

"YOU are the light
of the world."



Ascension Lutheran Church

"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"

February 05, 2023

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 05, 2023

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.

For those wishing to commune at the Lord's Table with us today: The Lutheran practice of close Communion attempts to prevent a person from eating and drinking judgment on himself (1 Corinthians 11:23–30). Thus, attendance at the Lord's Supper implies a four-level commitment to Christ. We believe that communicants must: (1) be baptized Christians; (2) accept the real presence of Christ's body in the bread and His blood in the wine; (3) confess and repent of one's sins and trust that God offers complete forgiveness of those sins in this Sacrament; and (4) share oneness of faith, doctrine and practice among those who commune. Those wishing to commune with us today who have not done so previously, please see the pastor or an elder before the service begins. *(Grape juice is available for those who do not drink alcohol, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request.)*

Para aquellos que desean participar en la Santa Cena con nosotros hoy: La práctica luterana de la comunión intenta evitar que una persona coma y beba el juicio de Dios sobre sí mismo (1 Corintios 11:23–30). Por lo tanto, la asistencia a la Cena del Señor implica un compromiso de cuatro niveles con Cristo. Creemos que los comulgantes deben: (1) ser bautizados como cristianos; (2) aceptar la presencia real del cuerpo de Cristo en el pan y Su sangre en el vino; (3) confesar y arrepentirse de sus pecados y confiar en que Dios ofrece el perdón completo de esos pecados en este Sacramento; y (4) compartir la unidad de fe, doctrina y práctica entre los que comulgan. Aquellos que desean comulgar con nosotros hoy que no lo han hecho anteriormente, por favor vean al pastor o un anciano antes de que comience el servicio. *(El jugo de uva está disponible para aquellos que no beben alcohol, y hostias libres de gluten están disponibles bajo petición.)*

(P = Pastor, C = Congregation, A = Reader/Assisting)

✠ PREPARATION ✠

THEME: “The Light of the Cross”

AS WE GATHER: As the liturgical year tells the story of Jesus’ earthly ministry, with Christmas still fresh in our memory, it may seem too soon to begin talking about the cross, that instrument of death for the rejected Christ. But as the mysterious star drew the Wise Men to the newborn King of the Jews, so a light draws us to the goal of His mission, the glory of salvation found only in the crucified King of the Jews. How strange it must sound to those who have not heard or who do not yet believe when we sing “In the Cross of Christ I Glory.” Only God the Holy Spirit can enlighten a person with the spiritual wisdom of faith. And He does give and strengthen that faith through the preached Word and the Sacraments administered according to Christ’s institution. Today, that faith enlightened by the cross of our Lord produces a life of love and good works in all we say and do.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

HYMN

“God Is With Us! Alleluia!”

(tune: *LASST UNS ERFREUEN*)

His name is called Emmanuel—
More wonderful than words can tell.

God is with us! Alleluia!

Born in our darkness, He is Light.
Born in our weakness, He is Might.

God is with us! Alleluia!

God is with us! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Rejoice, and lay aside your fear.

Rejoice, the Holy One is here.

God is with us! Alleluia!

Lift up Your voices, come and sing,
Come worship Christ, the newborn King.

God is with us! Alleluia!

God is with us! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

God is with us! Alleluia!

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

God is with us! Alleluia!

God is with us! Alleluia! Alleluia!

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

P Beloved of God, live as children of the light.

C We clothe ourselves with faith and love, and the hope of salvation.

P Christ died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep,
we may live with Christ.

C **We give thanks for Christ's saving work.**

P In Christ, the God of heaven has made His home on earth.

C **Christ dwells among us and is one with us.**

P Highest of all creation, He lives among the least.

C **He journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.**

P Come now, all who thirst, and drink of the water of life.

C **Come now, all who hunger, and be filled with good things.**

P Come now, all who seek,

C **and encounter the abundant love of the almighty God.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Matthew 5:16

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and
confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the
name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P 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.**

P “Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”
Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, by Your light of grace shining in our hearts and enlightened by the cross of our Savior, Jesus Christ, inspire in us a faith that is alive and glorifies You in all we say and do; 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 ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 58:3–9a (ESV)

³“Why have we fasted, and You see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and You take no knowledge of it?” Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers.

