



Ascension Lutheran Church
"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"
Lenten Midweek Four – March 11, 2026

LENTEN MIDWEEK FOUR

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.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS During the midweek services of Lent, a basket is located in the center aisle to give your offering when you arrive or depart.

WELCOME

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.
- 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

Psalm 84:1-4, 10 (NIV)

- A** ¹ How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord Almighty!
- C** ² **My soul yearns, even faints,
for the courts of the Lord;**
- A** my heart and my flesh cry out
for the living God.

C ³ Even the sparrow has found a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may have her young—

A a place near your altar,
Lord Almighty, my King and my God.

C ⁴ Blessed are those who dwell in your house;
they are ever praising you.

A ¹⁰ Better is one day in your courts
than a thousand elsewhere;

C I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

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.

Almighty God and Father, our souls are downcast, yet we constantly thirst for You. Give us continuing hope and confidence in You because of the life, death, and resurrection of 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 +

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 28:10-17 (NIV)

¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. ¹¹ When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. ¹² He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. ¹⁴ Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. ¹⁵ I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶ When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." ¹⁷ He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 (NIV)

¹⁷ But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. ¹⁸ They said to you, “In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.” ¹⁹ These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. ²⁰ But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. ²¹ Keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. ²² Be merciful to those who doubt; ²³ snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. ²⁴ To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy—²⁵ to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL John 2:13-22 (NIV)

A The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the second chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.” ¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?” ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”

²⁰ They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN

“Built on the Rock”

1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand
Even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in ev’ry land;
Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest,
But above all the souls distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.

2 Surely in temples made with hands
God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
High above earth His temple stands,
All earthly temples excelling.
Yet He who dwells in heav’n above
Chooses to live with us in love,
Making our bodies His temple.

3 We are God’s house of living stones,
Built for His own habitation.
He through baptismal grace us owns
Heirs of His wondrous salvation.
Were we but two His name to tell,
Yet He would deign with us to dwell
With all His grace and His favor.

5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done,
That, when the church bells are ringing,
Many in saving faith may come
Where Christ His message is bringing:
“I know My own; My own know Me.
You, not the world, My face shall see.
My peace I leave with you. Amen.”

Built on the Rock, Text: Nikolai Fredrik Severin Grundtvig, 1783–1872, abr.; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt., Text: Public domain

SERMON

Pr. Kevin Honstadt

Locus iste a Deo factus est,
This place was made by God,
inaestimabile sacramentum,
a priceless sacrament,
irreprehensibilis est.
it is blameless.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(During the midweek services of Lent, a basket is located in the center aisle to give your offering when you arrive or depart.)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us go to our Lord in confident prayer, trusting in His promises and care for our lives:

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 so that we may live eternally with all Your saints. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- 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 and strengthen us to follow where You have led the way. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Loving Father, calling us to Mount Calvary, remove from us our fear of Your righteous judgment for our sins; strengthen our faith in the all-availing sacrifice of Your Son in our stead. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Spirit of life, remind us again of our Baptism, in which our old Adam was drowned; strengthen us to live in the freedom of the children of God. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- 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 to follow where You have led the way. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Protecting Father, assure us of Your presence on our journey through the desert of this world and bring us at last to the paradise purchased by Your Son. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- 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, giving His life for ours. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

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

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

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.
Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless us and keep us,
the Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious to us,
the Lord look upon us with favor and grant us peace.

C Amen.

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

- 1 Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.
- 2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow’r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we
May sing Your praise eternally.
- 3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word, Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt., Text: Public domain

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace, serve the Lord!
G Thanks be to God.

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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