



"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14

Ascension Lutheran Church and School
"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"
Christmas Day ~ December 25, 2022

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD—CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2022

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.

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

† PREPARATION †

“In Jesus, the Word Becomes Flesh and Dwells Among Us.”

AS WE GATHER: The Word of God publishes the good news of our beautiful Christ, whose radiant light disperses the darkness of sin and illuminates the life of men. No other published word conveys such cataclysmic change. The power of sin is disarmed. The reign of God is unleashed in the song of joy, the radiance of God, and the speaking of Jesus—for in Him the Word becomes flesh and dwells among us

PRELUDE

WELCOME

HYMN “Angels From The Realms Of Glory”

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night;
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant Light.
Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

All creation, join in praising,
God, the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising,
To the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

INVOCATION

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)

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

OPENING SCRIPTURE *John 1:1, 4–5, 9; Isaiah 9:6; 52:10*

- P** In the beginning was the Word,
C **and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**
- P** In Him was life,
C **and the life was the light of men.**

P The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

C **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

P For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

C **and the government shall be upon His shoulder,**

P and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

C **Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

P The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,

C **and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

John 1:4–5; Isaiah 52:10

P Jesus, Word made flesh, You came to dwell among us, but the darkness of our sin separates and we often fail to bask in the light of Your presence.

C **We are 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.**

P John writes in our Gospel lesson, “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” Heavenly Father, too frequently we live in the darkness of unbelief.

C **Forgive us, Lord, for those sins we know, and those sins we do not know.**

P For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

C **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 Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to be born into this world and in our flesh for us, to live a perfect life we can never attain, and to give His life as a perfect sacrifice for you. For His sake, He forgives you all your sins. Christ was born to live for us, to die for us, that we by faith will rise with Him in victory. He was born as our Savior to forgive. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

CHRISTMAS LITANY

P Today we celebrate Christ's birth in Bethlehem.

C **Today we celebrate Christ's birth in each of us.**

P For Christ is born in Bethlehem to save the whole world.

C **And Christ is born in our hearts to save us each from sin.**

P Christ is born in Bethlehem to fulfill the words of the prophets of old.

C **And Christ is born in our hearts so that we may speak the words of Good News to future generations.**

P Christ is born in Bethlehem to bring joy to the world.

C **And Christ is born in our hearts to restore to us the joy of His salvation.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Good Christian Men, Rejoice"

(tune: Now Sing We, Now Rejoice)

Good Christian men, rejoice With heart and soul and voice.

Give ye heed to what we say, Jesus Christ is born today!

Ox and ass before Him bow And He is in the manger now.

Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice With heart and soul and voice!

Now ye need not fear the grave! Jesus Christ was born to save.

Calls you one and calls you all, To gain His everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, You make us glad with the celebration of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Help us and all people to the ends of the earth to see the salvation You have delivered to the world through this holy child. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

GREETING OF PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C And also with you.

MUSIC

“Child Of Peace”

words and music by Bob Farrell

Carlyn Staudt, soloist

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:7–10 (ESV)

(The Lord's coming salvation)

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” ⁸ The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. ⁹ Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted His people; He has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰ The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Hebrews 1:1–9 (ESV)

(The supremacy of God's Son)

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world.³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to Him a father, and He shall be to Me a Son”? ⁶ And again, when He brings the firstborn into the world, He says, “Let all God's angels worship Him.” ⁷ Of the angels He says, “He makes His angels winds, and His ministers a flame of fire.” ⁸ But of the Son He says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness beyond Your companions.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

LAMBS' LESSON

Pastor Jim Sprenkle

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1–18 (ESV)

(The Word became flesh.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C 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.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the Light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the Light, but came to bear witness about the Light. ⁹The true Light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. ¹¹He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. ¹²But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John bore witness about Him, and cried out, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because He was before me.’”) ¹⁶For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, He has made Him known.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Once in royal David’s city Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from Heaven Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall.
With the poor and meek and lowly, Lived on earth, our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood’s pattern Day by day, like us He grew,
He was little, weak and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew.
And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him Through His own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in Heaven above.
And He leads His children on To the place where He has gone.

SERMON “PUP TENTS AND TABERNACLES” John 1:1–18
Pr. Jim Sprenkle

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.)

“Still Her Little Child”

Ray Boltz | Steve Millikan

Karon Keup, soloist

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Heavenly Father, we give You thanks that Your Son, the eternal Word, has become flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Extend His praise into all the world, that with us many would come to hope in His steadfast love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Send forth men to publish Your peace and bring us Your good news of happiness. Keep them faithful to declare Your gracious reign in Christ. Bless the work of missionaries at home and abroad, that all the ends of the earth may see Your salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P As our families gather in this holy season, give us patience, that we may be slow to judge and quick to forgive. Comfort the lonely with Your presence, and help us extend the welcome of our homes and the friendship of Your grace. Make us mindful of those less fortunate, who celebrate this blessed feast in poverty and want, and teach us to be generous. Accept with our offerings the living sacrifice of our bodies to Your service and our voices in praise and thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Merciful Father, guard and keep all who are sick, lonely, overwhelmed by grief or poor in spirit, [*especially...* that they may be comforted and healed according to Your good and gracious will. Let them look to Jesus Christ and be reminded that He is the light no darkness can overcome. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We thank You, Lord God, for all Your people who have gone before us and now rest in Your presence. Keep us faithful with them until that day when You make all things new; for You live and reign with Christ and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung)

(tune: "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear")

Our Father, Lord on Heav'n's high throne,
Most holy be Your name.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done
On earth—in Heav'n the same.

