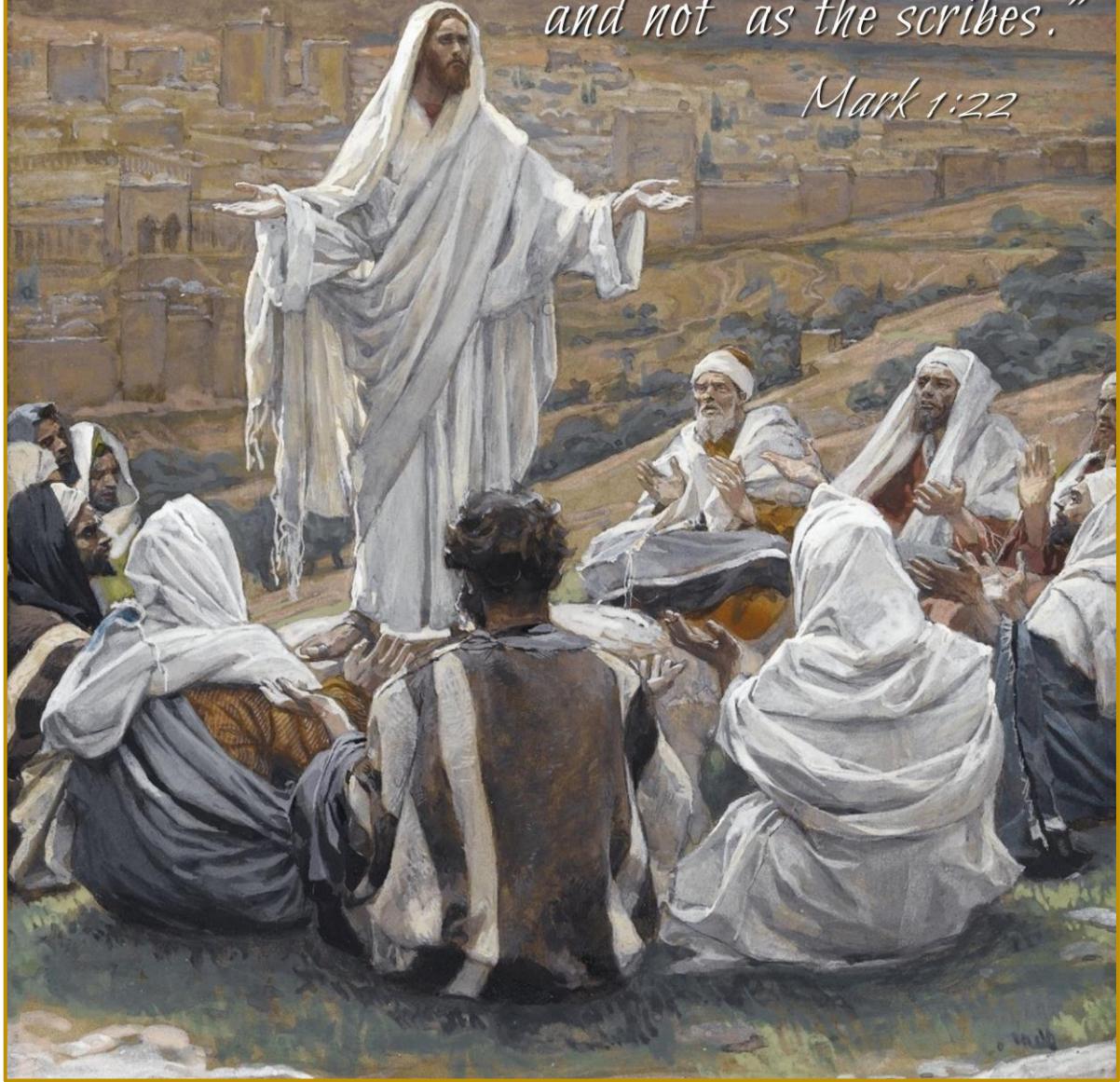


*“And they were astonished at His teaching, for  
for He taught them as one who had authority,  
and not as the scribes.”*

*Mark 1:22*



Ascension Lutheran Church and School  
January 31, 2021

## FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 31, 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: “Jesus’ Authority and Power”**

### AS WE GATHER

In today's Gospel, we are reminded of Jesus' divine authority in His teaching to the people and also in His power over evil spirits. This power and authority was foretold by prophets such as Moses, pointing to the One who would fulfill all things as the long-awaited perfect prophet and Savior. In that power and authority, Christ has won our victory through His death and rising, and we are blessed with freedom in that faith to be used to His glory in service to others.

