



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.

1 Corinthians 1:18, ESV

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
“A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone”
Sunday, February 1, 2026

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

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 Lords 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 Lords 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 on the cup return table.*)

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. (*Hay jugo de uva para quienes no toman alcohol. Las hostias sin gluten están en la mesa de devolución de copas.*)

+ PREPARATION +

THEME: “FOOLISH WISDOM”

AS WE GATHER: “That was a foolish decision.” Maybe you have said that to yourself after a thoughtless word or action. Our human foolishness is noted in two hymns in *Lutheran Service Book*. In the paraphrase of Psalm 23 in “The King of Love My Shepherd Is,” we sing of our Good Shepherd: “Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love He sought me” (*LSB* 709:3). And in a hymn based on the parable of the prodigal son, we sing, “As rebels, Lord, who foolishly have wandered” (*LSB* 612:1). Foolishness is not generally seen as a positive attribute. But Paul reminds his Corinthian readers and us that we are called to a certain special foolishness in Christ. “But God chose what is foolish. . . ; God chose what is weak. . . ; God chose what is low” (1 Corinthians 1:27–28). And Paul writes to the Ephesians, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who . . . chose us in Him before the foundation of the world” (Ephesians 1:3–4). We can live as reflections of God’s most gracious choosing!

PRELUDE

WELCOME

“How Deep The Father’s Love For Us”

How deep the Father’s love for us,
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen
One Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life,
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom!

“How Deep The Father’s Love For Us” Stuart Townsend © 1995 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing), All rights Reserved. CCLI License No. 759893

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

OPENING SCRIPTURES

Psalm 89:1–2, 5, 8, 52; Isaiah 2:5b

P I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;

C with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations.

P For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens You will establish Your faithfulness.”

C Let the heavens praise Your wonders, O LORD, Your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

P O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as You are, O LORD, with Your faithfulness all around You?

C Blessed be the LORD forever! Amen and Amen. Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

CONFESSiON (sung)

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

(Sung)

I confess to You, O Lord, that I have sinned.
I confess to You, O Lord, all my sin within.
I have failed to live for You
In the things I say and do,
And have fallen short of living in Your love.

Chorus

**Lord, have mercy on me.
Lord, have mercy, set me free.
O forgive me, Lord, I pray,
And take my sin away
By the cross and empty grave for my soul.**

I confess to You, O Lord, that I have sinned.
I confess to You, O Lord, all my sin within.
I have placed myself above,
And have hurt the ones I love,
And I know that only You can set me free. (chorus)

Take us back to the water. Wash away our sins.
Welcome us, O Father, Back to Your home again.
Bless Your sons and daughters,
And let the feast begin, Let it begin! **(chorus)**

"Confession", words and music by Michael A. Schmid. Copyright © 2008 by Michael A. Schmid c/o True Vine Music, Napa CA. Truevinemusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission under CCLI License No. 759893

ABSOLUTION

P "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). We receive the riches of God's forgiveness because of Jesus. 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.

Father of glory, You reveal Your greatness in showing mercy. Keep our focus faithfully on the cross of Christ, where Your mercy was displayed in its fullness, and fill our hearts with thankfulness for Your gift of salvation; through Your Son, 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.

+ THE WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 6:1-8 (ESV)

¹Hear what the LORD says:

Arise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has an indictment against His people,
and He will contend with Israel.

³“O My people, what have I done to you?
How have I wearied you? Answer Me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O My people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised,
and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

¹⁸The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. ²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

LAMBS' LESSON

Pr. Jim Sprengle

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12 (ESV)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when He sat down, His disciples came to Him.

²And He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

³Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

PRAYER AND LOVE-IN-ACTION REQUESTS GATHERED

“Mercy Tree”

On a hill called Calvary
Stands an endless mercy tree.
Ev’ry broken, weary soul
Find your rest and be made whole.
Stripes of blood that stain its frame,
Shed to wash away our shame.
From the scars pure love released;
Salvation by the mercy tree.

In the sky between two thieves
Hung the blameless Prince of Peace,
Bruised and battered, scarred and scorned,
Sacred head pierced by our thorns.
“It is finished” was His cry.
The perfect Lamb was crucified.
His sacrifice, our victory;
Our Savior chose the mercy tree.

Hope went dark that violent day.
The whole earth quaked at Love’s display.
Three days silent in the ground,
This body born for Heaven’s crown.