Give us this day the food we need;
Forgiven may we be;

Into temptation do not lead;
From evil set us free.

Yours is the kingdom; unto You
In grateful love we bow;
And Yours the pow'r; Lord, let us view
Your mighty presence now.

The glory Yours; Your praise be sung
By angel hosts and men
In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue
Forevermore! Amen.

CLOSING RESPONSES

P The people who walked in darkness
C **have seen a great light!**

P For behold, I bring you good news of great joy!
C **Unto us is born this day a Savior!**

P He is Christ, the Lord!
C **Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace!**

BENEDICTION

P Christmas peace and joy through God's infinite love given in Christ, His only-begotten Son, be yours; and the blessing of God Almighty—Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit—be with you and abide with you forever.
C **Amen.**

HYMN “Go Tell It On The Mountain”

(chorus)
**Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born.**

Down in a lowly manger, The humble Christ was born;
And brought us God's salvation That blessed Christmas morn.
(chorus)

While shepherds kept their watching, O'er silent flocks by night;
Behold throughout the heavens, There shone a holy light **(chorus)**

The shepherds feared and trembled, When lo above the earth;
Rang out the angel chorus, That hailed our Savior's birth. **(chorus)**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Scripture taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Capitalization of pronouns referring to the Deity has been added and is not part of the original English Standard Version text.

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† 2023 FLOWER CHART

The 2023 Flower Chart is up and waiting for you to sign up for your special day. Check out what is left and get your date early!

† INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

It is the season to remember our policy on canceling services due to weather. If a snow and ice day affects a scheduled service, always call the church office to listen to the updated message before driving to church that day. We will also update the website and send out a Constant Contact email, but for those without Internet access, call the church office.

† MILESTONES

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Frances Rippon	Dec 28	Mae Smith	Dec 28
Virginia Hunt	Dec 29		

BIRTHDAYS

Jerry Bangs	Dec 21	Brandy Webber	Dec 21
Lillian Lambert	Dec 26	Kayla Driessner	Dec 28
Kim Driessner	Dec 28		

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

Dale and Sherry Porath	Dec. 27, 1966
Mel and Lorraine Haggard	Dec. 29, 1956

ASSISTING IN SERVICE SUNDAY, DEC. 25

10:00am

Elder:	John Hazen
Acolytes:	
Ushers:	Johnnie Driessner Jaden Mundo
Audio/Visual:	Michele Sprengle
PowerPoint:	Rebecca Williamson
Greeters:	Bonnie Webber
Readers:	Bonnie Webber
Altar Guild:	Jessica Brown
Flowers:	Altar Guild
Counters:	Karon Keup and Sheryl Maier

ASSISTING IN SERVICE SATURDAY, NEW YEAR'S EVE

7:00pm

Elder:
Ushers:
A/V: Laura Potter
PowerPoint: Debbie Rekdahl
Greeters: Rebecca Williamson
Altar Guild: Virginia Jacobs
Counters: Dave and Jan Oswald

ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, JAN. 1

10:00am

Elder: Dan Parshall
Acolytes:
Ushers: Marcus Young
Randy Schroeder
Audio/Visual: Michele Sprengle
PowerPoint: Jessica Brown
Greeters: Margo Bachhuber
Elizabeth Alvarado
Readers: Randy Schroeder
Altar Guild: Debbie Rekdahl
Flowers:
Counters: Dave and Jan Oswald

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Gina Kreps, Bill and Sylvia Guthrie, Kevin McInaney, Judy Blubaum, Robert (Virginia Jacob's Brother), Bill (Randy Bryant's brother-in-law), Cindy Linnemann, Brian Laxton, Carlyn Staudt, Karla Deal, George and Carlee Metteer, 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), Carol Santorufo (sister of Sue Wentela), Mike Fogarty, Members and friends with Covid, The people of Ukraine, *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).

EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., DEC. 25 - SAT., DEC. 31

Sunday, Dec. 25	10:00am 6:00pm	Christmas Worship Online Worship Posted
Monday, Dec. 26	All Day	Church Office Closed
Wednesday Dec. 28	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
Thursday, Dec. 29	6:00pm 7:00pm	Praise Team Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Dec. 30	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
Saturday, Dec. 31	7:00pm	New Year's Eve Worship

EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., JAN. 1 - SAT., JAN. 7

Sunday, Jan. 1	10:00am 6:00pm	Christmas Worship Online Worship Posted
Monday, Jan. 2	All Day	Church Office Closed
Tuesday Jan. 3	6:00pm	Elder Meeting
Wednesday Jan. 4	11:00am 2:00pm	CareConnect Crafting Get-Together
Thursday, Jan. 5	6:00pm 7:00pm	Praise Team Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Jan. 6	6:30pm 7:00pm	Noche Familiar Confirmation

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.

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