

JESUS

Therefore God ... bestowed on him

THE NAME

that is above every name.

Philippians 2:9, ESV

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Year's Eve ~ December 31, 2021

NEW YEAR'S EVE
December 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.

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 comulgan 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: “Bow Down to the Name That Saves!”

AS WE GATHER: “What’s in a name?” That simple question begins one of the most memorable quotes from William Shakespeare’s play *Romeo and Juliet*. Through this simple line, Juliet asks a profound question about how much or how little a name can mean. When God spoke to Moses out of the burning bush, He affirmed the importance of His holy name, as He said: “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is My name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations” (Exodus 3:15). When God came to earth in person, the name by which He was to be known was just as important. In a dream, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and spoke of Mary, his betrothed, in this way: “She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). The name of Jesus, celebrated on this day, is, to those who believe, a source of power and of blessing. It is the greatest of names!

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC *(The true beginning of our church service. Music helps draw us into an attitude of prayer and praise. Be mindful of others in preparation for worship. Quietly consider your encounter with the living God.)*

WELCOME

HYMN “How Sweet The Name Of Jesus Sounds”

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer’s ear;
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
And drives away all fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole
And calms the heart’s unrest;
It’s manna to the hungry soul
And to the weary, rest.

Dear name! The rock on which I build,
My shield and hiding place;
My never-failing treas’ry filled
With boundless stores of grace.

O, Jesus, Shepherd, Guardian, Friend,
My Prophet, Priest and King,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end,
Accept the praise I bring.

Till then I would Your love proclaim
With every fleeting breath
And may the music of Your name
Refresh my soul in death!

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

OPENING SCRIPTURE

Psalm 34:1, 3; Isaiah 9:6b; Philippians

2:10–11

- P** I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
- C** **Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!**
- P** His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- C** **At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Confident that He will grant us forgiveness as we turn in repentance to Him, we confess our sins to our gracious God.

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

- P** Heavenly Father,
- C** **we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have failed to walk in Your ways and live in a manner that brings honor to Your name. We have lived for ourselves and have not always sought to bring glory to Your name. Mercifully grant us forgiveness and bless us this day with a new start for our lives. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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.

Lord God, You made Your beloved Son, our Savior, subject to the Law and caused Him to shed His blood on our behalf. Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit that our hearts may be made pure from all sins; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

(The reading of God's Word is central to our worship, our life, and our faith; this portion of the service concludes with the sermon, or the preached Word.)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Numbers 6:22–27 (ESV)

(The blessing of the Lord for His people.)

²² The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²³ "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, ²⁴ The Lord bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. ²⁷ "So shall they put My name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Galatians 3:23–29 (ESV)

(Those baptized into Christ are clothed with Christ.)

²³ Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴ So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:21 (ESV)

(Jesus is circumcised and given His name.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

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

²¹ And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

PRAYER REQUESTS GATHERED BY AN ELDER

HYMN

“Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love”

Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Name all other names above,
Unto which must ev'ry knee
Bow in deep humility.

Jesus! Name decreed of old,
To the maiden mother told,
Kneeling in her lowly cell,
By the angel Gabriel.

Jesus! Name of priceless worth
To the fallen sons of earth
For the promise that it gave,
“Jesus shall His people save.”

Jesus! Only name that’s giv’n
Under all the mighty heav’n
Whereby those to sin enslaved
Burst their fetters and are saved.

SERMON

“I NEED HELP!”

Luke 2:21

Pastor Jim Sprengle

RESPONSE

Psalm 8

P O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!
You have set Your glory above the heavens.

C **Out of the mouth of babes and infants,
You have established strength because of Your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.**

P When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which You have set in place,
what is man that You are mindful of him,
and the son of man that You care for him?

C **Yet You have made him a little lower than the heavenly
beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.**

P You have given him dominion over the works of Your hands;
You have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

C **O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the
earth!**

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*(The gifts of God's people are a response to God's blessings;
1Cor 16:2)*

“Jesus, Name Above All Names”

Jesus, Name above all names,
Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us,
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

Jesus, Loving Shepherd,
Vine of the branches, Son of God,
Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor,
Lord of the universe, Light of the world.