On that bright and glorious day
When Heaven opened up the grave:
He's alive and risen indeed!
Oh, praise Him for the mercy tree!

Chorus

Death has died, love has won;
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Jesus Christ has overcome;
He has risen from the dead.

One day soon we'll see His face;
Ev'ry tear, He'll wipe away.
No more pain or suffering;
Praise Him for the mercy tree. **(chorus twice)**

On a hill called Calvary
Stands an endless mercy tree.

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SERMON “TWO STORIES, ONE TRUTH”

Pr. Jim Sprengle
1 Corinthians 1:18-31

CREED

“We All Believe in One True God”

LSB 953

- 1 We all believe in one true God,
 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
 Ever-present help in need,
 Praised by all the heav'nly host;
 All He made His love enfolds,
 All creation He upholds.

- 2 We all believe in Jesus Christ,
 Son of God and Mary's son,
 Who descended from His throne
 And for us salvation won;
 By whose cross and death are we
 Rescued from all misery.

3 We all confess the Holy Ghost,
Who from both in truth proceeds,
Who sustains and comforts us
In all trials, fears, and needs.
Blessèd, holy Trinity,
Praise forever be to Thee!

“We All Believe in One True God”, Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

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.)

“Blest Are They”

8:30am

Words and music by David Haas
(based on today's Gospel, The Beatitudes)
Ascension Choir

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

Lord, You have called us to good work in our various vocations. Give us courage that we might never be ashamed of Christ and Him crucified, but be free to boast in the Lord within our callings. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of all wisdom, You tell us plainly that the Word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but it is Your power to all who are being saved. Strengthen the faith of pastors and congregations, that they would not turn to man-made wisdom but boldly proclaim Christ and Him crucified. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son as the Savior of the world, that all the families of the nations might worship before You. Bless the families of this congregation with Your grace and protection, that they might remember You in both joy and trouble and worship before You forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, when Christ returns in His glory You promise to wipe away every tear from every eye. Comfort those who mourn. Heal and deliver, according to Your good and gracious will, those troubled by sickness and affliction...Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord of all joy, thank You for the occasions of commemoration and celebration in our lives that testify to Your goodness. We give thanks today for...Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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**

(11:00am service, please turn to page 15 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 do not drink alcohol, and gluten-free wafers are
available on the cup return table.)*

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 +

“Behold The Lamb”

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
Slain for us: and we remember:
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King.

The body of our Savior, Jesus Christ,
Torn for you: eat and remember
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life,
Paid the price to make us one.

So we share in this Bread of Life,
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,
Shed for you: drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God.
So we share in this Bread of Life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of grace
Around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith
We rise to respond: and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering,
We proclaim: Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King.

“Behold The Lamb”, Stuart Townend, Keith & Kristyn Getty Copyright © 2007 Thankyou Music (Adm. by CapitolCMGPublishing.com excl. UK & Europe, adm. by Integrity Music, part of the David C Cook family, songs@integritymusic.com)

“The Old Rugged Cross”

On a hill far away
Stood an old rugged cross;
The emblem of suffering and shame.
And I love that old cross
Where the dearest and best,
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Chorus

**So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.**

Oh, that old rugged cross,
So despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God,
Left His glory above,
To bear it to dark Calvary. **(chorus)**

In the old rugged cross,
Stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross,
Jesus suffered and died,
To pardon and sanctify me. **(chorus)**

To that old rugged cross
I will ever be true,
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
When He'll call me some day
To my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share. **(chorus)**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

Blessed are You, almighty God, for by You we have been fed and nourished with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to treasure the wisdom of our Lord and see in Him the fullness of Your divine presence in our darkened world. Grant us Your abiding peace in each day of our lives as we await Your eternal kingdom. In the name of Jesus, our hope and comfort, we pray.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

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

(See the FYI in the back of the Bulletin for more information.)

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross
 On which the Prince of Glory died,
 My richest gain I count but loss
 And pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
 Save in the death of Christ, my God;
 All the vain things that charm me most,
 I sacrifice them to His blood.
- 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet
 Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
 Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
 Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
 That were a tribute far too small;
 Love so amazing, so divine,
 Demands my soul, my life, my all!

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, Text: Public domain

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God!**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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† WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We will resume our Bible Study at 2:00pm on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026, with lesson 4. See you then!

