



# LENTEN

## MIDWEEK TWO

Ascension Lutheran Church  
*"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"*  
Lenten Midweek Two – February 25, 2026

## LENTEN MIDWEEK TWO

**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.

**TITHES AND OFFERINGS** During the midweek services of Lent, a basket is located in the center aisle to give your offering when you arrive or depart.

### + PREPARATION +

#### **THEME: “Go to Dark Gethsemane”**

“Go to Dark Gethsemane,” written by James Montgomery, is a Lenten hymn based on the gospel accounts of Jesus’ passion and death. The hymn is designed as a meditative journey for believers to witness Christ’s suffering and learn from His example. It focuses on Jesus’ agony in the garden, His trial, crucifixion, and resurrection. The lyrics remind us that we are nothing more than inept bystanders, watching Him take on our guilt, our shame, and our punishment. Not because we deserve it, but because of His unending love for us.

## WELCOME

### “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

- 1 Alas! And did my Savior bleed,  
And did my sov'reign die?  
Would He devote that sacred head  
For such a worm as I?
- 2 Was it for crimes that I had done  
He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown,  
And love beyond degree!
- 3 Well might the sun in darkness hide  
And shut his glories in  
When God, the mighty maker, died  
For His own creatures' sin.
- 4 Thus might I hide my blushing face  
While His dear cross appears,  
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,  
And melt mine eyes to tears.
- 5 But drops of grief can ne'er repay  
The debt of love I owe;  
Here, Lord, I give myself away:  
'Tis all that I can do.

“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”, Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt., Text: Public domain

## INVOCATION

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

## PSALM

Psalm 42:4a, 1-6a

These things I remember, as I pour | out my soul: \*  
how I would go with the throng and lead them in procession to the |  
house of God.

**As a deer pants for | flowing streams, \*  
so pants my soul for | You, O God**

My soul thirsts for God, for the | living God. \*  
When shall I come and appear | before God.

**My tears have been my food | day and night, \*  
while they say to me continually, “Where | is your God?”**

These things I remember, as I pour | out my soul: \*  
how I would go with the throng and lead them in procession to the |  
house of God

**with glad shouts and | songs of praise, \*  
a multitude keeping | festival.**

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil |  
within me? \*  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him, my salvation | and my God.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son \*  
and to the Holy | Spirit**

**as it was in the be- | ginning, \*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen**

These things I remember, as I pour | out my soul: \*  
how I would go with the throng and lead them in procession to the |  
house of God.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**A** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** 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.

**A** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** Amen.

## SALUTATION

**A** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## PRAYER

**A** Let us pray.

Almighty God and Father, our souls are downcast, yet we constantly thirst for You. Give us continuing hope and confidence in You because of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## + THE WORD +

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 53:1-6 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> “Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup> For He grew up before Him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him. <sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. <sup>4</sup> Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 6:1-5 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> “What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup> We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.”

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

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

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 26:36-46 (ESV)

**A** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

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

<sup>36</sup> “Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to His disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” <sup>37</sup> And taking with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, He began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup> Then He said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with Me.” <sup>39</sup> And going a little farther He fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.” <sup>40</sup> And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And He said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with Me one hour? <sup>41</sup> Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

<sup>42</sup> Again, for the second time, He went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, Your will be done.” <sup>43</sup> And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup> So, leaving them again, He went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. <sup>45</sup> Then He came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup> Rise, let us be going; see, My betrayer is at hand.”

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

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

## SERMON HYMN

### “Go To Dark Gethsemane”

Go to dark Gethsemane,  
all who feel the tempter’s power;  
your Redeemer’s conflict see,  
watch with him one bitter hour:  
turn not from his griefs away—  
teach us, Lord, how we should pray.

Follow to the judgment hall,  
view the Lord of life arraigned.  
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!  
Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!  
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss—  
help us, Lord, to bear our cross.

Calvary’s mournful mountain climb;  
there, adoring at his feet,  
mark the miracle of time,  
God’s own sacrifice complete:  
“It is finished!” hear him cry—  
save us, Lord, when death draws nigh.

Early hasten to the tomb  
where they laid his breathless clay:  
all is solitude and gloom.  
Who has taken him away?  
Christ is risen! He meets our eyes.  
Savior, teach us so to rise.

## SERMON

“Savior, Teach Us to Rise”

Pr. John Durkin

Matthew 26:36-46

## TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*(During the midweek services of Lent, a basket is located in the center aisle to give your offering when you arrive or depart.)*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** Let us go to our Lord in confident prayer, trusting in His promises and care for our lives:

Gracious God, offering full and free forgiveness, we come in spiritual sackcloth and ashes, painfully aware of our sins and failings. Graciously wash us and clothe us with the robe of Christ's own righteousness so that we may live eternally with all Your saints. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Eden's Lord and ours, hear us and all who call out to You in pain and sorrow, sweat or tears. Remind us of Your painful victory over every temptation, and strengthen us to follow where You have led the way. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Loving Father, calling us to Mount Calvary, remove from us our fear of Your righteous judgment for our sins; strengthen our faith in the all-availing sacrifice of Your Son in our stead. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Spirit of life, remind us again of our Baptism, in which our old Adam was drowned; strengthen us to live in the freedom of the children of God. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord Jesus, Savior and Guide, give us the eyes of faith to see the tree of life awaiting us in heaven, and guide us to follow where You have led the way. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Protecting Father, assure us of Your presence on our journey through the desert of this world and bring us at last to the paradise purchased by Your Son. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Holy and merciful Lord over all, we feel the burden of our sin; renew in us the firm faith that Your Son has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, giving His life for ours. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** Everlasting Father, our Savior has conquered death. Fill us with rejoicing, confident that we shall therefore gather around the eternal throne of the Lamb, Your Son, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## **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**

- C** 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 us and keep us,  
the Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious to us,  
the Lord look upon us with favor and grant us peace.
- C** Amen.

## **“Beneath The Cross Of Jesus”**

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand;  
The shadow of a mighty rock Within a weary land,  
A home within the wilderness, A rest upon the way  
From the burning of the noontide heat And the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus Mine eyes at times can see  
The very dying form of One Who suffered there for me.  
And from my smitten heart, with tears, These wonders I confess:  
The wonder of His glorious love, And my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow For my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than The sunshine of His face;  
Content to let the world go by, To know no gain nor loss,  
My sinful self - my only shame, My glory - all the cross.

## **DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace, serve the Lord!

**G** 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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