

SOLA SCRIPTURA
Scripture ALONE

SOLA GRACIA
GRACE ALONE

SOLA FIDE
FAITH ALONE

SOLUS CHRISTUS
THROUGH CHRIST ALONE

SOLI DEO GLORIA
GLORY TO GOD ALONE

Ascension Lutheran Church and School
Reformation Day Observed ~ October 25, 2020

REFORMATION DAY (Observed)

October 25, 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: “Do Not Fear: The Lord of Hosts Is with Us”

AS WE GATHER

Martin Luther’s great hymn “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” is based on Psalm 46. When the psalm was first written, it gave courage to God’s Old Testament people. Centuries later, when Luther wrote the hymn, the world was filled with plagues and death, and the devil was recognized as active in the lives of everyday people. Further, neither the Roman Catholic Church nor the government accepted the teachings of the reformers. Now, in our day, we face cyber warfare, pandemics, terrorists, political polarization, and ecclesiastical division. Because of our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, we need not fear. Our gracious God is a very present help in this time of trouble. He is our refuge against the powers of the created world around us and the forces of evil from every source. From His throne flow streams of mercy to give us confident joy. We know that in the end “the kingdom ours remaineth.”

PRELUDE

“In Christ Alone”
Arr. Michael Lawrence
Wyatt Brown, trumpet

WELCOME

SONG

“In Christ Alone”

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light my strength my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All, Here in the love of Christ I stand!

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones He came to save;
'Till on that cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied,
For every sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious Day, Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine, Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, Can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Till He returns or calls me home, Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

INVOCATION

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

OPENING RESPONSE *Psalm 46:1a, 2a; Romans 3:23–24a; John 8:31b–32*

P God is our refuge and strength;
C **therefore we will not fear.**

P All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
C **and are justified by His grace as a gift.**

P If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples,
C **and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Incorporating Psalm 46:4, 7, 11

P Lord of hosts,
C **hear our confession of sins and grant us Your mercy and forgiveness. We have not trusted in Your promised protection and strength, but have looked elsewhere for help and refuge. You alone have provided the remedy for what causes our separation, troubles, and death. For the sake of Christ, our Redeemer, grant us forgiveness and deliverance from all that would keep us from doing Your will.**

P There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. Because that river of grace and power has flowed over us in our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, in spite of our fear, the LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

By grace God has created each of us and everything that exists, and in the person of His Son entered our history and paid for our every sin and sin itself. In Christ's resurrection, God's promises have been made sure. 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. The LORD of hosts is with us! The God of Jacob is our fortress!**

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, always present in trouble, silence our fears when Your good creation seems out of control and evil appears to run rampant.

C **Like the dawning of a new day, dispel the darkness of our hearts and renew confident faith in Your constant presence and gracious protection;**

P 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 ✠

FIRST READING

Revelation 14:6–7 (ESV)

(An angel announces the time for judgment.)

⁶Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come, and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Romans 3:19–28 (ESV)

(We need not fear the Law’s accusation, for we are justified by grace.)

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. ²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over former sins. ²⁶It was to show His righteousness at the present time, so that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

LAMBS’ LESSON

HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:31–36 (ESV)

(We are freed from slavery to sin; we are free indeed.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

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

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³ They answered Him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that You say, ‘You will become free’?” ³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN

“By Grace I’m Saved”

By grace I’m saved, grace free and boundless; My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise? Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
No! Then this word must true remain: By grace you too will life obtain.

By grace! None dare lay claim to merit; Our works and conduct have no worth.
God in His love sent our Redeemer, Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;
His death did for our sins atone, And we are saved by grace alone.

By grace! This ground of faith is certain; As long as God is true, it stands.
What saints have penned by inspiration, What in His Word our God commands,
Our faith in what our God has done Depends on grace—grace through His Son.

By grace! On this I’ll rest when dying; In Jesus’ promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart’s condition, I also know my Savior’s voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown Since I am saved by grace alone.

SERMON

“HOW’S YOUR CREDIT SCORE?”

Romans 3:19–28
Pastor Jim Sprenkle

CREED & SCRIPTURE

Incorporating Psalm 46 and the Apostles' Creed

- P** Our faith is in God the Father, the almighty Creator of all that exists.
God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way.
- C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty, who has made me and all creatures. He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.**
- P** Our faith is in God the Son, whose sacrifice on the cross opens to us eternal life in God's eternal presence.
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
- C** **I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death. He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.**
- P** Our faith is in God the Holy Spirit, whose gift of faith gives us eternal peace with God.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the chariots with fire.
- C** **I believe in the Holy Spirit, who in the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.**

