



honest repentance

LENTEN MIDWEEK FOUR

Ascension Lutheran Church

"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"

LENT 4 MIDWEEK ~ March 15, 2023

FOURTH MIDWEEK IN LENT

March 15, 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.

+ PREPARATION +

THEME: "FAITH"

Welcome

HYMN

If God Himself Be for Me *(Tune: O Word of God Incarnate)*

- 1 If God Himself be for me, I may a host defy;
For when I pray, before me My foes, confounded, fly.
If Christ, my head and master, Befriend me from above,
What foe or what disaster Can drive me from His love?
- 2 I build on this foundation, That Jesus and His blood
Alone are my salvation, My true, eternal good.
Without Him all that pleases Is valueless on earth;
The gifts I have from Jesus Alone have priceless worth.
- 4 He canceled my offenses, Delivered me from death;
He is the Lord who cleanses My soul from sin through faith.
In Him I can be cheerful, Courageous on my way;
In Him I am not fearful Of God's great Judgment Day.
- 5 For no one can condemn me Or set my hope aside;
Now hell no more can claim me: Its fury I deride.
No sentence now reproves me, No guilt destroys my peace;
For Christ, my Savior, loves me And shields me with His
grace.

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Collect

P Let us pray.

O Lord, the precious blood of Jesus washes away our sins and restores our spirits. Grant to us all the renewal and refreshing of the Holy Spirit, that we may with joy know the blood of our Savior has cleansed us from sin, has paid the price of our redemption, and nourishes us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Confession

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

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.

READING

Genesis 22:1-18

¹After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." ²He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." ³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." ⁶And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. ⁹When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." ¹²He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." ¹³And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." ¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

- 1 My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!
- 2 May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart; My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!
- 3 While life's dark maze I tread
And griefs around me spread, Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray From Thee aside.
- 4 When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–87

Text: Public domain

SERMON

"FAITH"

Pastor Jim Sprengle
Genesis 22:1-18

Tithes and Offerings

Please place your offering in the basket provided. *(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 O Lord, hear my prayer.

C And let my cry come to You.

P Almighty God, grant that in the midst of our failures and weaknesses we may be restored through the passion and intercession of Your only-begotten Son. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Faithful Lord, You sent Your Son to restore Your house to be a house of prayer for all nations. Give us courage to approach Your throne in prayer and to invite all nations to be Your people; Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Mighty God, raise up faithful pastors, missionaries, teachers, and other church leaders. Stir up the hearts of Your faithful people to serve You with gladness and humility. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Father in heaven, we thank You for the mercy You show us in the cross of Him who comes in Your name to save us: Jesus Christ, our Lord. Grant that our journey through this season of Lent refresh our souls and draw us close to You as You gather us together in Your eternal presence. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of grace, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully hear our prayers for all the sick and grant them the help of Your power. If it is Your will, grant their sickness may be turned into health. Above all, may their sickness become an occasion for greater faith in You and confidence in the goodness You bring our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

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.

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

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

- 1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life's way;
Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day.
Without Your grace and favor I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior, And lead the way.
- 2 Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.
Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go.
- 3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,
I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend;
So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

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Dismissal

- P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God!

Acknowledgments

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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

Rev. Jim Sprengle, Pastor

pastor@alcportland.org

Ruberto Ek Yah, Pastor

pastorekyah@alcportland.org

Brad Hall, Worship and Music Coordinator

worship@alcportland.org

Michele Sprengle, Office Administrator

office@alcportland.org

Bonnie Webber and Rebecca Williamson, Treasurers

treasurer@alcportland.org

Wanda Cassetty, Council Secretary

council@alcportland.org

Laura Potter, Property Management

property@alcportland.org