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

## HYMN

### Holy, Holy, Holy”

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye made blind by sin Thy glory may not see,  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth, and sky, and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

## INVOCATION

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

## CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTiON

*Psalm 32:1–2, 5–7, 10*

- P** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.  
**C** **Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**
- P** As Paul warns, we confess those times when our freedom in Christ causes one who is weak in faith to stumble.  
**C** **Forgive us, Lord.**
- P** As Jesus, the long-awaited Prophet and Savior, taught with and showed His authority and power, we confess those times when we allow the forces of evil to make us forget the deliverance and love of God we have in Christ.  
**C** **Forgive us, Lord.**

**P** With David the psalmist, we humbly come before the Lord.

*Silence for reflection*

**P** I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity;

**C** **I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

**P** Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

**C** **You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a 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. To those who believe in His name He gives the power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Many are the sorrows of the wicked,

**C** **but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.**

## SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Lord of all, by Your hands all things were made. In Your Word is power over order and chaos, light and darkness, life and death. Grant Your Spirit that we become instruments of Yours by Your grace, humbly serving You through the perfect Prophet and Savior of this world; 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 †

#### EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 8:4-6 (ESV)

(Idols are nothing; God is everything.)

<sup>4</sup> Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” <sup>5</sup> For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”— <sup>6</sup> yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

#### LAMBS' LESSON

Pr. Jim Sprengle

#### HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:21–28 (ESV)

(People are amazed that Jesus teaches with authority.)

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.  
**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>21</sup> And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and was teaching. <sup>22</sup> And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup> And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, <sup>24</sup> “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God.” <sup>25</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup> And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup> And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.” <sup>28</sup> And at once His fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

**HYMN****“We Have a Sure Prophetic Word”**

We have a sure prophetic Word  
By inspiration of the Lord;  
And though assailed on ev'ry hand,  
Jehovah's Word shall ever stand.

By pow'rs of empire banned and burned,  
By pagan pride rejected, spurned,  
The Word still stands, the Christian's trust,  
While haughty empires lie in dust.

See, what the Word in times of old  
Of future days and deeds foretold  
Is all fulfilled while ages roll,  
As traced on the prophetic scroll.

Abiding, steadfast, firm, and sure  
The teachings of the Word endure.  
Blest he who trusts this steadfast Word;  
His anchor holds in Christ, the Lord.

**SERMON****“OH YEAH? SAYS WHO?”****Pastor Dan Critchett**

<sup>22</sup> And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. Mark 1:22

**SONG****“Speak, O Lord”**

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You  
To receive the food of Your holy word.  
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us,  
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord and fulfill in us  
All Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,  
Holy reverence, true humility;  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
In the radiance of Your purity;  
Cause our faith to rise,

Cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority.  
Words of power that can never fail:  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds,  
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us;  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
That will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,  
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built  
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

- C I believe that God is my gracious provider. He is the sovereign Lord of the Universe, the creator and sustainer of all life, and the giver of all good things.**  
**I believe that God knows my every need, and that He asks me to trust Him to meet those needs in His own way and in His own time. He invites me to seek Him in times of trial and tribulation, to thank and praise Him for His faithfulness, and to honor Him in all I think, say, and do.**  
**I believe that God loves me today and always; and that He has sought me to be His own, to walk in His light, to share His love, and to live with Him forever in heaven.**  
**I believe that God is triune: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God the Father Who created me, God the Son who purchased my forgiveness on Calvary's cross, and God the Holy Spirit who works in me the faith to receive the gifts of light and life, love and truth.**  
**I believe that it is my duty and my delight to give Him thanks and praise, to surrender my will to His, and to glorify Him now and forever. 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**

