



Ascension Lutheran Church and School
"A Church for Families and a Family for Everyone"
August 23, 2020

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 23, 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: “Built on “The Christ”

AS WE GATHER

Acknowledging Jesus as the Christ is central to our confession of faith as individual Christians and vital in our worship as the gathered people of God. In our use of that divine title, we echo the words of the angel who spoke to the shepherds in the field outside of Bethlehem with the Gospel message, “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11). We are blessed in knowing that Jesus, the Christ, is not only God in person in human form but that He is God for us. St. Patrick poetically spoke his confession with the words “Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me.” As we confess Jesus as the Christ this day, we are joining with saints and angels as well as with the sisters and brothers that surround us gathered for worship!

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

P Beloved of God, live as children of the light.
C **We clothe ourselves with faith and love, and the hope of salvation.**

P Christ died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live with Christ.
C **We give thanks for Christ's saving work.**

P In Christ, the God of heaven has made His home on earth.
C **Christ dwells among us and is one with us.**

P Highest of all creation, He lives among the least.
C **He journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.**

P Come now, all who thirst, and drink of the water of life.
C **Come now, all who hunger, and be filled with good things.**

- P** Come now, all who seek,
C and encounter the abundant love of the almighty God.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** It is in this great love He has for us that the Lord calls us to repentance, that we may receive His mercy and pardon and be reconciled to Him.
- C** **Gracious God, with contrition and repentance, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful and unclean. Daily we have sinned and done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as Your servants. We indeed deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity. Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is not in ourselves but in the merits of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us remission of all of our sins, and by the power of the Holy Spirit at work within our hearts and lives, lead us into ways that reflect Your goodness and love.**
- P** God is gracious and merciful and hears our supplications. By the command of our Lord and as His called and ordained servant, 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.
Almighty God, You inspired Peter to confess Jesus as the Christ, Your living Son. Keep Your Church firm on the rock of this faith, that in unity and peace the Savior will be proclaimed throughout the world until the end of time as the Holy Spirit works in the lives of Your people. This we ask 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

Romans 11:33–12:8 (ESV)

(God's greatness is far beyond comprehension, and
He invites us to love and serve Him fully.)

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways! ³⁴ “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been His counselor?” ³⁵ “Or who has given a gift to Him that He might be repaid?” ³⁶ For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen.

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in His teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in His exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

LAMBS' LESSON

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13–20 (ESV)

(Jesus' identity as the Messiah is declared and confirmed.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against

it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then He strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that He was the Christ.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN

“Come, Follow Me,” Said Christ, The Lord”

“Come, follow Me,” said Christ, the Lord.

“All in My way abiding;
Your selfishness throw overboard,
Obey My call and guiding.
Oh, bear your crosses, and confide
In My example as your guide.”

“I am the light; I light the way,
A godly life displaying;
I help you walk as in the day;
I keep your feet from straying.
I am the way, and well I show
How you should journey here below.”

“I teach you how to shun and flee
What harms your soul’s salvation;
Your heart from ev’ry guile to free,
From sin and its temptation.
I am the refuge of the soul
And lead you to your heav’nly goal.”

To follow Christ, I now lay down
My all upon His altar.
Surrendering my earthly crown
Lord, help me not to falter.
Oh, fashion me to seek Your ways
Your Word will guide me all my days.

SERMON

“The best life is the ‘all-in’ life.”

¹ Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. *Romans 12:1-2* **Pastor Dan Critchett**

SONG

“Softly and Tenderly”

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
Calling for you and for me;
See, on the portals He’s waiting and watching,
Watching for you and for me.

Refrain

**Come home, come home,
Ye who are weary, come home;
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Calling, O sinner, come home!**

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
Pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not His mercies,
Mercies for you and for me? **(refrain)**

Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing,
Passing from you and from me;
Shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming,
Coming for you and for me. **(refrain)**

O for the wonderful love He has promised,
Promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, He has mercy and pardon,
Pardon for you and for me. **(refrain)**

STATEMENT OF FAITH

(After hearing the word of God read and proclaimed, the worshiper responds with this confession of faith. 1Corinthians 15:1ff; 1Pet. 3:18ff; 1Tim. 3:16. In some churches you will hear a testimony from one of the faithful – we all give our testimony together.)

