

Sola Gratia

Grace Alone

Sola Fide

Faith Alone

Solus Christus

Christ Alone

Soli Deo Gloria

Glory of God Alone

Sola Scriptura

Scripture Alone

Ascension Lutheran Church and School

"A Church for Families and a Family for Everyone"

Reformation Day ~ Sunday, October 31, 2021

REFORMATION DAY

October 31, 2021

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!

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 ✠

Theme: “Abiding in His Word, Proclaiming His Freedom”

AS WE GATHER: Jesus calls us to abide in His Word. To abide means to dwell or be at home. Are you at home in Jesus’ Word? Is it the place where you long to be? Jesus’ Word is the only place in all the world where we can find the absolute guarantee of sins forgiven, hope restored, and new life granted as children of God the Father. Today, Jesus mercifully calls us to come to Him, confess our sins, and be filled with His pardon and peace. He will renew us by His Word and send us forth with His blessing to proclaim to all creation: “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36).

PRELUDE (11:00)

“On Faith Alone”
*(“Sola Fide” = Latin for “Faith Alone”
One of the three “Solos” of the Reformation)*

Words and Music by Robert White Johnson, Al Denson,
Karla Pierre and Scott Pierre, arr. Tom Fettke

Ascension Choir

WELCOME

HYMN

“Blessed Jesus, At Your Word”

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word
We are gathered all to hear You.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred
Now to seek and love and fear You,
By Your teachings, sweet and holy,
Drawn from earth to love You solely.

Gracious Savior, good and kind,
Light of Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind;
Help us by Your Spirit’s pleading.
Hear the cry Your Church now raises;
Hear and bless our prayers and praises.



Father, Son, and Spirit, Lord,
Praise to You and adoration!
Grant that we may trust Your Word,
Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander,
Till we sing Your praises yonder.

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES *John 8:31–32*

- P** Jesus said, “If you abide in My word,
C **you are truly My disciples,**
- P** and you will know the truth,
C **and the truth will set you free.”**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *John 8:36*

- P** With humble hearts, let us approach our Father’s throne of grace.

Silence to reflect on our sin and our need for the Savior

- P** Together, we pray:
C **Gracious Father, because our entire lives are to be ones of repentance, we bow before You and confess our sins. We often turn away from the truth of Your Word, choosing to go our own way. By what we have thought, by what we have done, and by what we have failed to do, we have broken Your commands and deserve Your punishment. By the mercy of Christ, Your Son, set us free from our captivity. Amen.**

P Just as Christ is risen from the dead, He lives and reigns to all eternity! It is most certainly true that He died and rose again for you to make you right with God, to adopt you as children of the heavenly Father, and to set you free from sin and death. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P “So if the Son sets you free,

C **you will be free indeed!”**

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and, through the abiding Word of Your Son, set us free from our sin that we may know Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

✠ THE WORD ✠

“God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage”

(tune: A Mighty Fortress)

God’s Word is our great heritage,
And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way,
In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,
We keep its teachings pure
Throughout all generations.

FIRST READING

Revelation 14:6–7 (ESV)

(An angel announces the time for judgment.)

⁶ Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷ And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come, and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Romans 3:19–28 (ESV)

(We need not fear the Law’s accusation, for we are justified by grace.)

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over former sins.

²⁶ It was to show His righteousness at the present time, so that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

LAMBS' LESSON

Pastor Jim Sprengle

HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:31–36 (ESV)

(We are freed from slavery to sin; we are free indeed.)

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³ They answered Him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that You say, ‘You will become free’?” ³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

PRAYER REQUESTS GATHERED BY AN ELDER

HYMN

“By Grace I’m Saved”

By grace I’m saved, grace free and boundless;

My soul, believe and doubt it not.

Why stagger at this word of promise?

Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?

No! Then this word must true remain:

By grace you too will life obtain.

By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;
Our works and conduct have no worth.
God in His love sent our Redeemer,
Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;
His death did for our sins atone,
And we are saved by grace alone.