⁴Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked

fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. ⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the Lord? ⁶ “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? ⁸ Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.⁹ Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 2:1–9 (ESV)

¹ And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. ⁶ Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

LAMBS' LESSON

Pr. Jim Sprengle

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the fifth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. ¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

PRAYER / LOVE IN ACTION REQUESTS GATHERED

HYMN

“Thy Strong Word”

Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;
At Thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank Thee,
While Thine ordered seasons run.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!

Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,
Dark as night and deep as death,
Broke the light of Thy salvation,
Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.

Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!

From the cross Thy wisdom shining
Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth
All Thy bright redeeming light.

Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!



God the Father, light-creator,
To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever
Praise the holy Trinity!

SERMON

“FOREVER LIGHTS”

Matthew 5:13–20
Pr. Jim Sprengle

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us and for our salvation came down from Heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He

suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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)

“Come Unto Me”

Words by Joseph M. Martin

Ascension Choir

O come to me, abide with me

And I will give you rest.

O run to me, reside with me

And be forever blessed.

Come lay your burdens at my feet.

Your strength I will renew.

O come to me, confide in me.

My peace I give to you.

*Come walk with me, Come talk with me
and you will find new life.*

Come learn from me, come serve with me

And fill the earth with light.

Leave far behind your path of sin

And run to my embrace.

My loving arms will keep you safe.

I'll shelter you with grace.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Almighty God, we give You thanks for Your liberating Word made known especially in the light shining through the glorious cross of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant that Your Word enlighten our hearts and minds now that we may keep it and bring forth the fruits of faith in all that we say and do. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P By Your light of life, rule and govern Your whole Church throughout the world that all those who proclaim Your truth be preserved in the pure doctrine of Your saving Word and that faith and love be strengthened and increased in all Your people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Bless our country and all who are in authority. Let Your glory dwell in our land that mercy and truth, righteousness and peace may abound everywhere. We commend to You the care of our schools so that our children grow in useful knowledge and Christian virtue, bringing forth wholesome fruits of life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Accept, we pray, our bodies and souls, hearts and minds, all our talents and powers, together with the offerings we bring before You as our humble service. Help us to prepare for the world to come, doing the work You have given us to do while it is day before the night comes when no one can work. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Comfort all who are in trouble, sickness, anguish, or any other adversity...Grant courage and strength to all who suffer for Your name's sake. In every time of trouble, show Yourself a very present help, the Savior of all. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P For the blessings of baptisms, birthdays, and anniversaries that we celebrate this week...Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Lord Jesus, give us faith and boldness to pray with confidence in Your name:
- 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.**

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

**We believe in the real presence of the body
and blood of Christ in Holy Communion.**

Here our Lord offers to us the forgiveness of all our sins.

(Grape juice is available in the center of the trays for those who do not drink alcohol, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request.)

PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

“I Come To The Cross”

I come to the cross
Seeking mercy and grace,
I come to the cross
Where You died in my place.
Out of my weakness
And into Your strength,
Humbly, I come to the cross.

Your arms are open,
You call me by name.
You welcome this child that was lost.
You paid the price
For my guilt and my shame.
Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come,
Jesus, I come to the cross.

(repeat from beginning)

“The Old Rugged Cross”

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suff’ring and shame;
And I love that old cross, where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

(Chorus)

**So I’ll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down.
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.**

O the old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary. **(chorus)**

In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me. **(chorus)**

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true;
Its shame and reproach gladly bear.
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share. **(chorus)**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

Thanks and praise be to You, almighty God, for in Your Son's very body and blood You have increased in us the gracious light of saving faith. Help us that this saving light may shine through us in our world in all that we say and do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C 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

HYMN

“God Is Light”

(tune: God Of Grace And God Of Glory – *CWM RHONDDA*)

God is light. We all can know Him.
All can see His face in Christ,
In His voice hear heaven's wisdom,
See God smile in human eyes,
Feel His power, taste His mercy,
Find a love that bleeds and dies,
Find a love that bleeds and dies.