I believe in the triune God, as He has revealed Himself in the Bible.

God the Father who has created me, God the Son who has redeemed me, and God the Holy Spirit who has sanctified me, and given me the gift of faith. This is my Lord, three persons yet one God. He loves me now and forever, and invites me to an eternal relationship with Him, as I learn to trust and obey Him in all things.

I believe that He calls me to live a life of purpose and meaning. A life that honors Him and blesses others. I believe that He forgives my sins, and enables me to live the life to which He calls me.

I dedicate myself to that life. I desire His favor and blessing, and I will delight to serve Him all of my days on earth until, by His grace, He calls me home to worship and serve Him in heaven forever. Amen.

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 Lord of mercy, hear the prayers of Your people who call upon You in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Almighty God, Your love once created all things and set apart a people of Your promise. Grant to us faith that we believe Your Word, heed the call of Your love, and find peace in Your gift of salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Blessed Father, Your love is our great treasure and Your kingdom Your gift. Grant that we with bold voice make known Your salvation to all the ends of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Merciful God, You established Your Church and endowed her with Your Word and Your Sacraments. Bless all pastors and missionaries as they serve us in Your name with Your gifts and grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of grace, You have given to us the gift of work and the privilege of using the fruits of our labors for the support of our families and ourselves. Give us a generous heart that we give aid to the poor and honor to You with the worship of our hearts and the tithes and offerings of our hands. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

(a prayer for our building project)

P Lord God, we thank You for blessing us with the gifts and resources to enable us to enlarge and enhance our facilities. We pray that You would align our goals and vision with Yours that we would use this new addition to bless many people and as a place where people can be a part of the love and truth of Jesus in action, all to the glory of Your name. Please continue to keep safe those who are working to build this addition, and may it move toward completion with a smooth journey ahead.

Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Compassionate God, Your Son was wounded for our transgressions, and in His wounds are healing and strength. Hear us on behalf of all the sick, those who suffer, the grieving, and the dying, especially...Grant them all that is needed to support them in their hour of need. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious God, 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 Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

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

P Lord Jesus, grant us a blessed hope and a sure confidence as we come boldly before Your throne of grace, praying the prayer that 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 ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

SONG

“Trust and Obey”

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain

**Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.**

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,
But is blessed if we trust and obey. **(refrain)**

But we never can prove the delights of His love
Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favor He shows, for the joy He bestows,
Are for them who will trust and obey. **(refrain)**

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do, where He sends we will go;
Never fear, only trust and obey. **(refrain)**

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

AUGUST 23, 2020

† VIRUS UPDATE RELATED TO CHURCH ACTIVITIES

All Church activities are canceled until further notice. Although we are not fearful, we continue to take prudent measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

Please stay at home, do not go out unless it is unavoidable, wear an appropriate face mask and stay 6 feet away from others. You may call the office phone and listen to current messages, check the web site and you email to stay up on the latest news.

† 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: KPDK on 93.9FM Sunday mornings at 7:00am.
- alcpportland.org for Bible Studies and Worship Services

† THANK YOU FROM BONNIE WEBBER

I cannot thank people enough for the wonderful cards, phone calls and notes praying for a speedy recovery from my surgery. All has gone well, and I look forward to being able to praise and honor the Lord with each of you again. We are all in God's hands. Bonnie

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS - None

BIRTHDAYS

Grace Fogarty, Ty	8/24	Sandy Longstreth	8/24
Andrew Freeman	8/25	Bob Ritchie	8/25
Lance Deal	8/26	Randy Schroeder	8/27
Carlyn Staudt	8/27	Scott Oswald	8/28
Brooklyn Spencer	8/28	Linda Byers	8/29

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Audrey and Shorty Bauch Aug 28, 1949

PRAYER NEEDS?

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

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

All those suffering or infected with Covid-19, 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*.

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: 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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