

Ascension Lutheran Church
“A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone”
Lenten Midweek One – February 21, 2024

LENTEN MIDWEEK ONE

February 21, 2024

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.

Lenten Midweek Series 2024

Each year on Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion, we read the full Passion account at the end of the service. The Passion narrates Jesus' last hours of life, including His crucifixion and burial. Throughout most of the Church's history, Palm Sunday solely focused on Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. Church services typically featured a processional of palms, accompanied by an atmosphere of excitement as the Savior had arrived. However, many Christians attending only Sunday services missed the profound experience of the Passion, an integral part of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. In response, the Church incorporated the complete Passion account reading at the conclusion of Palm Sunday services to remind those who attend only on Sundays of the suffering and death that Jesus endured for our redemption.

This year, we will dedicate additional time to the Passion account. Each midweek service in Lent will include a reading from the Gospel of Luke. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, we will journey through the final hours of Jesus' life. Luke provides unique insights into this important time, offering much to gain from contemplation and meditation on this writing. Our readings will be drawn from Luke 22-24, exploring instances where evil sought to prevail, but God's will ultimately triumphed for good. Rather than confining your exposure to the Passion account to Palm Sunday alone, we invite you to join us every Wednesday to reflect on our Savior's last hours. Your Lenten journey promises to be enriched with new insights and a deeper appreciation for the saving grace of God.

+ PREPARATION +

Theme: “He was numbered among the transgressors”

As we gather: Jesus’ disciples might know something big is about to happen as they gather around the Passover Meal. Perhaps they sensed it in how Jesus acted, or maybe they remembered what He said about His death and resurrection. Oddly, they start arguing about who is the best again. As we read, we already know what’s going to happen, but the events before Jesus gets arrested remind us of all the evil He faced. Even the disciples play a part, not seeing the greatness of God and showing how foolish they are. It is like a picture forming – Jesus, the only good and perfect person, surrounded by evil.

Welcome

Preparation for Worship ~ As The Deer (Psalm 42)

As the deer panteth for the water,
So my soul longeth after Thee.
You alone are my heart’s desire,
And I long to worship Thee.

(chorus)

**You alone are my strength, my shield;
To You alone, may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart’s desire,
And I long to worship Thee.**

You’re my friend and You are my brother,
Even though You are a King.
I love You more than any other,
So much more than anything. (chorus)

I want You more than gold or silver,
Only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joygiver
And the apple of my eye. (chorus)

As The Deer, Nystrom, Martin J. © 1984 Maranatha Praise, Inc. CCLI License No. 759893

Invocation

Opening Scripture

Psalm 118:24; 113:3; Joel 2:13; Matthew 16:24; Isaiah 53:5

P This is the day which the Lord has made;

C **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

P Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

C **slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.**

P Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,

C **let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.**

P Christ was wounded for our transgressions.

C **He was bruised for our iniquities.**

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

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 Absolution

P With humble and penitent hearts, we confess our sins to the Lord.

C **Lord, we come before You in prayer today, asking for forgiveness. We have not loved as we ought to love, we have not given as we ought to give, and we have fallen short of the mark of truly being Your obedient sons and daughters. We recognize our sin and in this moment of silence, we privately remember our shortcomings in love and life.**

(silence for reflection)

P God, our Heavenly Father, hears the prayers of His children and answers those prayers. Our prayer for forgiveness is answered in the person of Jesus Christ, His Son, who died for our sin that we might have new life in Him. The distance between God and ourselves has been brought together by His love made perfect in the sacrifice of His Son. To those who believe His Word of truth He gives the power to be the people of God. Praise God for His gift of love to us!

Softly And Tenderly

Softly and tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Calling for you and for me.
See on the portals He's waiting and watching,
Watching for you and for me.