By grace! This ground of faith is certain;
As long as God is true, it stands.
What saints have penned by inspiration,
What in His Word our God commands,
Our faith in what our God has done
Depends on grace—grace through His Son.

By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition,
I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown
Since I am saved by grace alone.

SERMON

“GROUNDED”

John 8:31–36
Pastor Jim Sprenkle

CREED and SCRIPTURE

Incorporating Psalm 46 and the Apostles' Creed

P Our faith is in God the Father, the almighty Creator of all that exists.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth gives way.

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, who has made me and all creatures. He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.**

P Our faith is in God the Son, whose sacrifice on the cross opens to us eternal life in God's eternal presence.

P There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;

C **I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death. He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.**

P Our faith is in God the Holy Spirit, whose gift of faith gives us eternal peace with God.

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the chariots with fire.

C **I believe in the Holy Spirit, who in the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.**

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.)

(8:30)

“On Faith Alone”

*(“Sola Fide” = Latin for “Faith Alone”
One of the three “Solos” of the Reformation)*

Words and Music by Robert White Johnson, Al Denson,
Karla Pierre and Scott Pierre, arr. Tom Fettke

Ascension Choir

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord Jesus, You have freed us from captivity to sin and death, from the delusion of trying to earn and maintain our own righteousness, and from the chains of condemnation and fear. That is why we rejoice in Your Word: If the Son sets you free,

C **you will be free indeed!**

P Lord Jesus, only Your mercy and grace enable us to know, find, and live in the freedom of Your eternal Gospel. Send Your Spirit upon Your Church that we continue in the truths of the Reformation, and that, to all the peoples of the world, we proclaim this truth: If the Son sets you free,

C **you will be free indeed!**

P Lord Jesus, free us from self-centeredness and pride. Turn our focus toward You first in faith and then toward others in love. Bless all who serve You and others in their homes, in the church, in the workplace, and in our community to rejoice in knowing that if the Son sets you free,

C **you will be free indeed!**

P Lord Jesus, You proclaim freedom for the captives and recovery for those with infirmities. Grant Your healing, in both soul and body, to those we name before You, *especially...* Rejoicing in Your healing touch, grant that all who receive Your Good News boldly say: If the Son sets you free,

C **you will be free indeed!**

P Lord Jesus, we remember in prayer those who are celebrating this week...May we always rejoice and give thanks for the gift of this truth, that if the Son sets you free,

C **you will be free indeed!**

P Lord Jesus, for these and all other concerns we have, please hear and answer our prayers according to Your gracious will

C **that we live each day in the freedom we have come to know. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold 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

Numbers 6:24–26

- 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please read the FYI in your bulletin for additional announcements and information.)

HYMN

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”



A mighty fortress is our God,
A sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod,
And wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe,
Has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might,
He arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
Whom God Himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is He!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

Though hordes of devils fill the land,
All threat'ning to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;
They cannot overpower us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
In battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

God's Word forever shall abide,
No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God Himself fights by our side,
With weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away,
They cannot win the day.
The Kingdom's ours forever!

DISMISSAL

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

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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Thank you, Carolyn Shore, for the beautiful altar flowers in memory of her mom and dad and in honor of Reformation Day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OCTOBER 31, 2021

† THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Wednesday, Nov. 24 at 7:00pm we are having our annual worship service. All proceeds will benefit SnowCap unless you note otherwise. Grocery bags will be available for you to pick up after the 8:30 and 11:00am Sunday services Nov 7, 14 and 21 in the narthex.

† LWML FALL RALLY

Saturday, November 6th - 9am to 1pm. Join us for a time of fellowship and renewal at Holy Cross Lutheran Church - 8705 E Burnside Street, Portland.

† WREATH FUNDRAISER FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY!

We will be selling Christmas greenery once again! Items for sale include 21" round and 22" cross wreaths. Look for order forms in the Narthex. You may order until November 9. Remember friends and relatives when ordering, we also have extra order forms for you to give people you think might want to purchase! *Payment is needed at time of your order.* Wreath pick-up is Saturday, Dec. 4.

