



*“A
different
way”*

Luke 6:27-38

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
“A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone”
Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025

SEVENTH 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 Christs body in the bread and His blood in the wine; (3) confess and repent of ones 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.*)

+ PREPARATION +

THEME: "WHAT IS GOD UP TO?"

AS WE GATHER: God, in His infinite wisdom and knowledge, uses events and people to accomplish His will. In His grace and love, He can use even what may appear to be bad circumstances to save His people. As death came through man, so also through one man, Christ Jesus, comes life. As we live our lives in response to the Gospel, Jesus exhorts us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate, to pray for those who abuse, not to judge, and to turn the other cheek.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

"Father Welcomes"

LSB 605

**Refrain Father welcomes all His children
 To His fam'ly through His Son.
 Father giving His salvation,
 Life forever has been won.**

- 1 Little children, come to Me,
 For My kingdom is of these.
 Life and love I have to give,
 Mercy for your sin. **(refrain)**
- 2 In the water, in the Word,
 In His promise, be assured:
 Those who are baptized and believe
 Shall be born again. **(refrain)**
- 3 Let us daily die to sin;
 Let us daily rise with Him,
 Walk in the love of Christ our Lord,
 Live in the peace of God. **(refrain)**

"Father Welcomes", Text: Robin Mann, 1949, Text: © 1986 Kevin Mayhew Ltd. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 15:21–22, 42

- P** As by a man came death,
C by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
P As in Adam all die,
C so also in Christ shall all be made alive.
P What is sown is perishable;
C what is raised is imperishable.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Luke 6:27, 32, 37

- P** Confident of our Lord's victory over death, leading all who follow Him by faith, let us confess our sins.
"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you." We confess our failure to love our enemies, O Lord.
C We have responded to them as they have dealt with us. We have not done to them as we wish they would have done to us. Forgive us, Father.
P "If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you?" We confess our giving preference to people who are like us.
C We have loved those near and dear to us and have dealt with others without love and mercy. Forgive us, Lord Jesus.
P "Judge not, and you will not be judged." We confess our judgment of people we think are not up to the standards we think we can meet.
C We have failed to pass on the forgiveness we have received from You, O Holy Spirit. Forgive us, Lord our God.
P "Forgive, and you will be forgiven." Your sins have been forgiven by the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! As a called and ordained servant of His, I therefore forgive you 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, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; 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

Genesis 45:3-15 (ESV)

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. ⁴So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. ¹⁰You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' ¹²And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck.

¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

LAMBS' LESSON

Pr. Jim Sprengle

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 6:27-38 (ESV)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁷[Jesus said:] "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. ³²"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for He is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. ³⁷"Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

PRAYER AND LOVE IN ACTION REQUESTS ARE GATHERED

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

LSB 843

1 "Forgive our sins as we forgive,"
You taught us, Lord, to pray;
But You alone can grant us grace
To live the words we say.

2 How can Your pardon reach and bless
The unforgiving heart
That broods on wrongs and will not let
Old bitterness depart?

3 In blazing light Your cross reveals
The truth we dimly knew:
What trivial debts are owed to us,
How great our debt to You!

4 Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
And bid resentment cease;
Then, bound to all in bonds of love,
Our lives will spread Your peace.

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive", Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–87, alt., Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

SERMON **"A DIFFERENT WAY"**

Pr. Jim Sprengle
Luke 6:27-38

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. 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 ourselves, our friends and family, the nations of the world, and our enemies.

For the church, people gathered around Word and Sacrament, those who serve professionally that they reflect the Gospel they proclaim, and those who serve their family and friends quietly, that God remind them that they are indeed His children, let us pray to the Lord.

- C** Lord, hear our prayer.

- P** For the nations of this world and their leaders, that God use them for the good of all and that they serve both the influencers and those who have been forgotten by society, let us pray to the Lord.

- C** Lord, hear our prayer.

- P** For artists and craftspeople, musicians and actors, that they use their gifts to the glory of God, let us pray to the Lord.

- C** Lord, hear our prayer.

- P** For troops deployed and police at home, for first responders and health professionals and volunteers that their efforts bring about healing and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

- C** Lord, hear our prayer.

- P** For those that seek health and healing, recovery and remission, solace and peace...let us pray to the Lord.

- C** Lord, hear our prayer.

- P** For those who are celebrating this week...let us pray to the Lord.

- C** Lord, hear our prayer.

- P** For ourselves and our congregation, that God refresh and renew our resolve to spread the Gospel, love the people around us, and serve Him with all the resources He provides, let us pray to the Lord.

- C** Lord, hear our prayer.

- P** Into Your hands, gracious Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, grace, and compassion, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- 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.

(8:30am 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 do 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

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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 Saviour, 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.

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“Let It Be Said of Us”

Let it be said of us that the Lord was our passion,
That with gladness we bore ev’ry cross we were given;
That we fought the good fight, That we finished the course
Knowing within us the pow’r of the risen Lord.

Chorus

**Let the cross be our glory And the Lord be our song,
By mercy made holy, By the Spirit made strong.
Let the cross be our glory And the Lord be our song
‘Til the likeness of Jesus Be through us made known.
Let the cross be our glory And the Lord be our song.**

Let it be said of us: we were marked by forgiveness,
We were known by our love, and delighted in meekness.
We were ruled by His peace, heeding unity’s call;
Joined as one body that Christ would be seen by all.

(chorus twice)

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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You to guide, protect, and defend us so that we may always let Your love, mercy, and forgiveness move our hearts and minds; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G 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.

G Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

“In Christ Alone”

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand!

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save;
'Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied,
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious Day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine,
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace, serve the Lord!

