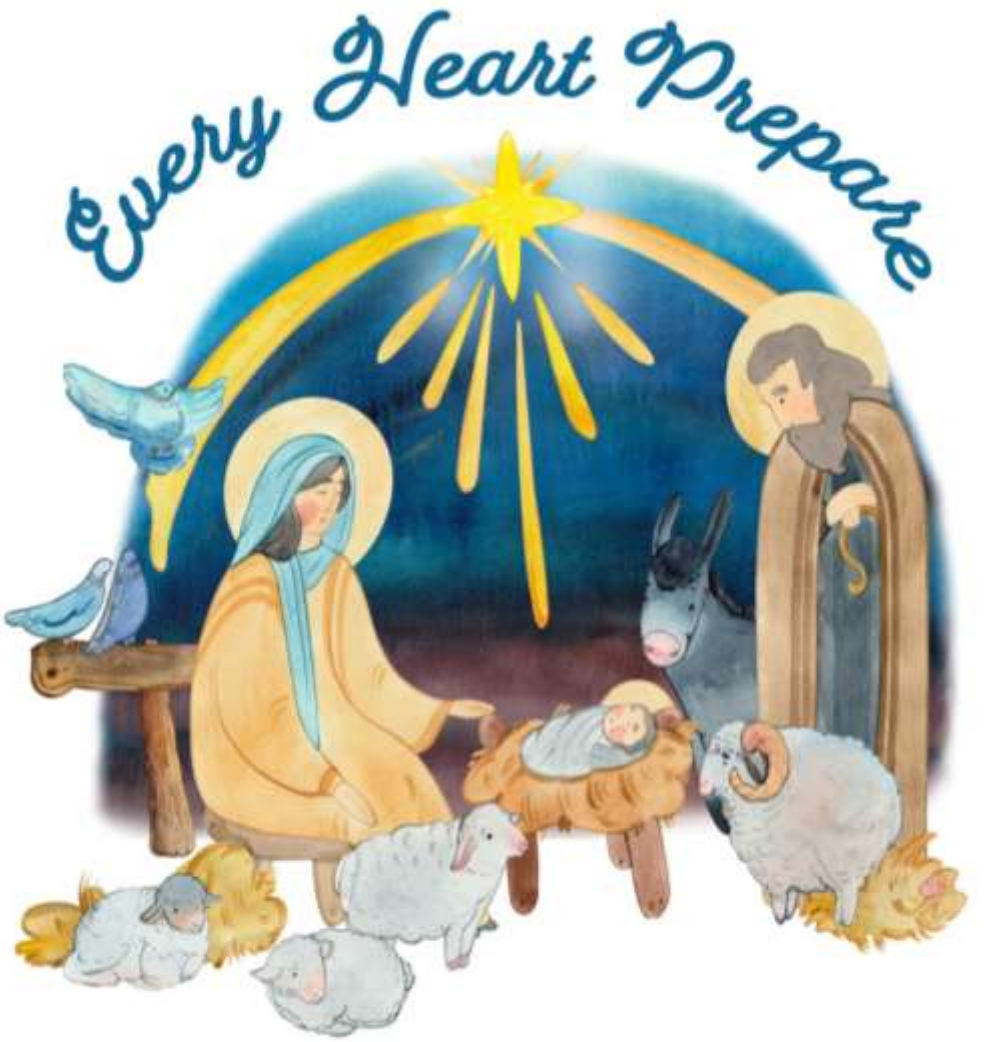

Advent Midweek Two

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

ADVENT MIDWEEK 2

WELCOME
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!

THITHES AND OFFERINGS
Please place your offering in the basket in the aisle. (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.)

+ PREPARATION +

THEME: "Lights"

AS WE GATHER: "Prepare!" is often the watchword of the season as the world gets ready for another celebration of Christmas. An integral part of any preparation is decoration. We see decorations everywhere this time of year. The world may not comprehend the real meaning of Christmas, but even secular preparations use many of the same decorations beloved by Christians—an appropriation we shouldn't mind at all, because these decorations point us to Christ. This year, as we look forward again to the coming of the Messiah, we take a fresh look at how the adornments of the season draw our eyes to Jesus, that we may more richly behold the love, peace, joy, and hope He comes to bring as this beauty is set before us. Tonight, we focus on lights. You see them everywhere this time of year. Some neighborhoods even compete, and tourist destinations spend millions on attractive light displays. Like evergreens, this is something nonreligious people do this time of year without appreciating their true significance. Yet we know that Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12). He came to restore righteousness to the world. This restoration continues to unfold through the ministry He has entrusted to His church. As Zechariah sang, "In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace" (*LSB*, Benedictus, Morning Prayer). We gather this evening to bask in the light of Jesus that His Word would have its way with us and so reflect His saving light into the darkness that remains in our world.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

"Hark the Glad Sound" **LSB 349**

1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.

2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To_enrich the humble poor.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy belovèd name.

"Hark the Glad Sound", Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51, Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

C **Amen.**

OPENING SCRIPTURE Isaiah 40:3b,c, 5; Psalm 118:26

P Prepare the way of the LORD;

C **make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

P Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!

C **We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

P And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

C **and all flesh shall see it together. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

(Silence as we consider our sinful condition.)

P Let us confess our sin together:

C **Heavenly Father, we are captive and exiled, choosing our own path away from You. We seek wisdom and knowledge to replace You with our own judgment. Too often we try on our own, but we cannot guide ourselves. Come, Lord Jesus; forgive us and restore us; guide us and deliver us; teach us and renew us. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Lord of light and life, You came into our world to remove sin and restore us to righteousness. Shine Your light anew into our hearts and cleanse us from all the deceiving evils that lurk within them, that we may live without fear of this world but joyfully anticipate Your glorious return; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

+ THE WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 9:1-2; 6-7 (ESV)

℗ A reading from Isaiah, the ninth chapter.

