



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lenten Midweek 3 ~ March 3, 2021

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MARCH 3, 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 Questions: Tuesday of Holy Week

AS WE GATHER

As we journey through this Lenten season and the days of Holy Week, we find Jesus teaching and being asked various questions. Upon being asked which commandment is the greatest, Jesus says to love—with love for God and love for one’s neighbor. We may find we are lacking in either of these commands to love. Let us find hope in the reality that because Christ first loved us, we are empowered to love others.

HYMN

“Where Charity and Love Prevail”
(tune: How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds)

Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ’s love, by love are we thus bound.

Let strife among us be unknown, let all contention cease;
Be God’s the glory that we seek, be ours His holy peace.

Let us recall that in our midst dwells Christ, His only Son;
As members of His body joined, we are in Him made one.

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES

P As we turn our eyes to Holy Week, we find the scribes asking Jesus questions.
C **They want to know which commandment is most important.**

P Jesus' answer is twofold. Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength,
C **and love your neighbor as yourself.**

P These two commands are grounded in love.
C **Lord, grant that we love God and others as Christ loves us.**

P And grant that we turn away from hate and indifference
C **and share the love of Christ.**

† WORD †

PSALM 42 (tune: Go to Dark Gethsemane)

P As a deer longs for flowing streams, so I long for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?

C (sung) **Why are you cast down, my soul?
Why are you disquieted?**

P Day and night I cry, and tears are my only food; all the time my enemies ask me, "Where is your God?"

**Trust the Lord to make you whole,
As his faithful word has said.**

P My heart breaks when I remember the past, when I went with the crowds to the house of God and led them as they walked along, a happy throng, singing their praise to God.

**Hope in God, whose saving grace
Lifts again the downcast face.**

P I will say to the God of my strength, "Why have you forsaken me? Why must I go on suffering from the cruelty of my enemies?"

**Why are you cast down, my soul?
Why are you disquieted?**

P I am crushed by their insults as they keep on asking me, "Where is your God?"

**Trust the Lord to make you whole,
As his faithful word has said.**

P By day the Lord commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.

**Hope in God, whose saving grace
Lifts again the downcast face.**

READING

Deuteronomy 6:4–9 (ESV)

(The Lord is one, and we are to love Him with all our heart.)

⁴"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

A O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

READING

Galatians 5:13–23 (ESV)

(We are called to love our neighbors as ourselves
as we bear them fruit of the Holy Spirit.)

¹³For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. ¹⁶But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed

to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

A O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

READING

Mark 12:28–37 (ESV)

(Jesus is asked a significant question: which commandment is the most important of all?)

²⁸ And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that He answered them well, asked Him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” ²⁹ Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’ ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” ³² And the scribe said to Him, “You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that He is one, and there is no other besides Him. ³³ And to love Him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” ³⁴ And when Jesus saw that He answered wisely, He said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And after that no one dared to ask Him any more questions. ³⁵ And as Jesus taught in the temple, He said, “How can the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? ³⁶ David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared, “‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, until I put Your enemies under Your feet.’” ³⁷ David himself calls Him Lord. So how is He his son?” And the great throng heard Him gladly.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

“Jesus Is The Faithful Teacher”

(tune: Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness – *BEACH SPRING*)

Jesus is the faithful teacher, pointing to the reign of God,
Which extends o’er ev’ry creature, ev’ry person, pure or flawed.
So when asked this question’s content, Jesus knew the answer well,
“Which command is most important?” Hear the answer He would tell.

Hear, O people, chosen, holy: Yes, the Lord, our God, is one.
Love Him well and serve Him only for He has our freedom won.
Love the Lord with all your strength, friend. Love the Lord—heart, mind, and soul.
Love the Lord, for He has lengthened all our days and made us whole.

As you love the Lord, remember, you must love your neighbor too.
For the Lord has loved each member of the world He made anew.
These are both the great commandment; they cannot be held apart.
For to love without resentment is to follow Jesus' heart.

Truly Jesus is unrivaled, for He kept the perfect Law.
And He loves without deprivation, loves and leads without a flaw.
But the greatest love He shows us comes in laying His life down,
As upon the cross He chose us to receive His righteous crown.

SERMON

“WHAT DO YOU SAY?”

Mark 12:28–37
Pastor Jim Sprengle

RESPONSE

“I Love You, Lord”

I love You, Lord, and I lift my voice
To worship You, O my soul, rejoice.
Take joy, my King, in what You hear
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear.

(Repeat)

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 O God, You have commanded us to love You with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Strengthen us by Your own redeeming love that we might reflect Your steadfast love to the world; 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.

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.**

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

“Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way”
(tune: Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast – *ST. FLAVIAN*)

Lord, help us walk Your servant way
Wherever love may lead
And, bending low, forgetting self,
Each serve the other's need.

You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord,
But pow'r You laid aside.
You lived Your years in servanthood;
In lowliness You died.

Lord, help us walk Your servant way
Wherever love may lead
And, bending low, forgetting self,
Each serve the other's need.

DISMISSAL

- P** With His help, let us love the Lord our God and our neighbor on this Lenten journey, and always.
- C** Amen.

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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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) by:

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.