



# honest repentance

LENTEN MIDWEEK SIX

Ascension Lutheran Church

*"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"*

LENT 6 MIDWEEK ~ March 29, 2023

## **FOURTH MIDWEEK IN LENT**

**March 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month, and at the 11:00 service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.

## + PREPARATION +

### THEME: "PURIFICATION"

#### Prelude

#### Welcome

#### HYMN

#### **If God Himself Be for Me** *(Tune: Today Your Mercy Calls Us)*

- 1 If God Himself be for me,  
I may a host defy;  
For when I pray, before me  
My foes, confounded, fly.  
If Christ, my head and master,  
Befriend me from above,  
What foe or what disaster  
Can drive me from His love?
- 2 I build on this foundation,  
That Jesus and His blood  
Alone are my salvation,  
My true, eternal good.  
Without Him all that pleases  
Is valueless on earth;  
The gifts I have from Jesus  
Alone have priceless worth.
- 5 For no one can condemn me  
Or set my hope aside;  
Now hell no more can claim me:  
Its fury I deride.  
No sentence now reproves me,  
No guilt destroys my peace;  
For Christ, my Savior, loves me  
And shields me with His grace.

- 6 Who clings with resolution  
To Him whom Satan hates  
Must look for persecution;  
For him the burden waits  
Of mock'ry, shame, and losses  
Heaped on his blameless head;  
A thousand plagues and crosses  
Will be his daily bread.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; (sts. 1, 5): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1907, Pittsburgh, alt.; (sts. 2, 6): tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Invocation

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

## Collect

- P** Let us pray.  
O Lord, the precious blood of Jesus washes away our sins and restores our spirits. Grant to us all the renewal and refreshing of the Holy Spirit, that we may with joy know the blood of our Savior has cleansed us from sin, has paid the price of our redemption, and nourishes us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

## Confession

- 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.**

## Absolution

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

## + READINGS +

### Psalm 130



<sup>1</sup>Out | of the depths\*

I cry to You, | O LORD!

<sup>2</sup>O Lord, | hear my voice!\*

Let Your ears be attentive

to the voice of my pleas for | mercy!

<sup>3</sup>If You, O LORD, should mark in- | iquities,\*

O Lord, | who could stand?

<sup>4</sup>But with You there is for- | givenness,\*

that You | may be feared.

<sup>5</sup>I wait for the LORD, my | soul waits,\*

and in His | word I hope;

<sup>6</sup>my soul waits for the Lord

more than watchmen for the | morning,\*

more than watchmen for the | morning.

<sup>7</sup>O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is | steadfast love,\*

and with Him is plentiful re- | demption.

<sup>8</sup>And He will redeem | Israel\*

from all His in- | iquities.

**A** A reading from Daniel, chapter three.

<sup>1</sup>King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. <sup>2</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. <sup>3</sup> Then the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. <sup>4</sup> And the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, <sup>5</sup> that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. <sup>6</sup> And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace." <sup>7</sup> Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. <sup>8</sup> Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. <sup>9</sup> They declared to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! <sup>10</sup> You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image. <sup>11</sup> And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. <sup>12</sup> There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." <sup>13</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. <sup>14</sup> Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up?

<sup>15</sup> Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?" <sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. <sup>18</sup> But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." <sup>19</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. <sup>20</sup> And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. <sup>21</sup> Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace. <sup>22</sup> Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. <sup>23</sup> And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace. <sup>24</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." <sup>25</sup> He answered and said, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods." <sup>26</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. <sup>27</sup> And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them. <sup>28</sup> Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants, who trusted in Him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.

<sup>29</sup> Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way.”

<sup>30</sup> Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## HYMN

### My Faith Looks Up to Thee

- 1 My faith looks up to Thee,  
Thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine.  
Now hear me while I pray;  
Take all my guilt away;  
O let me from this day  
Be wholly Thine!
- 2 May Thy rich grace impart  
Strength to my fainting heart;  
My zeal inspire!  
As Thou hast died for me,  
Oh, may my love to Thee  
Pure, warm, and changeless be,  
A living fire!
- 3 While life's dark maze I tread  
And griefs around me spread,  
Be Thou my guide;  
Bid darkness turn to day,  
Wipe sorrow's tears away,  
Nor let me ever stray  
From Thee aside.
- 4 When ends life's transient dream,  
When death's cold, sullen stream  
Shall o'er me roll,  
Blest Savior, then, in love,  
Fear and distrust remove;  
O bear me safe above,  
A ransomed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–87Text: Public domain



### **Tithes and Offerings**

Please place your offering in the basket provided. *(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** O Lord, hear my prayer.

**C** **And let my cry come to You.**

**P** Almighty God, grant that in the midst of our failures and weaknesses we may be restored through the passion and intercession of Your only-begotten Son. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Faithful Lord, You sent Your Son to restore Your house to be a house of prayer for all nations. Give us courage to approach Your throne in prayer and to invite all nations to be Your people; Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Mighty God, raise up faithful pastors, missionaries, teachers, and other church leaders. Stir up the hearts of Your faithful people to serve You with gladness and humility. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Father in heaven, we thank You for the mercy You show us in the cross of Him who comes in Your name to save us: Jesus Christ, our Lord. Grant that our journey through this season of Lent refresh our souls and draw us close to You as You gather us together in Your eternal presence. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** God of grace, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully hear our prayers for all the sick and grant them the help of Your power. If it is Your will, grant their sickness may be turned into health. Above all, may their sickness become an occasion for greater faith in You and confidence in the goodness You bring our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

## 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

- 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.

## HYMN

### Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

- 1 Lord, take my hand and lead me upon life's way;  
Direct, protect, and feed me from day to day.  
Without Your grace and favor I go astray;  
So take my hand, O Savior, and lead the way.

- 2 Lord, when the tempest rages,  
I need not fear,  
For You, the Rock of Ages,  
Are always near.  
Close by Your side abiding,  
I fear no foe,  
For when Your hand is guiding,  
In peace I go.
- 3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen  
And night has come,  
I know that You will strengthen  
My steps toward home.  
Then nothing can impede me,  
O blessed Friend;  
So take my hand and lead me  
Unto the end.

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.  
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## Dismissal

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

## Acknowledgments

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# **Ascension Lutheran Church**

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Church: 503-665-8821 • Web Site: [www.alcportland.org](http://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.

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