Jesus, Way of salvation,
King of kings, Lord of lords,
The way, the truth, and the Life,
Mighty Creator, My Savior and Friend.

Jesus, Name above all names,
Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us,
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P As this New Year begins, we pray for ourselves, for God's people around the world, and for all who call out to Him with their various needs.

Let us pray for the Church, which is our spiritual home.

Lord of all ages and generations, bless all who will gather in this place in Your name throughout the coming year. Be with all those who labor in mission fields and in the various ministries of our churches and grant them joy in living out their vocations. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Let us pray for all who face this day in illness or infirmity, in sadness of spirit or in grief of any kind, *especially...*

Caring Lord and Shepherd of the sheep, carry Your people close to Your heart and grant that which is best and brings blessing in every situation of life for all of Your children. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Let us pray for the world in which we live and for the rulers of lands around the globe.

Lord of life and of peace, direct the leaders of the nations of the world to be workers for peace so that countries will not raise up sword against one another, societies may be ordered for the good of all, and Your kingdom of grace extended without persecution. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Let us pray for all those in the household of faith, including those absent from worship.

Lord of mercy and of patience, bring to repentance all who have turned from Your way. Use dedicated and devout people of faith to bring Your Word to them that they may hear anew the precious Gospel of Your Son in this New Year of Your grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Let us pray for a right reception of our Lord's body and blood in the Holy Sacrament.

Lord of power and of holiness, cause us to grow as Your branches as we gather around Your Word and Sacrament. Nourish us and strengthen us to carry on the work You would have us do at home, at work, or in school to the glory of Your holy name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Let us remember in prayer those who have gone before us and have died in the faith.

Lord of time and of eternity, we bless You for the faithful witness of those who have completed their earthly journeys, whose memory inspires and blesses us. Grant that we follow in their way, looking forward to a great and everlasting reunion in Your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung)

Our Father, which 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 debts
as we forgive our debtors,
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil,
For Thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
Forever.
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 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

(Jesus instituted, or established the Lord's Supper for us; 1Cor 11:23-26; Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20)

PAX DOMINI

(Latin for "Peace of the Lord" - the response is, "Amen!", or "So be it!")

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

"Jesus Messiah"

He became sin, who knew no sin;
That we might become His righteousness;
He humbled Himself and carried the cross.
Love so amazing, love so amazing.

(Chorus)

Jesus Messiah, Name above all names;
Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel.
The Rescue for sinners, the Ransom from Heaven;
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.

His body the bread, His blood the wine
Broken and poured out, all for love.
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn.
Love so amazing, love so amazing. **(chorus)**

All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You;
All the glory to You, God, the Light of the world. **(chorus)**

"Be Unto Your Name"

We are a moment, You are forever,
Lord of the ages, God before time,
We are a vapor, You are eternal,
Love everlasting, reigning on high.

**Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty,
Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain,
Highest praises, honor and glory
Be unto Your name,
Be unto Your name.**

We are the broken, You are the healer,
Jesus, Redeemer, mighty to save,
You are the love song we'll sing forever,
Bowing before You, blessing Your name. **(Chorus x2)**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have refreshed us through this Sacrament, and we pray that, strengthened thereby, we will bring honor to Your name in all that we do, rejoicing to be called as Your children; 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

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.**

HYMN

“Savior, Again To Your Dear Name”

Savior again to Your dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;
Once more we bless You, ere our worship cease,
Then, lowly bending, wait Your word of peace

Grant us Your peace upon our homeward way,
With You began, with You shall end the day;
Guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon Your name.

Grant us Your peace, Lord, through the coming night;
For us transform its darkness into light.
Keep us from harm and danger till the dawn;
Your evening presence promise to Your own.

DISMISSAL

P Go out in peace, joy, and love in the wonderful and powerful name of Jesus.

C **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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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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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