1 But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former
time He brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of
Naphtali, but in the latter time He has made glorious the way of the
sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

2 The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.
6For to us a Child is born,
to us a Son is given;
and the government shall be upon His shoulder,
and His name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7Of the increase of His government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over His kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

℗ O Lord, have mercy on us.
℃ **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY Psalm 118:15–29 (ESV)

(cantor – odd verses; **congregation – Antiphon and even vv**.)

(Antiphon)

The Lord is God,
and He has made His light to shine up- | on us.*
Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,
up to the horns of the | altar!

[15]Glad songs of salvation
are in the tents of the | righteous:*
"The right hand of the LORD does | valiantly,

[16]the right hand of the | LORD exalts,*
the right hand of the LORD does | valiantly!"

[21]I thank You that You have | answered me*
and have become my sal- | vation.

[22]The stone that the builders re- | jected*
has become the | cornerstone.

[23]This is the LORD's | doing;*
it is marvelous | in our eyes.

[24]This is the day that the | LORD has made;*
let us rejoice and be | glad in it.

[25]Save us, we pray, | O LORD!*
O LORD, we pray, give | us success!

[26]Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the LORD!*
We bless you from the house | of the LORD.

[29]Oh give thanks to the LORD, for | He is good;*
for His steadfast love endures for- | ever!

(Antiphon)

The LORD is God,
and He has made His light to shine up- | on us.*
Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,
up to the horns of the | altar!

EPISTLE READING 2 Corinthians 4:3–6 (ESV)

℗ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

HOLY GOSPEL John 1:1-9 (ESV)

℗ A reading from John, the first chapter.

℄ **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[1]In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2]He was in the beginning with God. [3]All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. [4]In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. [5]The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. [6]There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. [7]He came as a witness, to bear witness about the Light, that all might believe through him. [8]He was not the Light, but came to bear witness about the Light. [9]The true Light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

℗ O Lord, have mercy on us.

℄ **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORY 1 Peter 2:9; Psalm 118:27a; 89:15; Isaiah 60:19b

℗ You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

℄ **The LORD is God, and He has made His light to shine upon us.**

℗ Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face.

℄ **The LORD is God, and He has made His light to shine upon us.**

℗ The LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.

℄ **The LORD is God, and He has made His light to shine upon us.**

“The Night Will Soon Be Ending”

“The Night Will Soon Be Ending”, Text: Jochen Klepper, 1903–42; tr. Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007, Tune: Welsh, Text: © 1998 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673, Tune: Public domain

SERMON Pr. Jim Sprengle

“THE TRUE LIGHT”

“Jesus, the Light of the World”

See the Bright and Morning Star,
Jesus, the Light of the World!
He has risen in our hearts,
Jesus, the Light of the World!

Refrain

We’ll walk in the Light, beautiful Light;
Come where His love and His mercy are bright.
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the Light of the World.

He’s the Lamp that lights our way,
Jesus, the Light of the World!
Step by step and day by day -
Jesus, the Light of the World! **(refrain)**

No more darkness, no more night -
Jesus, the Light of the World!
He will shine forever bright,
Jesus, the Light of the World! **(refrain)**

“Jesus, the Light of the World”, Words by Ken Bible and George D. Elderki, Music by George D. Elderkin; arr. by Ken Bible, © 1998, 2000, 2009 by LNWhymns.com. CCLI Song #3084764

ADVENT LITANY Hebrews 10:25

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For eyes to behold the Father’s hand in all creation, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For awareness of beauty and the living traditions of the church that bring Christ to our eyes through arts and crafts, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That we may see the signs of Christ’s return even as we celebrate His birth, and encourage one another all the more as we see the Day drawing near, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

℗ That we may be living testimonies of new life in Christ through our loving service to our neighbor—both in word and in deed, let us pray to the Lord:

℃ **Lord, have mercy.**

℗ That we may be thankful for the bountiful harvest we enjoy amid the many festivities of this season, and be generous to the poor, let us pray to the Lord:

℃ **Lord, have mercy.**

℗ That we may love one another as God so loved us, forgive one another, and work together in the unity we have in Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord:

℃ **Lord, have mercy.**

℗ That we may not be lured into temptation or despair or be distracted by the false Christmases around us, but always hold the true meaning of Christmas in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord:

℃ **Lord, have mercy.**

CLOSING PRAYER

℗ Father of lights,

℃ **every good and perfect gift comes from You.**

℗ Thank You for sending Your Son to bring the light of life into the world and shining it into our hearts through the Gospel.

℃ **Give us Your Spirit to hold us fast as we walk through dark places that remain in our world. Grant that our faith not grow dim but, by Your grace, glow in us through our final journey—that we may radiate Your goodness and glory each day and many may join us in Your light and also walk with You;**

℗ through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

℃ **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.

BENEDICTION Ephesians 1:17ff, adapt.; Revelation 1:5-6

P May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints.

C **To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. **(refrain)**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel", Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt., Text: Public domain

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

Ascension Lutheran Church

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."

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

Rev. Ruberto Ek Yah, **Pastor**
rubastinoek@yahoo.com

Brad Hall, **Worship and Music Coordinator**
bdhall1982@yahoo.com

Michele Sprengle, **Office Administrator**
office@alcportland.org