



FIFTH WEDNESDAY

*in*

LENT

Ascension Lutheran Church

*"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"*

Lenten Midweek Four – April 2, 2025

## LENTEN MIDWEEK FIVE

**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!

### + PREPARATION +

#### **SERIES: “GOOD NEWS FROM THE BEGINNING: THE GOSPEL IN GENESIS”**

#### **“The Good News of a Savior Who Unites Heaven and Earth”**

**AS WE GATHER:** Some of the tools and implements that make our lives easier do not have very lengthy histories. Although ladders of rope, wood, and stone have been around for thousands of years, the trusty stepladder we use in so many ways was not invented until 1862, when John Basely of Dayton, Ohio, constructed a hinged ladder so it could be put away easily after use. Ladders have aided humans for centuries. They assist a person to reach high places safely. The ladder in Jacob’s dream did that and more—it reached down to him on earth with an affirmation of God’s promises. As we worship, God reaches to us with His promises of redemption, forgiveness, and love. What a great vision that is for us to share!

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

#### **“Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed”**

LSB 560

- 1 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.
- 2 Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,  
Thy grace abused, my misspent years;  
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears,  
Christ crucified, I come.

- 3 Wash me and take away each stain;  
Let nothing of my sin remain.  
For cleansing, though it be through pain,  
Christ crucified, I come.
- 4 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.

"Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed", Text: Genevieve M. Irons, 1855–1928, Text: Public domain

## INVOCATION

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

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- A** Let us confess our sins to God, our Heavenly Father.
- C** **I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before God of all sins. I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. My Lord's name I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let His love have its way with me, and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires have been soiled with sin. I am sorry for all of this and ask for grace. I want to do better.**
- A** God be merciful to us and strengthen our faith that we may rest in His assurance that our sins are forgiven because Jesus paid for them with His precious blood on the cross of Calvary.
- C** **Thanks be to God. Amen.**



- <sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes | to the hills.\*  
From where does my | help come?
- <sup>2</sup>**My help comes | from the LORD,\*  
who made | heaven and earth.**
- <sup>3</sup>He will not let your | foot be moved;\*  
he who keeps you will not | slumber.
- <sup>4</sup>**Behold, he who keeps | Israel\*  
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep.**
- <sup>5</sup>The LORD is your | keeper;\*  
the LORD is your shade on your | right hand.
- <sup>6</sup>**The sun shall not strike | you by day,\*  
nor the | moon by night.**
- <sup>7</sup>The LORD will keep you from all | evil;\*  
he will | keep your life.
- <sup>8</sup>**The LORD will keep  
your going out and your | coming in\*  
from this time forth and for- | evermore.**

**“Chief Of Sinners Though I Be”**

LSB 611

- 1 Chief of sinners though I be,  
Jesus shed His blood for me,  
Died that I might live on high,  
Lives that I might never die.  
As the branch is to the vine,  
I am His, and He is mine.
- 3 Only Jesus can impart  
Balm to heal the wounded heart,  
Peace that flows from sin forgiv’n,  
Joy that lifts the soul to heav’n,  
Faith and hope to walk with God  
In the way that Enoch trod.

5 O my Savior, help afford  
By Your Spirit and Your Word!  
When my wayward heart would stray,  
Keep me in the narrow way;  
Grace in time of need supply  
While I live and when I die.

"Chief Of Sinners Though I Be", Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt., Text: Public domain

## SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## PRAYER

**P** Let us pray.

Eternal God, You so loved the world that You gave Your only Son into death for our sin. Take our lives, Lord, and use them to lift up Your Son so that all will be drawn to Him and find eternal life; for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## + THE WORD +

## FIRST READING

Genesis 28:10-22 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup>Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. <sup>11</sup>And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. <sup>12</sup>And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! <sup>13</sup>And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. <sup>14</sup>Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

<sup>15</sup>Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” <sup>16</sup>Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.” <sup>17</sup>And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” <sup>18</sup>So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. <sup>19</sup>He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first. <sup>20</sup>Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, <sup>21</sup>so that I come again to my father’s house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, <sup>22</sup>and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God’s house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to You.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

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

## SECOND READING

Ephesians 2:11-22 (ESV)

**P** Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

**C** **For He Himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.**

**P** And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the

cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:43-51 (ESV)

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

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

<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." <sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." <sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." <sup>47</sup>Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup>Nathanael said to Him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." <sup>49</sup>Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" <sup>50</sup>Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." <sup>51</sup>And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## "Glory Be to Jesus"

LSB 433

- 1 Glory be to Jesus,  
Who in bitter pains  
Poured for me the lifeblood  
From His sacred veins!
- 2 Grace and life eternal  
In that blood I find;  
Blest be His compassion,  
Infinitely kind!

3    Blest through endless ages  
       Be the precious stream  
 Which from endless torment  
       Did the world redeem!

6    Lift we, then, our voices,  
       Swell the mighty flood;  
 Louder still and louder  
       Praise the precious blood!

"Glory Be to Jesus", Text: Italian, c. 18th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt., Text: Public domain

**SERMON**  
**"The Good News of a Savior**  
**Who Unites Heaven and Earth"**

Pr. Jim Sprengle

Genesis 28:10-22

**TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

Please place your offering in the basket in the aisle. (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.)

**"In Holy Conversation"**

LSB 772

1 In ho-ly con-ver-sa-tion We speak to God in prayer,  
 2 These ho-ly con-ver-sa-tions Be-gin in child-like ways;  
 3 As ho-ly con-ver-sa-tion, In si-lence or by word,  
 And at His in-vi-ta-tion Our deep-est thoughts we share.  
 We bring our sup-pli-ca-tions And words of thanks and praise.  
 In ev-'ry sit-u-a-tion Through Je-sus, we are heard.  
 We come, His will o-bey-ing, As chil-dren bring-ing needs;  
 With care our Fa-ther lis-tens To ev-'ry thought ex-pressed,  
 So let us pray se-cure-ly, Ex-press-ing hopes and fears



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## PRAYER

*(following each petition):*

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

## RESPONSIVE LITANY

- P** Hear our prayer, O Lord.
- C** Let our cry come to You.
- P** Lord God, in our journey through this life, help us to build our hopes not on what we have done for You
- C** but on what You have done for us,
- P** and help us to find peace not by searching within ourselves
- C** but by looking to Christ and His cross;
- P** for our hearts are restless
- C** until they find their rest in You.
- P** Gracious God, be with all who are lost and searching,
- C** and draw their hearts to Christ,
- P** that they may know Him as the way, and the truth, and the life,
- C** and find in Him a peace that surpasses all understanding;
- P** for He is the stairway to heaven,
- C** and through Him the door to paradise is open.

**P** Hear us, O Lord, as we silently bring You our private petitions.

*Silent prayer*

**P** Trusting in Your mercy, we pray as Your Son taught us:

## **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**

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 you, defend you from all evil, and bring you to everlasting life.

**C** Amen.

- 1 You are the way; through You alone  
Can we the Father find;  
In You, O Christ, has God revealed  
His heart and will and mind.
- 2 You are the truth; Your Word alone  
True wisdom can impart;  
You only can inform the mind  
And purify the heart.
- 3 You are the life; the empty tomb  
Proclaims Your conqu’ring arm,  
And those who put their trust in You  
Not death nor hell shall harm.
- 4 You are the way, the truth, the life;  
Grant us that way to know,  
That truth to keep, that life to win  
Whose joys eternal flow.

“You Are the Way; through You Alone”, Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt., Text: Public domain

## **DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C** **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.

## STAFF

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