(Chorus)

**Come home, come home. Ye who are weary come home.
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, Calling, O sinner, come home.**

Oh, for the wonderful love He has promised,
Promised for you and for me.
Though we have sinned He has mercy and pardon,
Pardon for you and for me. (chorus)

Reading

Isaiah 53:5-12 (ESV)

⁵But He was wounded for our transgressions;
He was crushed for our iniquities;
upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with His stripes we are healed.
⁶All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned every one to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on Him
the iniquity of us all.
⁷He was oppressed, and He was afflicted,
yet He opened not His mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so He opened not His mouth.

⁸By oppression and judgment He was taken away;
and as for His generation, who considered
that He was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of My people?

⁹And they made His grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in His death,
although He had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in His mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush Him;
He has put Him to grief;

when His soul makes an offering for sin,
He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong His days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.

¹¹Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied;
by His knowledge shall the Righteous One, My servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and He shall bear their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the many,
and He shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because He poured out His soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet He bore the sin of many,
and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Theme Reading

Luke 22:14, 24–38 (ESV)

¹⁴ And when the hour came, He reclined at table, and the apostles with Him. ²⁴ A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵ And He said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶ But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. ²⁷ For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves. ²⁸ “You are those who have stayed with Me in My trials, ²⁹ and I assign to you, as My Father assigned to Me, a kingdom, ³⁰ that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ³¹ “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” ³³ Peter said to Him, “Lord, I am ready to go with You both to prison and to death.” ³⁴ Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster

will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know Me.”
³⁵ And He said to them, “When I sent you out with no moneybag or knapsack or sandals, did you lack anything?” They said, “Nothing.”
³⁶ He said to them, “But now let the one who has a moneybag take it, and likewise a knapsack. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one.” ³⁷ For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in Me: ‘And He was numbered with the transgressors.’ For what is written about Me has its fulfillment.” ³⁸ And they said, “Look, Lord, here are two swords.” And He said to them, “It is enough.”

Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed

Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed
With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in Thee my life, my rest,
Christ crucified, I come.

Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,
Thy grace abused, my misspent years;
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears,
Christ crucified, I come.

Wash me and take away each stain;
Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing, though it be through pain,
Christ crucified, I come.

And then for work to do for Thee,
Which shall so sweet a service be
That angels well might envy me,
Christ crucified, I come.

Text: Genevieve M. Irons, 1855–1928
Text: Public domain

Sermon

“NUMBERED WITH THE TRANSGRESSORS”

Pr. Jim Sprengle
Luke 22:14, 24–38

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.)*

Prayers

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;
When I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O
Lord, hear my prayer; Come and lis - ten to me. O

O Lord, Hear My Prayer, Text: Taizé Community, Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–94, Text and tune: © 1982 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community, France, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

(following each petition):

P Hear us, O Lord,
C **for Your mercy is great.**

Lord's Prayer

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

C **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.**

Closing Scripture

P Hear my prayer, O Lord;

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

P In the day of my trouble I call upon You,

C **for You answer me.**

P Hide Your face from my sins,

C **and blot out all my iniquities.**

P Create in me a clean heart, O God,

C **and renew a right spirit within me.**

P Cast me not away from Your presence,

C **and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**

P Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

C **and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

P Because Your steadfast love is better than life,

C **my lips will praise You.**

P For You have been my help,

C **and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy.**

P Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth;

C **unite my heart to fear Your name.**

P I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,

C **and I will glorify Your name forever.**

P May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You.

C **May those who love Your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"**

P Save Your people and bless Your heritage!

C **Be their shepherd and carry them forever.**

P Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;

C **listen to my plea for grace.**

Blessing

- P The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
- C **Amen.**

Beneath The Cross Of Jesus

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand;
The shadow of a mighty rock Within a weary land,
A home within the wilderness, A rest upon the way
From the burning of the noontide heat And the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus Mine eyes at times can see
The very dying form of One Who suffered there for me.
And from my smitten heart with tears, These wonders I confess:
The wonder of His glorious love, And my unworthiness.

I take O cross thy shadow For my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than The sunshine of His face;
Content to let the world go by, To know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self - my only shame, My glory all the cross.

Acknowledgments

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Ascension Lutheran Church

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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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