

Whoever humbles himself like
this child is the greatest in the
kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:4



Ascension Lutheran Church and School
"A Church for Families and a Family for Everyone"

September 6, 2020

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

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: “The Penitent’s Posture”

AS WE GATHER

When His disciples wanted to know who was the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, Jesus pointed to a child as an object lesson for true humility. One who assumes the posture of complete dependence—having nothing, yet needing everything—is valued by God. Our gracious Savior calls us to such humility, repentance, and faith this day. As we come before Him to receive forgiveness and new life through His very presence in His Word and at His Table, we, too, assume a posture of penitence. This posture doesn’t point to ourselves and our supposed worthiness; no, it points to Jesus and His sacrifice for us, the unworthy children of the Father. As the only perfectly humble child of God, Jesus stoops to serve us today and fill us with the forgiveness we desperately need.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

HYMN

“Today Your Mercy Calls Us”

Today Your mercy calls us To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass, Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us And make us clean today.

Today Your gate is open, And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten, A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised, A glorious crown in Heav'n.

Today our Father calls us; His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather Around the Heav'nly gates.
No question will be asked us, How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered, It is our Father's home.

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 92:1–2*

P It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
C to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

P to declare Your steadfast love in the morning,
C and Your faithfulness by night.

P The Most High God gathers us to praise His name and declare His love together!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 32:1*

P Lord God, You promise grace and every blessing to all who come before You and repent of their sins. Hear us now as we, Your humble children, bring our prayers before You.

In silent prayer, we confess our sins to the Lord, seeking His cleansing forgiveness.

P Most merciful Father,
C we come before You and admit our sinfulness. In our thoughts, words, and actions, we have failed to do what Your Word demands. We have not honored You fully with our lives, nor have we loved one another as You have first loved us. In the name of our loving Savior Jesus Christ, we ask for Your forgiveness. Because our Savior humbled Himself for our sake upon the cross, enable us in true humility to receive the remission You promise to Your repentant children. Amen.

P “Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven; whose sin is covered.” God the Father has taken your sins and laid them upon our humble Savior Jesus Christ. Because of Christ’s sacrifice, God does not count your sins against you. He has taken them away! He remembers them no more! He preserves and delivers you as His child forever! As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, 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.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, from whom all goodness and love proceeds, grant to us the posture of true humility and repentance, that turning from our sins, we receive the remission You promise to all who trust in You; 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.

C **And also with you.**

† THE WORD †

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 33:7–9 (ESV)

(The watchman warns the wicked to turn from his way.)

⁷ “So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from My mouth, you shall give them warning from Me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand.

⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:1–20 (ESV)

(Jesus calls the children of God to humility and repentance.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ²And calling to Him a child, He put him in the midst of them ³and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵“Whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. ¹⁰“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of My Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. ¹⁵“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I among them.”

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

SONG

“Father Welcomes”

Chorus

**Father welcomes all His children, To His fam’ly through His Son.
Father giving His salvation, Life forever has been won.**

Little children, come to me, For My kingdom is of these.
Life and love I have to give, Mercy for your sin. **(chorus)**

In the water, in the Word, In His promise, be assured.
Those who are baptized and believe, Shall be born again. **(chorus)**

Let us daily die to sin, Let us daily rise with Him
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord, Live in the peace of God. **(chorus)**

SERMON

“SIMPLE, NOT EASY”

**Matthew 18:1–20
Pastor Jim Sprenkle**

NICENE CREED

☩ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER FOR 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.

For all the children of God, the Holy Christian Church, that we proclaim the salvation of Christ wherever we are and to whomever we meet, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Father, we depend on You as we share the Good News.**

P For the living out of our vocations, that no matter our station in life or what calling we have been given, that we faithfully represent our Savior with lives of humility and faith, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Father, we depend on You as we serve You with our lives.**

P For all children, that they grow daily in the wisdom of the Lord, and for all parents and those who work to care for children, that they be guided in their important service of love, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Father, we depend on You as we live as Your children.**

P For all public servants who selflessly serve others, both those who serve locally and those in positions throughout the world, that they would entrust their lives into the protecting care of their Maker, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Father, we depend on You for Your protection.**

P For all who suffer in heart, mind, and body, especially...that they with patience and faith receive the healing care You offer, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Father, we depend on You for Your healing touch.**

P For the abundance of good gifts which you bestow on us every day, we thank You, and we lift up our voices in thanksgiving with those who are celebrating this week...let us pray to the Lord.

C **Father, we depend on You for Your blessings beyond measure.**

P For these concerns and for every unspoken prayer that is on our hearts and minds, that our gracious God would hear and answer us, let us pray to the Lord,

C **Father, we depend on You for everything. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Mt 6:9ff; Lk 11:2ff)*

- 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.**

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

- 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

(Please read the FYI in your bulletin for additional announcements and information.)

SONG “They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love”

We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity May one day be restored.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other We will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other We will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news That God is in our land.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, by Whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, Who makes us one.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

DISMISSAL

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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PRAYER NEEDS?

Contact the church office with any requests at 503-665-8821 or e-mail:
office@alcportland.org

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Bonnie Webber, Pat Bair (Michele Sprengle's mom), Mike Hatley, The family of Alejandra Gamboa, Randy Arronson, Mary Niska, Jack Webber, Larry Hart, Bill Ritchie, Colleen Ek Yah, Esperanza Gutierrez, Brian Laxton, Virginia Hunt, John Eilers and Family, Marty Blankenburg, Richard Robertson, Lewis Eilers, Wayne Rippon, Ella Murray, Rich Zahursky, Audrey Bauch, Alan Bauch, Leonard Murphy, Bruce Blubaum, Judy Blubaum, Ray Brown, Antonia Martinez (mother of Esperanza Gutierrez), Ava Wentela (Sue Wentela's granddaughter), Carol Santorufo (sister of Sue Wentela), *Ordena Laxton, *Jean Smith, *Barbara Schrader, *Dale Porath
**Home Bound.* All those suffering or infected with Covid-19.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY:

Marie Cassetty Brown, Air Force — Ramstein Air Base, Germany AFB LA (sister-in-law of Wanda Cassetty);

Jaden Keup, Army – deployed (great-nephew of Karon Keup);

Jon Porath, Air Force — Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas NV (son of Dale and Sherry Porath);

Dakota Saunders, US Navy — Based in Cecilia Italy (godson of Carrie Graham);

Alex Williamson, Air Force, Reserve — Washington (grandson of Rebecca Williamson);

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 — Assigned to USS Harry S. Truman (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);

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

Ascension Lutheran Church and School

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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.

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