† SNOWCAP DONATIONS 2025

We just received our receipt for charitable donations to Snowcap through 2025. We donated 1106 pounds of food, clothing and other in-kind goods. This is due to YOUR generosity, thank you so much.

† JERRY BANGS MEMORIAL

The memorial service will be at 1:00pm on Saturday, Feb. 7. All are welcome.

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

The family of Jerry Bangs, The family of Mike Fogarty, Regan, Diane and Ed and Ingrid (friends and neighbors of Cynthia Jacobsen), Barbara Lewis, Carolyn Staudt, Marla Gruber, Joann Schulz, Chenery Whittier's son (Aaryan), Heather Gulde, Riki Neagle, Jim Eckart, Gina Kreps, Mae Smith, *Barbara Schrader, *Larry Hart, *Mel and Lorraine Haggard. *Home Bound.

† PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY

Brett Monson – Navy, San Diego CA (Grandson of Joann Schulz)
Jamie Wong-Lopez, Navy, Kaneohe Bay HI (nephew of Merci McInaney)

Clayton Wright, Air Force – (grandson of Virginia Jacobs)

Colton Wright, Navy – (grandson of Virginia Jacobs)

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

Bradley Zeller, Army – Fort Lewis WA (grandson of the Zeller's)

Kyle Zeller, Army – Deployed to Poland (grandson of the Zeller's)

MILESTONES – Sunday, Feb. 1 through Sat., Feb. 7

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:

Brandy Webber Feb. 1

BIRTHDAYS:

Alma Bangs	Feb. 1	Danielle Brown	Feb. 1
Nekayla Maier	Feb. 1	Barbara Nelsen	Feb. 4
Frances Rippon	Feb. 4	Caleb Zeebuth	Feb. 5

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: None

ASSISTING IN SERVICE TODAY, SUN., FEB. 1, 2026

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Bruce Blubaum	Bob Ritchie
Ushers:	John Aden	Marcus Young
	Stan Chapulis	Don Brown
Audio/Visual:	Laura Potter	Wyatt Brown
PowerPoint:	Jenny Schuldheisz	Katherlyn Houk
Greeters:	Elizabeth Alvarado	Heather Gulde
	Margo Bachhuber	
Readers:	Peggy Hall	J. E. Knox
Altar Guild:	Both Services: Jan Oswald	
Flowers:	Both Services: NEEDED	
Counters:	Both Services: Cindy Reinert and Sandy Kirchner	
Sunday School:	Audrey and Carolyn – Unit 2, Lesson 8	

ASSISTING NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Randy Bryant	Randy Schroeder
Ushers:	Jim Eckart	Matthias McInaney
	Stan Chapulis	John Aden
Audio/Visual:	Teresa Osgood	Laura Potter
PowerPoint:	Tom Osgood	Michele Sprengle
Greeters:	Millie Edwards	Riki Neagle
Readers:	NEEDED	Mark Wheeler
Altar Guild:	Both Services: Virginia Jacobs	
Flowers:	Both Services: NEEDED	
Counters:	Both Services: Lottie Guericke and Stan Chapulis	
Sunday School:	Katherine and Cynthia – Unit 2, Lesson 9	

EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., FEB. 1–SAT., FEB. 7, 2026

Sunday, Feb. 1	8:30am	Worship w/ Communion
	9:45am	Adult Ed and Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship
	12:15pm	NO Bell Practice
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship
Monday, Feb. 2	1:00pm	Human Care Board Meeting
	6:00pm	Young Adult Bible Study
Tuesday, Feb. 3	2:30pm	Confirmation
	6:00pm	Elder Meeting
Thursday, Feb. 5	6:00pm	NO Praise Team
	7:00pm	NO Choir Practice
Saturday, Feb. 7	1:00pm	Jerry Bangs Memorial Service

EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., FEB. 8–SAT., FEB. 14, 2026

Sunday, Feb. 8	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Adult Ed and Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship w/ Communion
	12:15pm	Bell Practice
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship
Monday, Feb. 9	1:00pm	Stewardship Board Meeting
	6:00pm	Young Adult Bible Study
Tuesday, Feb. 10	2:00pm	Women's Bible Study Lesson 4
	2:30pm	Confirmation
	6:00pm	Council Meeting
Thursday, Feb. 12	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Practice



1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233
Office Phone: 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."

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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