*(We offer prayers for all things and people; 1Timothy 2:1-2)*

**P** Let us pray for the Church of God and for all people according to their needs.

Gracious Lord, we give You thanks for the gift of the Holy Scriptures, both Law and Gospel, in which we see our sin and see Your love in our Savior. As Christ is true Prophet and Savior of this world, give us faith to continue to hear His voice and find comfort in His work of salvation. Bless the proclamation of the Word, and raise faithful servants who will share Your commands and the forgiveness that comes through Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Lord, grant continued faith by Your Holy Spirit through the hearing of Your Word that we be fed and nourished. Produce in us good fruit for the sake of selves and others, that we not cause others to stumble but to walk firmly in Your ways. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** All-powerful Lord, at whose Word and authority even unclean and evil spirits submit and obey, hinder the work of Satan in our lives that Your kingdom and victory be known to all. Give Your peace and presence to those who suffer any affliction, especially...Enable us to be a blessing to those in their time of need. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Gracious Lord, we give You thanks for the many blessings You bestow on us each day, and we rejoice with and lift up those who are celebrating this week, especially...Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

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

**P** Lord, in prayer, we approach Your throne of grace with confidence and gladness and pray as You have taught us:

**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 <sup>☩</sup> give you peace.
- C** Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HYMN

#### **"I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus"**

I am trusting You, Lord Jesus, Trusting only You;  
Trusting You for full salvation, free and true.

I am trusting You for pardon; At Your feet I bow,  
For Your grace and tender mercy trusting now.

I am trusting You for cleansing In the crimson flood;  
Trusting You to make me holy by Your blood.

I am trusting You to guide me; You alone shall lead,  
Ev'ry day and hour supplying all my need.

I am trusting You for power; You can never fail.  
Words which You Yourself shall give me Must prevail.

I am trusting You, Lord Jesus; never let me fall.  
I am trusting You forever and for all.

## 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 JANUARY 31, 2021**

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### **† ATTENDING SATURDAY SERVICE**

Services will be recorded at 2:00pm. The official rule for religious services is maximum 25 people, including pastors and assistants, 6-foot distancing and masks are required. After the service is recorded, a brief communion service will be held for those in attendance.

**Reservations:** Contact office and speak to Michele.

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 2:00pm 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. Enter the building through the Narthex Entrance
7. To enter the sanctuary, use the door at the hallway not the main sanctuary doors as they are blocked off due to filming.
8. No dwelling after church in the narthex. Please take conversations outside.

### **† ALTERNATIVES 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.
- alcportland.org for Bible Studies and Worship Services

### **† ASCENSION HELP LINE – 971-715-1416**

### **† MILESTONES**

#### **BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS**

George Maier	1/31	Doug Lambert	2/1
Brandy Webber	2/1	Lillian Lambert	2/2

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

Alma Bangs	2/1	Nekayla Maier	2/1
Barbara Nelsen	2/4	Frances Rippon	2/4

#### **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:**

The Family of Jack Webber, Carolyn Erdmann, Elly Brown, Mike Hatley, The family of Alejandra Gamboa, The Family of Randy Arronson, Mary Niska, Larry Hart, Bill Ritchie, Colleen Ek Yah, Esperanza Gutierrez, Brian Laxton, Virginia Hunt, John Eilers and Family, Marty Blankenburg, Richard Robertson, Lewis Eilers, The Family of Ordena Laxton, The Family of Wayne Rippon, Rich Zahursky, Audrey Bauch, Alan Bauch, Leonard Murphy, Bruce Blubaum, Judy Blubaum, Ray Brown, Antonia Martinez (mother of Esperanza Gutierrez), Michele Sprengle

Ava Wentela (Sue Wentela's granddaughter), Carol Santorufo (sister of Sue Wentela), \*Barbara Schrader, \*Dale Porath, All those suffering or infected with Covid-19.

*\*Home Bound.*

## **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).



1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233

Church: 503-665-8821 · Childcare Center: 503-667-6750

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):

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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**Ruberto Ek Yah, Vicar**  
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