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

Incorporating Psalm 46

- P** Let us pray for the Church here and around the world and for all people in their varied circumstances.
O God, our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, strengthen the Church here and wherever it gathers around Your Word and celebrates the blessed Sacraments. Grant confident faith to clergy and laity, pastors in congregations and missionaries in distant lands, elders in the faith and newly baptized alike. Help us to put all our trust in Your protection and power. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

P Strong Creator, wherever people call out to You as the earth gives way, mountains move into the heart of the sea, and mountains tremble, hear their cries and keep them safe. Awaken courage and wisdom in those who search and rescue, those who provide physical and spiritual counsel, and those who offer long-term support of body and life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Holy Spirit, when nations rage and kingdoms totter, use the earthly powers that be to move the nations and their leaders to seek ways toward peace with their neighbors and stability within their borders. You, who make wars cease to the end of the earth, provide courage and compassion to all who work for peace and protection as they are deployed abroad and all who maintain concord and order within our communities. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious God, stream joy and gladness to those who wait for the dawning of a new day, those dealing with long-term ills, unemployment, discrimination, unjust imprisonment, strife in their families, and the loss of loved ones, *especially*...Assure them that You are with them, even now a very present help in trouble. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty Father, we thank You for all Your goodness toward us, and we lift up those who are celebrating this week...Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord of hosts, worthy to be exalted among the nations, into Your almighty hands we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray. Hear our prayer for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.)

HYMN

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

A mighty fortress is our God, A sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor’s rod, And wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe, Has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might, He arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight, Whom God Himself elected.
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is He!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God’s only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

Though hordes of devils fill the land, All threat’ning to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand; They cannot overpower us.
Let this world’s tyrant rage; In battle we’ll engage!
His might is doomed to fail; God’s judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

God’s Word forever shall abide, No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God Himself fights by our side, With weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house, Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away, They cannot win the day.
The Kingdom’s ours forever!

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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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ANNOUNCEMENTS—FYI

OCTOBER 25, 2020

† DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1 AT 2AM

† ASCENSION HELP LINE – 971-715-1416

Our goal is to offer practical help for our members and friends in need during this difficult time. We have volunteers who are willing to run errands, bring groceries, or help with other needs. In addition, volunteers can call to check on people, offer a connection, and pray. Please leave your name, number, and as clearly as possible describe your need, and a HELP LINE Volunteer will return your call within 24 hours.

† ALTERNATIVE FOR HOMEBOUND WORSHIP

- Online Daily Devotions are on our Facebook page: Ascension Lutheran Church and School - Portland
- Radio: KPDQ on 93.9FM Sunday mornings at 7:00am.
- alcpportland.org for Bible Studies and Worship Services

† ATTENDING SATURDAY SERVICE

The official rule for religious services is maximum 50 people, including pastors and assistants, as long as 6-foot distancing is possible. Our sanctuary has a seating arrangement that will allow 30 people to meet with proper social distancing. Beginning Saturday, September 12, you may attend the 3:00pm recorded worship services. Every other pew is blocked off for distancing. Individuals must sit at the end of the pews, unless in a family unit. Reservations are required, so please contact the office the week prior. After the service is recorded, a brief communion service will be held for those in attendance.

Reservations: Contact office and speak to Michele.
No voice messages or emails to make reservations
Reservations for coming Saturday only (no multiple weeks)
If full that week, names go on next week's list

The procedure for coming is as follows:

1. Do not have ANY illnesses or symptoms.
2. Arrive prior to 3pm as the service is taped and disturbances after beginning are not good
3. Wear a mask when entering
4. Use hand sanitizer on the table and sign in on the sheet there
5. Social distance of 6 feet at all times
6. Use the door at the hallway not the main church doors into the sanctuary
7. Sing and speak quietly during worship to keep your breath close to you
8. No dwelling after church in the narthex. Please take conversations outside.

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Ashley Fogarty	10/26	Jon Hart	10/26
Lewis Eilers	10/27	Gabriela Alvarado	10/30
Ron Barendse	10/30	Jaden Mundo	10/30
Barbara Nelsen	10/30		

BIRTHDAYS

Fred Greco	10/25	Elly Brown	10/26
Sherry Porath	10/27	Herb Reiniger	10/27
James Sprengle	10/27	Elaina Ritchie	10/28
Michele Sprengle	10/29	Janelle Hart	10/31

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES - None

PRAYER NEEDS?

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

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Carolyn Erdmann, Elly Brown, Bonnie Webber, Mike Hatley, The family of Alejandra Gamboa, The Family of 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, Rich Zahursky, Audrey Bauch, Alan Bauch, Leonard Murphy, Bruce Blubaum, Judy Blubaum, Ray Brown, Antonia Martinez (mother of Esperanza Gutierrez), Ella Murray, 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 Karen Arronson).

Ascension Lutheran Church and School

1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233
Church: 503-665-8821 · Childcare Center: 503-667-6750
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.

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