



Advent Midweek One

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
"A Church for Families and a Family for Everyone"
Advent 1 Midweek ~November 30, 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!

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.

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

✠ PREPARATION ✠

THEME: The Bible, Our Book of Advents

“Born, Born, Born, to Living Hope!”

AS WE GATHER: Imagine the Bible as a Book of Advents, especially as birth announcements leading to the incarnation (manifestation) of the Son of God among us. In Jesus you have been given new birth in baptism. Let this hope lead you to a greater sense of the presence of God in your life allowing you to experience living hope.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

HYMN

“The Advent of Our God”

The advent of our God
Shall be our theme for prayer;
Come, let us meet Him on the road
And place for Him prepare.

The everlasting Son
Incarnate stoops to be,
Himself the servant's form puts on
To set His people free.

Come, Zion's daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.

All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever
One Through all eternity.

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I 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. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

☩ THE WORD ☩

OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 12:1–3; 18:1–15 (ESV)

¹ Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

¹ And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth ³ and said, “O Lord, if I have found favor in Your sight, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash Your feet, and rest Yourselves under the tree,

⁵ while I bring a morsel of bread, that You may refresh Yourselfs, and after that You may pass on—since You have come to Your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” ⁶ And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes.” ⁷ And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before Them. And he stood by Them under the tree while They ate. ⁹ They said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” And he said, “She is in the tent.” ¹⁰ The LORD said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. ¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?” ¹³ The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ ¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.” ¹⁵ But Sarah denied it, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. He said, “No, but you did laugh.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:48–58 (ESV)

The Jews answered Him, “Are we not right in saying that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?” ⁴⁹ Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor Me. ⁵⁰ Yet I do not seek My own glory; there is One who seeks it, and He is the judge. ⁵¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word, he will never see death.” ⁵² The Jews said to Him, “Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet You say, ‘If anyone keeps My word, he will never taste death.’ ⁵³ Are You greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do You make Yourself out to be?” Jesus answered, “If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing. It is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ ⁵⁵ But you have not known Him. I know Him. If I were to say that I do not know Him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know Him and I keep His word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see My day. He saw it and was glad.”

⁵⁷ So the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN "See This Wonder in the Making"

See this wonder in the making: God Himself this child is taking
As a lamb safe in His keeping, His to be, awake or sleeping.

Miracle each time it happens As the door to heaven opens
And the Father beams, "Belovèd, Heir of gifts a king would covet!"

Here we bring a child of nature; Home we take a newborn creature,
Now God's precious son or daughter, Born again by Word and water.

MESSAGE "Born, Born, Born, to Living Hope!"
Genesis 12:1–3; 18:1–15; John 8:48-58 **Pastor Jim Sprenkle**

PRAYERS (following each petition)

P "Lord, we await You,"

C "in Your advent."

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Mt 6:9ff; Lk 11:2ff)

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.**

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

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

HYMN “God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It”

God’s own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it, Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth’s treasures many? have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free, Lasting to eternity!

Sin, disturb my soul no longer: I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger: Jesus’ cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me,
Since my baptism did release me
In a dear forgiving flood, Sprinkling me with Jesus’ blood?

Satan, hear this proclamation: I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation; I am not so soon enticed.
Now that to the font I’ve traveled, All your might has come unraveled,
And, against your tyranny, God, my Lord, unites with me!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Ascension Lutheran Church

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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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