Mark 9:30–37
Pastor Jim Sprengle

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.)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the nations around the world, the Church wherever it is found, and for ourselves here in this place.

Whenever the Church is filled with boasting, falsehoods, and divisions, O God, send Your Holy Spirit to use Word and Sacrament to bring clergy and lay leaders to repentance.

C **Embolden them to announce with one voice the victory Your Son won for us all.**

P Whenever our conduct shows jealousy and selfish ambition, O God, turn our laughter to mourning and our joy to sadness until we recognize Your unending grace.

C **Help us seek to meet the needs of the people around us in humble service.**

P Whenever we pridefully seek to solve our problems by our own strength, O God, remind us of Your faithfulness, constant presence, and gracious protection for Jesus' sake.

C **Show us how to humbly serve the people around us as You have served us.**

P Wherever people call out to You in their distress, *especially...* O God, visit, relieve, heal, and console them according to Your gracious will.

C **Use us as part of Your answers to their fervent prayers.**

- P** Wherever people give You thanks and celebrate, *especially*...we give thanks for Your great goodness and love.
- C** **You are gracious and bless us with joys beyond measure.**
- P** Heavenly Father, hear us and all for whom we pray, as we rely on Your gracious plans for all we need;
- C** **through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Lord, in prayer, we approach Your throne of grace and pray as 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.**

(11:00 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.

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

(Latin for "Peace of the Lord" - the response is, "Amen!", or "So be it!")

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

DURING THE DISTRIBUTION 4

"At The Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide flowing from His pierced side.
Alleluia!

Praise we Him Whose love divine gives His sacred blood for wine.
Gives His body for the feast Christ the victim, Christ the priest,
Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, Whose blood was shed. Paschal victim, paschal bread'
With sincerity and love eat we manna from above,
Alleluia!

Mighty victim from the sky. Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie'
You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light,
Alleluia!

Now no more can death appall, now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise, and Your saints in You shall rise
Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, newborn souls in You to be.
Alleluia!

"O Living Bread from Heaven" (tune: The Church's One Foundation)

O living Bread from Heaven, How well You feed Your guest!
The gifts that You have given Have filled my heart with rest.
Oh, wondrous food of blessing, Oh, cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing, With praises overflows.

My Lord, You here have led me Within Your holiest place,
And here Yourself have fed me With treasures of Your grace;
For You have freely given What earth could never buy,
The bread of life from Heaven, That now I shall not die.

You gave me all I wanted; This food can death destroy.
And You have freely granted The cup of endless joy.
My Lord, I do not merit The favor You have shown,
And all my soul and spirit Bow down before Your throne.

Lord, grant me then, thus strengthened With heav'nly food, while here
My course on earth is lengthened, To serve with holy fear.
And when You call my spirit To leave this world below,
I enter, through Your merit, Where joys unmingled flow.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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

“Make Me A Servant”

Make me a servant, humble and meek.
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak;
And may the pray’r of my heart always be.
Make me a servant. Make me a servant.
Make me a servant today.

Make me a servant, humble and meek.
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak;
And may the pray’r of my heart always be.
Make me a servant. Make me a servant.
Make me a servant today.

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 Peggy Hall for playing the piano this Sunday!

ANNOUNCEMENTS SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

† SOLVE-CITY CLEANUP! YOU CAN HELP

The Mission Board is organizing a team to join in the city-wide cleanup being conducted by the organization SOLVE. We have signed up for ten slots to serve in the cleanup at Marine Drive and 33rd Avenue from 10:00am -1:00pm on Saturday, Sept. 25.

Please phone or email the church office to register. We will carpool, leaving from church at 9:30am on Saturday and go to the meeting location, 2432 NE Marine Drive. SOLVE will provide work gloves, garbage bags, litter grabbers and safety vests. If you have any questions, contact Carol or Herb Hoefler at 503-251-0070.

† ORDENA LAXTON MEMORIAL

Thursday September 23 at 11:00am with a short reception following the service in the Community room. All are welcome.

