

...loving the LORD your God, obeying His voice, and holding fast to Him, for He is your life and length of days...

Deuteronomy 30:20 (ESV)

Ascension Lutheran Church "A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone" February 12, 2023

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 12, 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 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: "Teach Us the Gospel Again"

AS WE GATHER: What is the Fifth Commandment? Answer: You shall not murder. You are right. But what does this mean? The disciples needed a little review in today's Gospel. So do we, for its meaning is deeper and more pervasive than we may think. When it comes to matters of the Christian faith and life, we never know it all or remember God's Word consistently. Remember Martin Luther's comment about those who would read the catechism once and then throw it in a corner as if they had already mastered it. Yet he who put it together, though he had advanced academic degrees, knew he needed to study God's Word over and over again. God's Word doesn't change, but we do. New challenges, new situations in life call for new insight and continuous instruction in God's living Word.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

HYMN "Lord, Help Us Ever To Retain"

Lord, help us ever to retain The Catechism's doctrine plain As Luther taught the Word of truth In simple style to tender youth.

Help us Your holy Law to learn, To mourn our sin and from it turn In faith to You and to Your Son And Holy Spirit, Three in One.

Hear us, dear Father, when we pray For needed help from day to day That as Your children we may live, Whom You baptized and so received.

Lord, when we fall or go astray, Absolve and lift us up, we pray; And through the Sacrament increase Our faith till we depart in peace.

INVOCATION

- In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

CATECHISM Baptism, First and Fourth

- P These are the words of your Baptism. What is Baptism?
- Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.
- What does such baptizing with water indicate?
- It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- As God's baptized people, therefore, let's do that! Let us repent anew that we may arise to live. But first let me ask, what is Confession?
- Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.
- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- 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.
- 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.
- And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; 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.
- And also with you.

THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING Deuteronomy 30:15–20 (ESV)

¹⁵ "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in His ways, and by keeping His commandments and His statutes and His rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. 17 But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying His voice and holding fast to Him, for He is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."

- This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:21-37 (ESV)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the fifth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. 23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you,²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Come to terms guickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. ²⁶ Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. ²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. 31 "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' ³² But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. 33 "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' 34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,³⁵ or by the earth, for it is His footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

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

PRAYER / LOVE IN ACTION REQUESTS GATHERED

HYMN "Oh, That The Lord Would Guide My Ways"

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways, To keep His statutes still; Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will.

Order my footsteps by Your Word, And make my heart sincere; Let sin have no dominion, Lord, But keep my conscience clear.

Assist my soul too apt to stray, A stricter watch to keep And should I e'er forget Your way, Restore Your wand'ring sheep.

Make me to walk in Your commands, 'Tis a delightful road; Nor let my head or heart or hands Offend against my God.

SERMON

"DID GOD REALLY SAY ...?"

Matthew 5:21–37 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

(11:00) "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

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty God, the seas roar and the rivers clap their hands because You come to judge the earth. Receive our thanks that You declare us righteous by water and the Word, and grant that we would live in that baptismal grace until You come in glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

- hear our prayer.
- P Heavenly Father, You make us Your children in Baptism and desire that we grow and mature in the faith. Bless pastors, teachers, parents and all who teach Your Word, and give us a constant desire to hear and obey it. Lord, in Your mercy,
- hear our prayer.
- Almighty God, You condemn unrighteous anger even as You command, "You shall not murder." You have poured out Your righteous anger on Your Son at the cross, that we might be reconciled to You. Where there is division, move us to repent and seek reconciliation with one another so that we might live in peace. Lord, in Your mercy,
- hear our prayer.
- P God of life, You condemn sexually impure thoughts even as You command, "You shall not commit adultery." Deliver us from lustful thoughts and defend us from the temptations of pornography, that we may lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do. Lord, in Your mercy,
- hear our prayer.

- O God, the Author of truth, You command us, "You shall not swear falsely." Give us faith to acknowledge Your Word and, by Your strength, do what You command. Lord, in Your mercy,
- hear our prayer.
- Lord, our God, You are our life and our length of days.

 Sustain and strengthen those who suffer sickness, affliction, or mourning...Lord, in Your mercy,
- hear our prayer.
- Gracious Lord, You give us all things for which we give thanks, and we pray for those who celebrate this week...Lord, in Your mercy,
- hear our prayer.
- P Almighty God, You give growth to the Church by Your Holy Word and Sacraments. Preserve Your people from the wisdom of the world, which creates division and follows after the winds of the age. Unite the Church in a common confession of Your truth. Lord, in Your mercy,
- hear our prayer.
- P Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

(8:30am service, please turn to page 11 for the Benediction)

♣ 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.
- And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- 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 HYMNS

"Your Table I Approach"

Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer. Oh let no unrepented sin Prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands; A contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me, Are taken at Your table Lord, In blest reality.

Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery; God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.

Oh grant, most blessèd Lord, That earth and hell combined May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

"O Living Bread from Heaven"

(tune: The Church's One Foundation)

O living Bread from Heaven, How well You feed Your guest! The gifts that You have given Have filled my heart with rest. Oh, wondrous food of blessing, Oh, cup that heals our woes! My heart, this gift possessing, With praises overflows.

