



THIRD WEDNESDAY
in
LENT

Ascension Lutheran Church
"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"
Lenten Midweek Three – March 19, 2025

LENTEN MIDWEEK THREE

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.

+ PREPARATION +

SERIES: “GOOD NEWS FROM THE BEGINNING: THE GOSPEL IN GENESIS”

“The Good News of a Savior Who Gives Us a New Beginning”

AS WE GATHER: What are the odds of getting a do-over in our lives? In the world of sports, as in many other arenas, a second opportunity to begin again in a race or other type of competition is generally not possible. A false start in a race can lead to disqualification. Repositioning a move after completing one in a chess match is simply not permitted. Rules are rules, and that’s the way it is. There is no room for mercy. But it is different with our God, who offers forgiveness again and again to those who repent and turn to Him with contrite hearts. In his explanation of the Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed in the Small Catechism, Martin Luther confidently writes, “In this Christian Church He [God] daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers” (*LSB*, p. 323). Thank God for His most gracious do-overs!

PRELUDE

WELCOME

- 1 Today Your mercy calls us
To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass,
Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy
Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us
And make us clean today.
- 2 Today Your gate is open,
And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome
And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten,
A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised,
A glorious crown in heav'n.
- 3 Today our Father calls us;
His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather
Around the heav'nly gates.
No question will be asked us
How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered,
It is our Father's home.
- 4 O all-embracing Mercy,
O ever-open Door,
What should we do without You
When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us,
To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open,
One ear will hear our prayer.

“Today Your Mercy Calls Us”, Text: Oswald Allen, 1816–78, alt., Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

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



¹Out | of the depths*

I cry to you, | O LORD!

²O Lord, | hear my voice!*

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my pleas for | mercy!

³If you, O LORD, should mark in- | iquities,*

O Lord, | who could stand?

⁴But with you there is for- | givenness,*

that you | may be feared.

⁵I wait for the LORD, my | soul waits,*

and in his | word I hope;

⁶my soul waits for the Lord

more than watchmen for the | morning,*

more than watchmen for the | morning.

⁷O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is | steadfast love,*

and with him is plentiful re- | demption.

⁸And he will redeem | Israel*

from all his in- | iquities.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

A O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

- A** 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

- A** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

PRAYER

- A** Let us pray.
- Heavenly Father, by the death and resurrection of Your only Son, You have shown the world that the way of self-sacrifice is the way of life. Give us such a strong faith in Your providence that we will not shrink from any sacrifice You ask of us but rejoice to offer our lives to Him who gave His life for us—that is, Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

+ THE WORD +

FIRST READING

Genesis 6 (ESV)

¹When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, ²the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. ³Then the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.” ⁴The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown. ⁵The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him to His heart.

⁷So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." ⁸But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. ⁹These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. ¹⁰And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. ¹¹Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹²And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. ¹³And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. ¹⁴Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. ¹⁵This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. ¹⁶Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks. ¹⁷For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. ¹⁸But I will establish My covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. ²⁰Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive. ²¹Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them." ²²Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:18-22 (ESV)

¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which He went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.

²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to Him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 17:22-27, 30 (ESV)

A The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventeenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²²And [Jesus] said to the disciples, "The days are coming when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. ²³And they will say to you, 'Look, there!' or 'Look, here!' Do not go out or follow them. ²⁴For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in His day. ²⁵But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. ²⁶Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. ²⁷They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all — ³⁰so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN INTRODUCTION

A The image of the freely flowing and life-giving fountain appears in a number of favorite Bible passages and hymns. In the first stanza of the Lenten hymn "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain," author James Montgomery invites sinners to come to the "pure and healing fountain" (*LSB* 435:1) that flows from Jesus, our Savior. In the third stanza, Montgomery affirms that "Health this fountain will restore," reminding us that Lent is a time for restoration and renewal in Christ. Though more than two hundred years old, his hymn stanzas compel us to come to the fountain of our Savior, with the promise "They that drink shall thirst no more" (*LSB* 435:3).

“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

LSB 435

- 1 Come to Calv’ry’s holy mountain,
Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain
Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide,
Opened when our Savior died.
- 2 Come in poverty and meanness,
Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness,
From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white;
Ye shall walk with God in light.
- 3 Come in sorrow and contrition,
Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission,
Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore;
They that drink shall thirst no more.
- 4 They that drink shall live forever;
‘Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never
Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died,
Sealed when He was glorified.

“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”, Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., Text: Public domain

SERMON

Pr. Jim Sprengle

“The Good News of a Savior Who Gives Us a New Beginning”

Genesis 6

TITHES 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 FOR PRAYER

“Be Still, My Soul, before the Lord”

LSB 771

1 Be still, my soul, be - fore the Lord, For
2 You need not mul - ti - ply your words Nor
3 Wait, then, in qui - et con - fi - dence, Your
4 Be still, my soul, be - fore the Lord; On

God is al - ways near. Be - fore your mind is
pray with prac - ticed art. Be - yond all speech, God
anx - ious thoughts at rest. God knows your needs be -
God in pa - tience wait. God's love, un - seen, sur -

moved to pray, God lis - tens and will hear.
un - der - stands The hun - ger of your heart.
fore you ask And works for what is best.
rounds your life; God's help will not be late.

“Be Still, My Soul, before the Lord”, Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007, Tune: Marty Haugen, 1950, Text: © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673, Tune: © 1984, 2006 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

PRAYER

(following each petition):

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

RESPONSIVE LITANY

- P** Hear our prayer, O Lord.
- C** Let our cry come to You.
- P** Almighty God, grant us true repentance over our sins
- C** and steadfast faith in Your forgiveness,
- P** knowing that while we justly deserve Your punishment,
- C** You are a God who freely pardons.

- P** When we are weighed down by guilt or despair, lift us up in Your mercy
- C** and grant us a new beginning, standing in Your grace.
- P** As You once gave the rainbow as a sign of Your mercy,
- C** draw our eyes to the cross of Christ,
- P** that we may see in Him the assurance that Your mercies are new every morning
- C** and Your faithfulness to us is great.
- P** Trusting in Your mercy, we pray as Your Son taught us:

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.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you, defend you from all evil, and bring you to everlasting life.

C Amen.

“All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night”

LSB 883

1 All praise to Thee, my God, this night
For all the blessings of the light.
Keep me, O keep me, King of kings,
Beneath Thine own almighty wings.

2 Forgive me, Lord, for Thy dear Son,
The ill that I this day have done,
That with the world, myself, and Thee,
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.

3 Teach me to live that I may dread
The grave as little as my bed.
Teach me to die that so I may
Rise glorious at the awe-full day.

△ 6 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

“All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night”, Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt., Text: Public domain

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 2.

Copyright © 2024 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

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, Treasurer - Rebecca Williamson, Assist. Treasurer
treasurer@alcportland.org

Wanda Cassetty,
Council Secretary
council@alcportland.org

Hana Brandt,
Deaconess Intern
deaconess@alcportland.org

Laura Potter, Property Management
alcproperty1440@gmail.com