God is light. We share His glory
And we live and love in Him.
We can walk in holy freedom
As He lives and grows within.
Lay aside your deeds of darkness.
Let eternal day begin!
Let eternal day begin!

God is light. Display His beauty!
Live a kindness all divine.
Prove His grace to all around you.
Love is still His seal and sign.
Share forgiveness. Show compassion.
Live His goodness! Let it shine!
Live His goodness! Let it shine!

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS FEBRUARY 5, 2023

† SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 12

Human Care is collecting soups, chili and socks for SnowCap. Please bring your items to church by February 12.

† THE CHOSEN SEASON 3!

We will begin season 3 on the Second Saturday in February! We hope you all will come and watch with us again! It will be the 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 10:30 once again. There are no books available for season 3 yet.

† NEW!! WOMEN'S HOME BIBLE STUDY

We will be studying Psalms starting with chapters 1 through 10. The class begins Tuesday, Feb. 28 from 9:30am to 11:00am. This week is hosted by Elle Brown, 214 NE 27th St Gresham. See you there! Contact Bonnie Webber, (503) 915-2771 or Elle Brown, (503) 674-8015 with any questions.

† MILESTONES

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS: NONE

BIRTHDAYS

Eli Deal Feb. 9

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: NONE

ASSISTING IN SERVICE SUNDAY, FEB. 5

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Randy Schroeder	John Hazen
Acolytes:		
Ushers:	Stan Chapulis Bob Rekdahl Jim Eckart Ryan Deatherage	Matthias McInaney Marcus Young
Audio/Visual:	Laura Potter	Michele Sprengle
PowerPoint:	Wanda Cassetty	Jessica Brown
Greeters:	Margo Bachhuber Elizabeth Alvarado	Riki Neagle Carrie Graham
Readers:	Randy Bryant	Michele Sprengle
Altar Circle:	Both Services	Margo Bachhuber
Flowers:	Both Services	Riki Neagle
Counters:	Both Services	Bob and Elaina Ritchie

ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, FEB. 12

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Randy Bryant	Herb Hoefer
Acolytes:		
Ushers:	Stan Chapulis NEEDED	Matthias McInaney Marcus Young Johnnie Driessner John Knoke
Audio/Visual:	Teresa Osgood	Laura Potter
PowerPoint:	Taylor Osgood	Rebecca Williamson
Greeters:	Sue Lewis Heather Gulde	Julie Williamson
Readers:	Randy Schroeder	Julie Williamson
Altar Circle:	Both Services	Virginia Jacobs
Flowers:	Both Services	
Counters:	Both Services	Bonnie and Rebecca

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Gina Kreps, Jessica Brown, Bill and Sylvia Guthrie, Kevin McInaney, Judy Blubaum, Robert (Virginia Jacob's Brother), Cindy Linnemann, Brian Laxton, Carlyn Staudt, Karla Deal, Mike Fogarty, Emily Kohnke (member of the Webber Family), Rich Zahursky, Mike Hatley, Lorraine Haggard, Esperanza Gutierrez, Kim Laxton, Antonia Martinez (mother of Esperanza Gutierrez), Ava Wentela (Sue Wentela's granddaughter), *Barbara Schrader, *Larry Hart, *Dale Porath. *Home Bound.

† PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY:

Marie Cassetty Brown, Air Force — Retired after 23 years of service
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 — (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);
Tyler Young, Navy — Deployed (nephew of Karen Arronson).

† PRAYER NEEDS?

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

EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., FEB. 5 - SAT., FEB. 11

Sunday, Feb. 5	8:30am	Worship with Communion
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Tuesday Feb. 7	6:00pm	Elder Meeting
Wednesday Feb. 8	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
Thursday, Feb. 9	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Feb. 10	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
	7:00pm	Confirmation
Saturday, Feb. 11	10:30am	The Chosen Season 3

EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., FEB. 12 - SAT., FEB. 18

Sunday, Feb. 12	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship with Communion
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Tuesday Feb. 14		Happy Valentine's Day
	6:00pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday Feb. 15	11:00am	CareConnect
	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
Thursday, Feb. 9	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Feb. 17	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
	7:00pm	NO Confirmation

Ascension Lutheran Church

1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233

Church: 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

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