

A wooden cross is shown against a dark, starry night sky. The cross is made of weathered, light-colored wood. The vertical post has some faint markings, including the number '07' and the letters 'L' and 'P'. The horizontal beam is positioned across the top. The background is a deep blue and purple gradient with small white stars.

**“AND I, WHEN I AM
LIFTED UP
FROM THE EARTH,
WILL DRAW
ALL PEOPLE
TO MYSELF.”**

JOHN 12:32, ESV

Ascension Lutheran Church
Lent 5 Midweek ~ March 17, 2021

Lenten Midweek 5

MARCH 17, 2021

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.

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

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Theme: “Four Significant Days”
Significant Final Appearance: Tuesday of Holy Week

AS WE GATHER

As we journey through this Lenten season and the days of Holy Week, we hear the voice of God the Father thundering down from heaven, and we see Jesus disappear from the public until He stands before them on trial before His crucifixion. In today’s Reading from John 12, Jesus encourages us to walk in His light, lest darkness overtake us. Consider how blessed we are that Jesus allowed Himself to be overtaken by darkness so that we might walk forever in His marvelous light.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

HYMN

“Christ, the Life of All the Living”

Christ, the Life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe:
Through thy suff’rings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast suffered great affliction
And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion,
Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented
That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden,
I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry,
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES *John 12:28*

P As we turn our eyes to Holy Week, we behold Jesus' final public appearance before His trial and crucifixion.

C **He says that His soul is troubled.**

P He prays, "Father, glorify Your name."

C **The Father's voice echoes from the heavens.**

P "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

C **Jesus tells the people He will be lifted up, pointing them to the cross.**

P The people fail to understand who Jesus is.

C **But He encourages them to walk in the light, lest darkness overtake them.**

P Then He hid Himself from them.

C **Lord, grant that we walk in the light of Christ, lest darkness overtake us.**

✠ THE WORD ✠

PSALM *Psalm 13*

(tune: "O Dearest Jesus")

P How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?

G (sung)

**My God, my God, why must I be forsaken?
Look from Your throne, and let your pity waken.**

P How long will You hide your face from me? How long must I endure trouble? How long will sorrow fill my heart day and night? How long will my enemies triumph over me?

**Lord God eternal, in Your mercy hear me.
Haste to draw near me!**

P Make my eyes sparkle again, or else I will fall into the sleep of death.

**My God, my God, why must I be forsaken?
Look from Your throne, and let Your pity waken.**

P Don't let my enemies brag that they have triumphed, and gloat over my downfall.

**Lord God eternal, in Your mercy hear me.
Haste to draw near me!**

P I trust in Your steadfast love, O LORD; I wait to rejoice in Your salvation.

**My God, my God, I wait for your salvation,
When I may sing in joyful celebration.**

P I will praise the LORD for all the goodness done to me.

**Lord God eternal, in Your mercy hear me.
Haste to draw near me!**

READING

Numbers 21:4–9 (ESV)

(God sends fiery serpents upon the Israelites but provides a way for them to be saved.)

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” ⁶ Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷ And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” ⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

A O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

READING

1 Peter 2:1–10 (ESV)

(Christ has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.)

¹ So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. ² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴ As you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame.” ⁷ So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸ and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

A O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(Jesus makes His final public appearance before His trial and crucifixion.)

²³ And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him. ²⁷ “Now is My soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour?’ But for this purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify Your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to Him.”

³⁰ Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not Mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself.” ³³ He said this to show by what kind of death He was going to die. ³⁴ So the crowd answered Him, “We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can You say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” ³⁵ So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. ³⁶ While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.” When Jesus had said these things, He departed and hid Himself from them.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

“Now My Soul Is Troubled Deeply”

(tune: “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” – PICARDY)

“Now My soul is troubled deeply,”
 Jesus told the crowds one day.
 For the road and cost were steeply
 That He soon would walk and weigh.
 For the blood of Christ, not cheaply,
 Now has washed our sins away.

Down the Father’s voice resounded
 Of the glory due His name.
 At His voice, the crowds, confounded,
 Claimed that thunder was to blame.
 But such lies were all unfounded:
 God had shown His force and fame.

Jesus, soon to be forsaken,
Told the crowd how He would die,
Soon to be arrested, taken,
Soon to be uplifted high.
Jesus, soon to reawaken,
Now by darkness crucified.

So, then, while the Light is shining,
Walk in all His brilliant gleam.
People, in the dark reclining,
Up and rise to meet His beam.
For soon death will be resigning,
Christ returns to reign supreme.

SERMON

“TRUST ME”

John 12:23–36
Pastor Jim Sprenkle

HYMN

“I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light”

I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The Star of my life is Jesus.

(Chorus)

**In Him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father. **(Chorus)**

PRAYERS

P Almighty and everlasting God, grant us by Your grace so to pass through this holy time of our Lord's passion that we may obtain the forgiveness of our sins; Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, You are the light of the world that has shined in our darkness. Guide our footsteps to walk in Your light and be freed from the darkness of the evil one, so that we might reflect Your light to others who still sit in darkness; Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Other petitions...Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us 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.**

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.**

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

P So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer.

C **Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you.**

P The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going.

C **While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”**

P But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession,

C **that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.**

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**

HYMN

“Christ Be My Leader”

Christ be my leader by night as by day;
Safe through the darkness for He is the way.
Gladly I follow my future His care;
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my teacher in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand,
Doubt cannot daunt me in Jesus I stand.

Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.

DISMISSAL

P Let us walk in the light and love of Christ and share it as we go forth from this place!
C **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.

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Ascension Lutheran Church

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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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