



"He entered the temple and began to drive out those  
who sold and those who bought in the temple"

Mark 11:15 ESV

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lenten Midweek 2 ~ February 24, 2021



## Lenten Midweek 2

**FEBRUARY 24, 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 ✠

**Four Significant Days**

**THEME: "Significant Action: Monday of Holy Week"**

**AS WE GATHER**

As we journey through this Lenten season and the days of Holy Week, we encounter Jesus acting in a way that is somewhat unfamiliar to us: He is angry and forceful, clearing the temple of all those who have turned His Father's house into a den of robbers. We would do well to consider if God's house in our own church is what Jesus desires: a house of prayer for all nations.

**HYMN**

**"God Himself Is Present"**

God Himself is present:  
Let us now adore Him  
And with awe appear before Him.  
God is in His temple;  
All within keep silence;  
Humbly kneel in deepest rev'rence.  
He alone  
On His throne  
Is our God and Savior;  
Praise His Name forever!

God Himself is present:  
Hear the harps resounding;  
See the hosts the throne surrounding.  
"Holy, Holy, Holy!"  
Hear the hymn ascending,  
Songs of saints and angels blending.  
Bow Your ear  
To us here:  
Hear, O Christ, the praises  
That Your church now raises.

Fount of every blessing,  
Purify my spirit,  
Trusting only in Your merit.  
Like the holy angels,  
Worshiping before You,  
May I ceaselessly adore You.  
Let Your will  
Ever still  
Rule Your Church terrestrial  
As the hosts celestial.

## 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 recall Jesus clearing the temple.  
**C** **He chased out the money-changers.**

**P** He chastised them for abusing His Father's house,  
**C** **for God's house is a house of prayer for all nations.**

**P** They had turned it into a den of robbers.  
**C** **Jesus took significant action for the sake of His Father's house.**

**P** Lord, grant that we turn from any ways we have misused our Father's house.  
**C** **And grant that we ensure this house of the Lord is a house of prayer for all nations.**

## ✠ THE WORD ✠

### PSALM 11

(tune: A Mighty Fortress)

**P** The Lord is my fortress. Don't say to me, "Fly like a bird to the mountains."

**C** sings: **Oh, be our mighty fortress, God,  
A bulwark sure, unshaken.**

- P** Don't say, "Look, the wicked have drawn their bows and aimed their arrows. They are standing in the shadows, aiming at good people. What can honest people do when everything falls apart?"

**Lord, be our help in direst need;  
Let us not be forsaken.**

- P** The Lord is sitting in His sacred temple, enthroned in heaven. He watches people everywhere and knows what they are doing. He examines the good and the wicked alike.

**O Lord, in justice rise,  
Enthroned above the skies.**

- P** He despises those who are cruel and love violence. He punishes them with flaming fury.

**Lord, let all people see  
The truth of Your decree.**

- P** For the Lord is righteous; He loves righteous deeds. Those who do them will behold His face.

**Your judgments stand forever.**

## **READING**

**Isaiah 56:1–8 (ESV)**

(The house of the Lord is for all nations and peoples.)

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the Lord: "Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon My salvation will come, and My righteousness be revealed. <sup>2</sup>Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who holds it fast, who keeps the Sabbath, not profaning it, and keeps his hand from doing any evil." <sup>3</sup>Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord say, "The Lord will surely separate me from His people"; and let not the eunuch say, "Behold, I am a dry tree." <sup>4</sup>For thus says the Lord: "To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths, who choose the things that please Me and hold fast My covenant, <sup>5</sup>I will give in My house and within My walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. <sup>6</sup>"And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to Him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be His servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast My covenant—

<sup>7</sup> these I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.” <sup>8</sup> The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, “I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered.”

**A** O Lord, have mercy on us.

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

## READING

**1 Peter 1:13–21 (ESV)**

(Ransomed by the precious blood of Christ, we are called to act in holiness.)

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, <sup>15</sup> but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, <sup>16</sup> since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” <sup>17</sup> And if you call on Him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, <sup>18</sup> knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. <sup>20</sup> He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you <sup>21</sup> who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

**A** O Lord, have mercy on us.

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

**RESPONSE (sung)** (from *How Deep the Father's Love For Us* – stanza 3)

I will not boast in anything, No gifts, no power, no wisdom;  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.  
But this I know with all my heart -- His wounds have paid my ransom!

## READING

**Mark 11:15–19 (ESV)**

(Jesus cleanses the temple.)

<sup>15</sup> And they came to Jerusalem. And He entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and He overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. <sup>16</sup> And He would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. <sup>17</sup> And He was teaching them and saying to them, “Is it

not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers." <sup>18</sup> And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy Him, for they feared Him, because all the crowd was astonished at His teaching. <sup>19</sup> And when evening came they went out of the city.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

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

## HYMN

### **“As Jesus Graced the Temple Court”**

(tune: Kingsfold)

As Jesus graced the temple court  
He found corruption's stain  
As vile thieves sought to extort  
His Father's house for gain.  
Propelled then by a righteous rage.  
He drove the vermin out.  
Uprooting tables, unassuaged,  
He taught them with a shout.

Remember well Isaiah's call,  
"My house shall now be named:  
A house of prayer for one and all,  
For ev'ry nation's claim."  
Yet you have made this house of prayer  
A den of thieves and cheats.  
Be now evicted from your lair,  
Reclaimed for godly feats.

The scribes and Pharisees devised  
A plan for Jesus' end.  
His death and agony they prized.  
His martyrdom they penned.  
But in their ignorance and spite  
They failed to hear His claim.  
He was the greater temple site,  
Whom death could not contain.

## SERMON

### **“CLEANING HOUSE”**

**Mark 11:15–19**  
**Pastor Jim Sprengle**

## PREPARATION FOR PRAYER

### “What A Friend We Have In Jesus”

What a Friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry, Everything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear.  
All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged; Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness; Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge! Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do Thy friends despise forsake Thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In His arms He'll take and shield Thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.

## PRAYERS

**P** O Lord, hear my prayer.

**C** **And let my cry come to You.**

**P** Almighty God, grant that in the midst of our failures and weaknesses we may be restored through the passion and intercession of Your only-begotten Son. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Faithful Lord, You sent Your Son to restore Your house to be a house of prayer for all nations. Give us courage to approach Your throne in prayer and to invite all nations to be Your people; Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Mighty God, raise up faithful pastors, missionaries, teachers, and other church leaders. Stir up the hearts of Your faithful people to serve You with gladness and humility. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Father in heaven, we thank You for the mercy You show us in the cross of Him who comes in Your name to save us: Jesus Christ, our Lord. Grant that our journey through this season of Lent refresh our souls and draw us close to You as You gather us together in Your eternal presence. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** God of grace, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully hear our prayers for all the sick and grant them the help of Your power. If it is Your will, grant their sickness may be turned into health. Above all, may their sickness become an occasion for greater faith in You and confidence in the goodness You bring our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Hear us, we pray, for the sake of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has taught 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.**

## 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

### “Savior, Again To Your Dear Name”

Savior again to Your dear name we raise  
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;  
Once more we bless You, ere our worship cease,  
Then, lowly bending, wait Your word of peace

Grant us Your peace upon our homeward way,  
With You began, with You shall end the day;  
Guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
That in this house have called upon Your name.

## 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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Web Site: [www.alcportland.org](http://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) 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.

## STAFF

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