



LENTEN MIDWEEK 1

March 9, 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 ✠

RETURN FROM EXILE Garden to Garden: Eden to Heaven

AS WE GATHER: Gardens are places of beauty. Gardens are places of rest. Gardens are places that bring joy to our hearts as we walk through their midst. The Garden of Eden was such a place—of beauty and perfection, of joy and peace. But man could not resist temptation, and the result was a view of the beautiful garden from the outside. No more joy, no more peace, only pain and sorrow, sweat and tears. Today, our journey is from the Garden of Eden (from which we have been exiled) to an even more beautiful garden, the Garden of Everlasting Life. This will not be an easy journey. There will be much stumbling and falling, many bumps and bruises—after all, the world has been infested by sin and all the hazards that go with this reality. A difficult journey, but one that was taken first by our Lord and Savior Jesus. Because He first made the journey and suffered in our place, the gates of the new, heavenly garden stand open before us. No more tears, no more sorrow, this garden is our place of perfect rest, joy, and peace.

HYMN

“Jesus, Refuge Of The Weary”

Jesus, refuge of the weary,
Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary,
Savior from the world above:
Often have Your eyes, offended,
Gazed upon the sinner's fall;
Yet upon the cross extended,
You have borne the pain of all.

Jesus, may our hearts be burning
With more fervent love for You;
May our eyes be ever turning
To behold Your cross anew
Till in glory, parted never
From the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever,
Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

INVOCATION

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

OPENING RESPONSES

- P** Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; hold not Your peace at my tears!
- C** **For I am a sojourner with You, a guest, like all my fathers.**
Ps. 39:12
- P** Thus declares the Lord of hosts: Return to Me, says the Lord of hosts,
- C** **and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.** *Zech. 1:3*
- P** Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
- C** **let him return to the Lord, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.** *Is. 55:7*

CONFESSION

- P** We are on a journey from a deserved exile to a gracious promised land. Although we merit nothing, because our heavenly Father promises forgiveness and mercy to all who call on Him for Jesus' sake, let us go to Him, confessing our sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

- P** Heavenly Father, we are fallen creatures, prone to hiding our faults from one another, yet knowing our sins are laid bare before You.
- C** **Forgive us and clothe us with Christ's own righteousness.**

- P** We have erred and strayed from Your way.
- C** **Forgive us and turn our feet toward the paradise You promise.**
- P** We have attempted to placate Your just demands by our own efforts.
- C** **Forgive us for the sake of Your Son's sacrifice in our stead.**
- P** We have often failed to reflect the new life You granted us in our Baptism.
- C** **Forgive us and drown the old Adam within us.**
- P** We have eaten "forbidden fruit" in our disobedient thinking, speaking, and acting.
- C** **Forgive us and grant us the new life won on the tree of the cross.**
- P** We have failed to trust Your care and protection as we journey through this wilderness.
- C** **Forgive us and accompany us on our pilgrim way.**

FORGIVENESS

- P** Our gracious God, even when we were dead in our trespasses, has made us alive together with Christ (*Eph. 2:5*). You who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ (*Eph. 2:13*). May He who began this good work in you bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ (*Phil. 1:6*). In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

✠ THE WORD ✠

PSALM (137:1-6)



¹ By the waters of Babylon, there we sat | down and wept,*
when we remembered | Zion.

² **On the | willows there***
we hung | up our lyres.

³ For there our captors required of us songs, and our
tormentors, mirth, | saying,*
“Sing us one of the songs of | Zion!”

⁴ **How shall we sing the | Lord’s song***
in a | foreign land?

⁵ If I forget you, O Je- | rusalem,*
let my right hand for- | get its skill!

⁶ **Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth,**
if I do not re- | member you,*
if I do not set Jerusalem above my | highest joy!
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 3:22–24 (ESV)

²² Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Revelation 22:1–5 (ESV)

¹ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 13:10–17 (ESV)

¹⁰ Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹ And behold, there was a woman who had had a disabling spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. ¹² When Jesus saw her, He called her over and said to her, “Woman, you are freed from your disability.” ¹³ And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and she glorified God. ¹⁴ But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, “There are six days in which work ought to be done. Come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day.” ¹⁵ Then the Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it away to water it? ¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?” ¹⁷ As He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame, and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

“In The Shattered Bliss Of Eden”

(Tune: “When You Woke That Thursday Morning”)

In the shattered bliss of Eden
Dawned the day of sacrifice,
As our primal parents shuddered
Sin had caused this dreadful price!
Faith embarked with this discernment:
Only God can cover sin,
As He took their leafy garments
And He clothed their shame with skin.

Days and months and years unfolding
Clearly showed what sin had wrought:
Fallen Adam’s children learning
Lessons fallen parents taught.
All these sacrificial off’rings
Crested as a crimson flood:
Patriarchs and priests atoning
For their sins with cleansing blood.

What these sacrifices promised
From a God who sought to bless,
Came at last—a second Adam—
Priest and King of Righteousness:
Son of God, incarnate Savior,
Son of Man, both Christ and Lord,
Who in naked shame would offer
On the cross His blood outpoured.

Gone the bliss of Eden’s garden,
Gone the age of sacrifice;
Ours the time of grace and favor,
Ours the call to paradise!
Ever, Lord, impress upon us:
Only You can cover sin
Take our worthless, self-made garments;
Clothe our shame and cleanse within.

SERMON

“GARDEN TO GARDEN”

Pastor Jim Sprenkle

CANTICLE

“Come, My Soul, With Every Care”

(tune: Take My Life and Let It Be)

Come, my soul, with ev'ry care,
Jesus loves to answer prayer.
He Himself has bid thee pray,
Therefore will not turn away.

While I am a pilgrim here,
Let Thy love my spirit cheer;
As my guide, my guard, my friend,
Lead me to my journey's end.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** We are returning from exile, listening to the inviting Word of God, full of grace and truth. Let us respond to Him in prayer. Gracious God, offering full and free forgiveness, we come in spiritual sackcloth and ashes, painfully aware of our sins and failings. Graciously wash us and clothe us with the robe of Christ's own righteousness,
- C** **so that we may live eternally with all Your saints.**
- P** Eden's Lord and ours, hear us and all who call out to You in pain and sorrow, sweat or tears. Remind us of Your painful victory over every temptation,
- C** **and strengthen us to follow where You have led the way.**
- P** Loving Father, calling us to Mount Calvary, remove from us our fear of Your righteous judgment for our sins; strengthen our faith
- C** **in the all-availing sacrifice of Your Son in our stead.**
- P** Spirit of life, remind us again of our Baptism, in which our old Adam was drowned; strengthen us
- C** **to live in the freedom of the children of God.**
- P** Lord Jesus, Savior and Guide, give us the eyes of faith to see the tree of life awaiting us in heaven, and guide us
- C** **to follow where You have led the way.**

- P** Protecting Father, assure us of Your presence on our journey through the desert of this world and bring us at last
- C** **to the paradise purchased by Your Son.**
- P** O Holy Spirit, nourish our faith and restore our souls each time we come to the Table of the Lord and receive His body and blood,
- C** **a foretaste of the feast to come.**
- P** Holy and merciful Lord over all, we feel the burden of our sin; renew in us the firm faith that Your Son has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows,
- C** **giving His life for ours.**
- P** Everlasting Father, our Savior has conquered death. Fill us with rejoicing, confident that we shall therefore gather around the eternal throne of the Lamb, Your Son, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
- 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 almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, and ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you
- C** **Amen.**

HYMN

“Abide With Me”

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

G Thanks be to God!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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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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