



BECAUSE OF [GOD] YOU ARE IN

CHRIST JESUS, WHO BECAME TO US

Wisdom
FROM
GOD.

RIGHTEOUSNESS AND SANCTIFICATION

AND REDEMPTION.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:30, ESV

Ascension Lutheran Church

"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"

January 29, 2023

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

January 29, 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: The Lord's "Do" and "Done"

AS WE GATHER: Today's Old Testament Reading is the basis for the reproaches, traditionally spoken on Good Friday: "Thus says the LORD: What have I done to you, O My people..." We know that, like God's ancient people, we fail to live in ways pleasing to Him. In terms of the Epistle, we reflect the world around us in its false wisdom, rather than rejoicing in God's great folly in sacrificing His Son for us. And so, we pay more attention to the beginning of each Beatitude rather than finding solace in the reason for the blessing coming with that circumstance or action. But the Law-filled "do" in that list is covered by the "done" in the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord. He is the only One who fulfilled all our heavenly Father's will. And the Good News is that He did it in our place! He took all the Father's reproaches, all our worldliness, and all our failures to the cross. The great epiphany there was our Lord's showing the world God's boundless love for us. How shall we respond?

PRELUDE

WELCOME

MEDLEY

"Open Our Eyes"

Open our eyes Lord, We want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch Him, And say that we love Him.
Open our ears Lord, And help us to listen,
Open our eyes Lord, We want to see Jesus. **(repeat)**

"I Love You, Lord"

I love You, Lord, and I lift my voice
To worship You, O my soul, rejoice.
Take joy, my King, in what You hear –
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear. **(repeat)**

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, 30*

- 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** He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus,
C **whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.**

CONFESSION (sung)

- P** Let us confess our sin to the Lord as we pray and sing:

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.

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)**

ABSOLUTION

P The Lord has had mercy on you and has sent His Son Jesus Christ as the atoning sacrifice for your sins. By His Word and Promise I declare to you the forgiveness of all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit. You are forgiven. You are set free.

C Amen.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; 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 ✠

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:18–31 (ESV)

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. ¹⁹ For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰ Where 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? ²¹ For 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. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. ²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ And because of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

A 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.

¹ Seeing the crowds, He went up on the mountain, and when He sat down, His disciples came to Him. ² And He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. ⁵ "Blessed 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.
¹² Rejoice 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 / LOVE IN ACTION REQUESTS GATHERED

HYMN

“Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”

Blessèd Jesus, at Your Word
We are gathered all to hear You.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred
Now to seek and love and fear You,
By Your teachings, sweet and holy,
Drawn from earth to love You solely.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight
Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till Your Spirit breaks our night
With the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us;
You must work all good within us.

Gracious Savior, good and kind,
Light of Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind;
Help us by Your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry Your Church now raises;
Hear and bless our prayers and praises.



Father, Son, and Spirit, Lord,
Praise to You and adoration!
Grant that we may trust Your Word,
Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander,
Till we sing Your praises yonder.

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.)*

(8:30)

“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 all people who call out to God in their distress.
For our brothers and sisters who are poor in spirit because of
outside oppression or personal problems, that God would
remind them of their heavenly citizenship, let us pray to the
Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

- P** For those who mourn, that by their faith in Christ's resurrection they would be comforted, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who are meek as they thirst for righteousness, that God would raise up local and national leaders to provide security and justice for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who reflect the mercy of God as they tend to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those under their care, that God would give them wisdom and strength, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the ill, the suffering, and all who mourn...let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the blessings of baptisms, birthdays and anniversaries that we celebrate this week...let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who single-mindedly focus on sharing God's peace with conflicted people around them, that God would keep them strong in faith to use every opportunity at their disposal, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the Church wherever people gather around Word and Sacrament, that God would alleviate persecution they may be enduring and let the Church grow in faith and numbers, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For ourselves in every difficulty, that God would remind us of Christ's having done in our stead all that He calls us to do, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **In grateful thanksgiving, we rejoice this day and look forward to the reward our Savior won for us. To You alone, O Father, be all the glory, with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, give us faith and boldness to pray with confidence:
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 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

HYMN

“How Can I Thank You, Lord”

How can I thank You, Lord, For all Your loving kindness,
That You have patiently Endured my sinful blindness!
When dead in many sins And trespasses I lay,
I kindled, holy God, Your anger ev'ry day.

It is Your work alone That I am now converted;
Against the sin in me You have the pow'r asserted.
Your mercy and Your grace, Which rise afresh each morn,
Have turned my stony heart Into a heart newborn.

Lord, You have raised me up To joy and exultation
And clearly shown the way That leads me to salvation.
My sins are washed away; For this I thank You, Lord,
That in my heart and soul I have all sin abhorred.

O Father, God of love, Accept my supplication;
O Savior, Son of God, Grant me Your full salvation;
O Holy Spirit, be My ever faithful guide
That I may serve You here And there with You abide.

DISMISSAL

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS JANUARY 29, 2022

† 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!

† 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

† THE CHOSEN SEASON 3!

We will begin season 3 on the Second Saturday in February! We hope you all will come and watch with us again! It will be the 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 10:30 once again! If you need a book and do not want to order your own let Michele know asap!

† MILESTONES

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Sheryl Maier	Jan. 29	George Maier	Jan. 31
Brandy Webber	Feb. 1	Lillian Lambert	Feb. 2

BIRTHDAYS

Ron Barendse	Jan. 30	Celia Kreps	Jan. 30
Gabby Webber	Jan. 30	Brayson Pardue	Jan 31
Alma Bangs	Feb. 1	Nekayla Maier	Feb. 1
Barbara Nelsen	Feb. 4	Frances Rippon	Feb. 4

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: NONE

ASSISTING IN SERVICE 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	None
Altar Circle:	Both Services	Jan Oswald
Flowers:	Both Services	Ed and Margaret Hubbard
Counters:	Both Services	Dave and Jan Oswald

ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, FEB. 5

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Randy Schroeder	John Hazen
Acolytes:		
Ushers:	Stan Chapulis Bob Rekdahl Jim Eckart Ryan Deatherage	Matthias McInaney Marcus Young
Audio/Visual:	Laura Potter	Michele Sprengle
PowerPoint:	Wanda Cassetty	Jessica Brown
Greeters:	Margo Bachhuber Elizabeth Alvarado	Riki Neagle Carrie Graham
Readers:	Randy Schroeder	Julie Williamson
Altar Circle:	Both Services	Margo Bachhuber
Flowers:	Both Services	Riki Neagle
Counters:	Both Services	Bob and Elaina Ritchie

† 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. 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

EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., FEB. 5 - SAT., FEB. 11

Sunday, Feb. 5	8:30am	Worship with Communion
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Tuesday Feb. 7	6:00pm	Elder Meeting
Wednesday Feb. 8	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
Thursday, Feb. 9	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Feb. 10	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
	7:00pm	Confirmation
Saturday, Feb. 11	10:30am	The Chosen Season 3

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