† THANK YOU FROM MAE SMITH

For your prayers for my recovery since a recent surgery. You and your prayers have been a blessing to me. All of the cards and greetings have brightened my days. I look forward to seeing you again soon. Mae Smith

† CONCERT OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

Trinity Lutheran Church, 16000 South Henrici Road, Oregon City, is hosting "A Concert of Praise and Thanksgiving" featuring instrumentalists, praise band, soloists and congregational participation on Saturday, October 16th beginning at 3:00pm. Please join us for an afternoon of Praise and Thanksgiving.

† PRAYER NEEDS?

Contact the church office with any requests at 503-665-8821 or e-mail: office@alcportland.org

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

The family of Lewis Eilers, Mae Smith, Brad Hall and Family, Miki Natonick, Ray Brown, Mike Hatley, Karon Keup, Bonnie Webber, Carolyn Erdmann, Carlyn Staudt, Lorraine Haggard, Larry Hart, Bill Ritchie, Colleen Ek Yah, Esperanza Gutierrez, Brian Laxton, Virginia Hunt, Marty Blankenburg, 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 Santorufu (sister of Sue Wentela), *Barbara Schrader, *Dale Porath.

*Home Bound.

† PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY:

Marie Cassetty Brown, Air Force — Ramstein Air Base, Germany AFB LA (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).

† VOTER'S ASSEMBLY SEPT. 26

The meeting will follow the late service.

† MILESTONES

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Andrew May	9/19	Carlyn Staudt	9/19
Avi Ritchie	9/20	Ray Brown	9/21
Rob Haase	9/21	Grace Fogarty	9/25
Val Schiely	9/25		

BIRTHDAYS

Val Schiely	9/19	Heather Gulde	9/21
Norma Dillon	9/22	Olive Sylvia	9/24

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Joe and Rosemary Knox	Sep 23, 1989
Tom and Barb Patch	Sep 25, 1971

ASSISTING IN SERVICE TODAY

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Bruce Blubaum (WA)	John Hazen
Acolytes:		
Ushers:	Randy Schroeder	Jonathan Mundo Joshua Mundo
Audio/Visual:	Teresa Osgood (sound)	Wyatt Brown
PowerPoint:	Teresa Osgood	Jessica Brown
Greeters:	Norma Dillon	Carrie Graham
Readers:	Michele Sprengle	Virginia Jacobs

Altar Circle:	Both Services	Wendy Hazen
Counters:	Both Services	
Flowers:	Both Services	None

ASSISTING IN SERVICE SUNDAY, SEPT. 26

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Randy Schroeder	Dan Parshall
Acolytes:	Josie Latter	
Ushers:	Bob Rekdahl	Matthias McInaney
Audio/Visual:	Stan Chapulis	Michele Sprengle (sound)
PowerPoint:	Jenny Schuldheisz	Michele Sprengle
Greeters:	Karla Deal	Rebecca Williamson
Readers:	Sheryl Maier	Carol Hoefer
Altar Circle:	Both Services	Margo Bachhuber
Counters:	Both Services	Dave and Jan Oswald
Flowers:	Both Services	Merci McInaney

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ASCENSION

THIS WEEK – SEPTEMBER 19-25

Sunday, Sept. 19	8:30am	Worship with Communion
	9:45am	Adult Education
	11:00am	Worship
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Monday Sept. 20	6:00pm	Altar Guild Meeting
	Tuesday, Sept. 21	6:00pm
Wednesday, Sept. 22		10:30am
	7:00pm	Online Bible Study Posted
	All Day	Community Room Unavailable
Thursday, Sept. 23	11:00am	Ordena Laxton Memorial
		Reception to follow
	7:00pm	NO Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Sept. 24		Newsletter Items Due for October
	6:30pm	Noche Familiar

NEXT WEEK – SEPTEMBER 26-OCTOBER 2

Sunday, Sept. 26	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Adult Education
	11:00am	Worship with Communion
	12:15pm	Voters Assembly
Tuesday, Sept. 28	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
		Pastor and Michele out of town until 9/30
Wednesday, Sept. 29	7:00pm	Online Bible Study Posted
	7:00pm	NO Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Oct. 1	6:30pm	Noche Familiar

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.

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