G Thanks be to God!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FEB. 23, 2025

† CALLIGRAPHY CLASS

There will be a new calligraphy class offered Wednesdays beginning February 5 through March 26 from 2:00 to 3:30pm in the Community Room. Everyone is welcome. All supplies are provided, and the cost is \$2. Call Carolyn Gordon with any questions: 503-674-6713.

† WORKDAY PLANNED; WE NEED YOU!

Join us on Saturday March 1 from 9:00am to 12:00pm to clean up the inside of our church. All are welcome, jobs are varied.

† MY FATHER'S HOUSE NEEDS

It is time for us to outfit a new family with essentials at My Father's House. Please check out the whiteboard in the Narthex to see what you can donate. Write your name in the item you are getting and then bring it to the Community room after you have bought it. All items must be new and unopened. Thank you for your generosity!

† SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES – WE NEED YOUR HELP

A/V Booth Support – PowerPoint or helping with the camera and sound.

If you're willing to serve, please let Michele know: 503-665-8821 or office@alcportland.org.

The other jobs were scooped up right away! Thanks so much! Thank you for being a blessing to our church.

† COOKIES FOR KARLA DEAL MEMORIAL

The memorial for Karla Deal is planned for Saturday, Mar. 22 at 1:00pm at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 6700 NE 29th Ave, Portland, OR 97211. If you plan on attending and would like to bring home baked cookies when you come to the service, it is the wish of the family that you do so. If you plan on helping with cookies, please call Michele to let her know: 503-665-8821

† HELEN PENK MEMORIAL SERVICE

Saturday March 8 at 1:00pm. All are welcome.

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

The Family of Carol Hoefer, The Family of Karla Deal, Riki Neagle, Bobbie Adams, Mike Fogarty, Jan Galberth, Randy Bryant's friend (Robert), Jim Eckart, Gina Kreps, Mae Smith, Ed Hubbard, Alma Bangs, Marcia Bryant's relative (Ron), Kaye Beaulieu's Brother (Dick), Virginia Jacob's brother (Robert), Esperanza Gutierrez' mother (Antonia), *Barbara Schrader, *Larry Hart, *Mel and Lorraine Haggard. *Home Bound.

† PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY

Brett Monson – Navy, San Diego CA (Grandson of Joann Schulz)
Michael Williamson, Air Force, Reserve, Texas (grandson of Rebecca Williamson);
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 Neil and Deb Zeller)
Kyle Zeller, Army – Ft. Hood TX (grandson of Neil and Deb Zeller)

ASSISTING IN SERVICE TODAY, SUN., FEB. 23, 2025

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Randy Bryant	John Hazen
Acolytes:	NEEDED	NEEDED
Ushers:	Jim Eckart NEEDED	Neil Zeller Marcus Young Matthias McInaney
Audio/Visual:	Stan Chapulis	Laura Potter
PowerPoint:	Debbie Rekdahl	Rosemary Knox
Greeters:	Nancy Thomas	Carrie Graham
Readers:	Jim Eckart	Carlyn Staudt
Altar Guild:	Both Services: Margo Bachhuber	
Flowers:	Both Services: Steve and Kysa Schaefer	
Counters:	Both Services: Bob and Elaina Ritchie	
Sunday School	9:45am: Michele Sprengle and Carie Graham	

ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT, SUN., MARCH 2, 2025

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Bruce Blubaum	Bob Ritchie
Acolytes:	NEEDED	NEEDED
Ushers:	John Aden	Paul Walter
	Mike Adams	Marcus Young
	Stan Chapulis	
Audio/Visual:	Laura Potter	NEEDED
PowerPoint:	Jenny Schuldheisz	John Hazen
Greeters:	Margo Bachhuber	Riki Neagle
	Elizabeth Alvarado	
Readers:	Karon Keup	J. E. Knox
Altar Guild:	Both Services: Margo Bachhuber	
	<i>Ash Wednesday: Karen Z. and all Altar Guild</i>	
Flowers:	Both Services: NEEDED	
Counters:	Both Services: Bonnie Webber and Rebecca Williamson	
Sunday School	9:45am: Michele Sprengle and Carie Graham	

EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., FEB. 23 – SAT., MAR. 1

Sunday, Feb. 23	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Adult Ed and Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship with Communion
	12:15pm	Bell Practice
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship w/ Communion
Monday, Feb. 24	6:00pm	Young Adult Bible Study
Wednesday, Feb. 26	2:00pm	Calligraphy Class
Thursday, Feb. 27	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
Friday, Feb. 28	5:30pm	Confirmation
Saturday, March 1	9:00am	Church Interior Work Party

EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., MARCH 2 – SAT., MARCH 8

Sunday, March 2	8:30am	Worship with Communion
	9:45am	Adult Ed and Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship
	12:15pm	Bell Practice
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship
Monday, March 3	1:00pm	Human Care Board Meeting
	6:00pm	Young Adult Bible Study
Tuesday, March 4	6:00pm	Elder Meeting
Wednesday, March 5	2:00pm	Calligraphy Class
	3:30pm	Ash Wednesday Worship
	7:00pm	Ash Wednesday Worship
Thursday, March 6	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
Friday, March 7	5:30pm	Confirmation
Saturday, March 8	1:00pm	Helen Penk Memorial Service

† MILESTONES – Sunday, Feb. 23– Saturday, March 1

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:

Bruce Blubaum	Feb. 24	Gabriel Woods	Feb. 24
Stan Chapulis	Feb. 28	Eric Kreps	Feb. 28
Jennifer Netsch	Feb. 28	Celia Kreps	Mar. 1

BIRTHDAYS:

Angel Mukul Aguilar	Feb. 23	Bradley Grosz	Feb. 24
Evan Kreps	Feb. 24	Margo Bachhuber	Mar. 1

WEDDINGS:

None



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Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9am to 3pm