† MILESTONES

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Sherry Porath	11/1	Lukas Arronson	11/5
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BIRTHDAYS

Senai Lavadores	11/5
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WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Gordon and Donna Strutz	10/31/1971
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† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

The Eilers Family, Bob Rekdahl, Mae Smith, The Laxton Family, Ray Brown, Mike Hatley, Karon Keup, Lorraine Haggard, Larry Hart, Bill Ritchie, Esperanza Gutierrez, Marty Blankenburg, Elaina Ritchie, Richard Robertson, Rich Zahursky, Alan Bauch, Leonard Murphy, Bruce Blubaum, Judy Blubaum, Antonia Martinez (mother of Esperanza Gutierrez), Ava Wentela (Sue Wentela's granddaughter), Carol Santorufo (sister of Sue Wentela), *Barbara Schrader, *Dale Porath.

*Home Bound.

ASSISTING IN SERVICE TODAY

	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>11:00am</u>
Elder:	Herb Hoefler (WA)	Bob Ritchie
Acolytes:	Josie Latter	
Ushers:	Marcus Young	Don Brown Wyatt Brown
Audio/Visual:	Debbie Rekdahl (sound)	Michele Sprengle
PowerPoint:	Debbie Rekdahl	Jessica Brown
Greeters:	Karla Deal	Bonnie Webber
Readers:	Karla Deal	Bonnie Webber
Altar Circle:	Both Services	Debbie Rekdahl
Flowers:	Both Services	Carolyn Shore
Counters:	Both Services	Karon Keup

ASSISTING IN SERVICE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>11:00am</u>
Elder:	Randy Schroeder	Dan Parshall
Acolytes:		
Ushers:	Marcus Young	Marcus Young John Knoke
Audio/Visual:	Stan Chapulis	Michele Sprengle (sound)
PowerPoint:	Wanda Cassetty	Michele Sprengle
Greeters:	Elizabeth Alvarado Margo Bachhuber	Bonnie Webber
Readers:	Randy Schroeder	Virginia Jacobs
Altar Circle:	Both Services	Wendy Hazen
Flowers:	Both Services	Merci McInaney
Counters:	Both Services	Dave and Jan Oswald

† PRAYER NEEDS?

Contact the church office with any requests e-mail:
office@alcportland.org

† PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY:

Marie Cassetty Brown, Air Force — Ramstein Air Base, Germany
AFB LA (sister-in-law of Wanda Cassetty);
Dakota Saunders, US Navy — Based in Cecilia Italy (godson of
Carrie Graham);
Alex Williamson, Air Force, Reserve — Washington (grandson of
Rebecca Williamson);

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 — Assigned to USS Harry S. Truman (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);
 Tyler Young, Navy — Deployed (nephew of Karen Arronson).

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ASCENSION

THIS WEEK – Oct. 31 – Saturday, Nov. 6

Sunday, Oct. 31	8:30am	Worship
Reformation Day	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Tuesday, Nov. 2	6:00pm	Elder Meeting
Wednesday, Nov. 3	7:00pm	Online Bible Study Posted
Thursday, Nov. 4	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Nov. 5	6:30pm	Noche Familiar-Family Night
	7:00pm	Confirmation

NEXT WEEK – Sunday, Nov. 7 – Saturday, Nov. 13

Sunday, Nov. 7	8:30am	Worship with Communion
All Saint’s Day	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Monday, Nov. 8	10:30am	Stewardship Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 9	6:00pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, Nov. 10	7:00pm	Online Bible Study Posted
Thursday, Nov. 11	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Nov. 12	6:30pm	Noche Familiar-Family Night
	7:00pm	Confirmation

Ascension Lutheran Church

1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233

Church: 503-665-8821 · Childcare Center: 503-667-6750

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, Vicar

vicar@alcportland.org

Brad Hall, Worship and Music Coordinator

worship@alcportland.org

Michele Sprengle, Office Administrator

office@alcportland.org

Bonnie Webber and Rebecca Williamson, Treasurers

treasurer@alcportland.org

Wanda Cassetty, Council Secretary

council@alcportland.org