My Lord, You here have led me Within Your holiest place, And here Yourself have fed me With treasures of Your grace; For You have freely given What earth could never buy, The bread of life from Heaven, That now I shall not die.

You gave me all I wanted; This food can death destroy. And You have freely granted The cup of endless joy. My Lord, I do not merit The favor You have shown, And all my soul and spirit Bow down before Your throne.

Lord, grant me then, thus strengthened With heav'nly food, while here My course on earth is lengthened, To serve with holy fear.

And when You call my spirit To leave this world below, I enter, through Your merit, Where joys unmingled flow.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank and praise You for feeding us the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with our mouths received the Holy Sacrament, we may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; 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

- C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN "Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing"

Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing, Fill our hearts with joy and peace; Let us each, Your love possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace.

Oh, refresh us, oh, refresh us, Trav'ling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration For Your Gospel's joyful sound. May the fruits of Your salvation In our hearts and lives abound. Ever faithful, ever faithful, To Your truth may we be found.

Savior, when Your love shall call us From our struggling pilgrim way, Let not fear of death appall us, Glad Your summons to obey. May we ever, may we ever Reign with You in endless day.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

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. 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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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FEBRUARY 12, 2023

† SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY IS TODAY

Hope you have remembered your Soup, Chili and Socks for SnowCap.

† MISSION OPPORTUNITY!

The Mission Board is organizing a group of volunteers to serve once again at Clear Creek Middle School (219 NE 219th Avenue, Gresham) on Sat. Feb. 25 from 10:00am to 1:00pm, participating with SOLVE volunteers. Previously, we helped plant native species in the school's outdoor science education location. Now they request help to remove some invasive species (blackberries and Irish ivy). Let Herb Hoefer know if you would like to volunteer as a Christian witness in this community service event. Call 503-780-8033 or email, herbhoefer@gmail.com

† 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 Elly Brown, 214 NE 27th St Gresham. See you there! Contact Bonnie Webber, (503) 915-2771 or Elle Brown, (503) 674-8015 with any questions.

† THE CHOSEN SEASON 3

The second and fourth Saturday of the month at 10:30am until the season ends! Join us!

† PRAYER NEEDS?

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

† MILESTONES

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:

Sarah Greco Feb. 18

BIRTHDAYS

Christina Freeman	Feb. 12	Virginia Jacobs	Feb. 12
Bob East	Feb. 17	Alex Ritchie	Feb. 17
Jennifer Netsch	Feb. 18	Tracy Schaffer	Feb. 18

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

John and Carolyn Haase	Feb 14, 1970
Erik and Erika Teyema	Feb 15, 2003
Herb and Carol Reiniger	Feb 17, 1990

ASSISTING IN SERVICE SUNDAY, FEB. 12

8:30am 11:00am
Elder: Randy Bryant Herb Hoefer

Acolytes:

Ushers: Stan Chapulis Matthias McInaney

NEEDED Marcus Young
Johnnie Driessner

John Knoke

Audio/Visual: Teresa Osgood Laura Potter

PowerPoint: Taylor Osgood Rebecca Williamson

Greeters: Sue Lewis Julie Williamson

Heather Gulde

Readers: Randy Bryant Julie Williamson Altar Circle: Both Services Virginia Jacobs

Flowers: Both Services

Counters: Both Services Bonnie Webber and Rebecca Williamson

ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, FEB. 19

8:30am 11:00am

Elder: Bruce Blubaum Bob Ritchie Acolytes: Jaden Mundo

Ushers: Stan Chapulis Jonathan Mundo
Bob Rekdahl Joshua Mundo

Randy Schroeder

NFFDFD

NEEDED

Audio/Visual: Laura Potter J. E. Knox

PowerPoint:Debbie RekdahlRosemary KnoxGreeters:Norma DillonEsperanza Gutierrez

Jean Dillon Riki Neagle

Readers: Sheryl Maier Karon Keup **Altar Circle:** Both Services Debbie Rekdahl

Flowers: Both Services

Counters: Both Services Karon Keup/Sheryl Maier

† 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);

EVENTS THIS WEEK - SUN., FEB. 12 - SAT., FEB. 18

Tyler Young, Navy — Deployed (nephew of Karen Arronson).

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Sunday, Feb. 12	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship with Communion
	5:00pm	Spanish Speaking Worship
	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. 16	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Feb. 17	6:30pm	Noche Familiar

NO Confirmation

EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., FEB.	19 - SAT.	FEB. 25
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7:00pm

Sunday, Feb. 19	8:30am	Worship with Communion
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Monday Feb. 20		NEWSLETTER ITEMS
Tuesday Feb. 21	6:00pm	3:10 Group
Wednesday Feb. 22	11:00am	CareConnect
	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
	3:30pm	Ash Wednesday Service
	7:00pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Thursday, Feb. 23	6:00pm	Praise Team
-	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Feb. 24	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
-	7:00pm	NO Confirmation
Saturday, Feb. 25	10:30am	The Chosen Three-Episode 2



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.

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