



Ascension Lutheran Church and School
"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"
December 31, 2022

**New Year's Eve
December 31, 2022**

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.

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

✠ PREPARATION ✠

THEME: "New Year . . . No Fear!"

AS WE GATHER: Fear has become an unwelcome companion in this mortal life and even more over the past few years. As the world pauses to end a year and begin a new one, we are forced to come face-to-face with those fears. By God's grace and favor, we know all that the Lord has done to make us His own and to enable us to live under Him now and to be His in eternity. If this gracious God is for us, then, as Paul asks, who can be against us? We do not need to know what lies in wait for our earthly future if we know the heavenly future we have in Christ. Because God is for us, we have an answer to our fears and live out our days in confidence that we are more than conquerors through Christ, our Lord.

PRELUDE

Special thanks to Peggy Hall for her musical leadership in our worship this evening.

WELCOME

HYMN

“O Lord, Our Father, Thanks And Praise”
(tune: Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice)

O Lord, our Father, thanks and praise
In this new year we render,
For ev'ry evil had to flee
Before you, our defender.
Our life was nourished, we were fed
With rich supplies of daily bread,
And peace reigned in our borders.

Lord Jesus Christ, our thanks and praise
In this new year we render;
Your reign has kept your people free,
Has shown your mercies tender.
You have redeemed us with your blood;
You are our joy, our only good,
In life and death our Savior.

O Holy Spirit, thanks and praise
In this new year we render,
For you have led our eyes to see
Your truth in all its splendor
And thus enkindled from above
Within our hearts true faith and love
And other Christian virtues.

INVOCATION

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

C Amen

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

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

P Merciful Father, we have squandered and abused Your gift of time. We have used Your gift for evil, failed to live as a people set apart, and demonstrated more fear than trust to those around us.

C **I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God has had mercy upon you and has given His only 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. May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

P The peace of the Lord be with you.

C **Amen.**

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O almighty and gracious Lord, You have overcome all enemies and redeemed us to be Your children and to live under You now and forevermore. Grant us Your grace that our fears may be captive to Your love and our hearts established in the peace of Christ's holy name until we are delivered into Your eternal presence on the day You have appointed; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whom with the Father and the Holy Spirit, You are 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 30:15–17 (ESV)

¹⁵ For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." But you were unwilling, ¹⁶ and you said, "No! We will flee upon horses"; therefore you shall flee away; and, "We will ride upon swift steeds"; therefore your pursuers shall be swift. ¹⁷ A thousand shall flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you shall flee, till you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 8:31b–39 (ESV)

³¹ If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 12:35–40 (ESV)

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

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

³⁵ "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹ But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

PRAYER / LOVE IN ACTION REQUESTS GATHERED

HYMN

“Another Year Is Dawning”

(tune: The Church’s One Foundation)

Another year is dawning;
Dear Father, let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with Thee;
Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.

Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace
Another year of gladness
In-the shining of Thy face;
Another year of leaning
Upon Thy loving breast;
Another year of trusting,
Of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of service,
Of witness for Thy love;
Another year of training
For holier work above
Another year is dawning:
Dear Father, let it be,
On earth or else in Heaven,
Another year for Thee.

SERMON

“FEARING GOD”

Romans 8:31b–39
Pr. Jim Sprengle

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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)

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.

Silence for prayer and meditation.

P O Lord, You created all things and filled all time and space with Your mercy and grace. Give to us now the faith to acknowledge that our times lie in Your hands that we live without fear the days You give us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P All that exists is sustained by Your power, O Lord. Give us wisdom that we number our days and apply our hearts in wisdom to the things that matter. Give to Your Church faithful pastors who will preach Your Word without compromise and call the unbelieving to faith and comfort the believing, that in all things Christ be glorified and we be saved. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P You rule all things, O Lord, and those to whom You have entrusted governance are accountable to You. Give to us wise leaders who will hear and heed Your Word, protect life from its natural beginning to its natural end, and defend us against all our enemies. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P As You have given us so many and great blessings, O Lord, give us also a grateful heart to receive Your goodness and use Your gifts wisely. Accept from our mouths the song of praise and from our hands the tithes and offerings of a grateful heart. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P From Your grace comes the bread that nourishes our bodies and the Bread of Life that feeds us eternal life. Help us, through repentance and faith, to receive Christ's flesh and blood so that this Communion may nurture us body and soul to everlasting life by the forgiveness of our sins. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P You are the hope of the troubled, the rest of the dying, and the healer of the sick, O God of grace. Hear us now for those afflicted in body or spirit, that they be sustained through the day of trouble and granted comfort, patience, and perfect healing through Christ, and tonight we pray for...Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, Your mercies are new every morning, and Your Word is our lamp and our light. Help us so to walk in Your ways that in time of persecution and threat we be steadfast in faith. Guide us, Father, through the uncertainties and anxieties we meet, with the confidence that if we are Yours, we have nothing to fear; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **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.**

✠ 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

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

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“I Come, O Savior, To Thy Table”

I come, O Savior, to Thy table,
For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone are able
To satisfy and make me whole.
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!

Restless am I and heavy laden,
With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously, and gladden
My heart that here is now Your guest.
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!

Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning
That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning;
So I, a sinner, come to Thee.
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!

Unworthy though I am, O Savior,
Because I have a sinful heart
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,
For Thou my faithful shepherd art:
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!

Weary am I and heavy laden;
With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden
My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!

What higher gift can we inherit?
It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit,
The covenant of hope and grace.
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

(Refrain)

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

**Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided.
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.**

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above;
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. **(refrain)**

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **(refrain)**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

O God of grace and mercy, in Christ, the light of the world,
You have shined Your light into the darkness of our sin.
Grant us Your Spirit that we not surrender to fear or
despair but live in hope the days You give us, and, kept by
Your mercy, receive us into Your arms, where we shall rest
until the day of resurrection, when in glorious flesh we shall
behold You face-to-face and dwell in Your presence
forevermore; through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives
and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

“O God, Our Help In Ages Past”

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting You are God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Your sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Still be our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home!

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Ascension Lutheran Church

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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.

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