



Ascension Lutheran Church
"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"
June 25, 2023

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE PENTECOST

Sunday June 25, 2023

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.

For those wishing to commune at the Lords Table with us today:

The Lutheran practice of close Communion attempts to prevent a person from eating and drinking judgment on himself (1 Corinthians 11:23–30). Thus, attendance at the Lords Supper implies a four-level commitment to Christ. We believe that communicants must: (1) be baptized Christians; (2) accept the real presence of Christs body in the bread and His blood in the wine; (3) confess and repent of ones sins and trust that God offers complete forgiveness of those sins in this Sacrament; and (4) share oneness of faith, doctrine and practice among those who commune. Those wishing to commune with us today who have not done so previously, please see the pastor or an elder before the service begins. (*Grape juice is available for those who do not drink alcohol, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*)

Para aquellos que desean participar en la Santa Cena con nosotros hoy: *La práctica luterana de la comunión intenta evitar que una persona coma y beba el juicio de Dios sobre sí mismo (1 Corintios 11:23–30). Por lo tanto, la asistencia a la Cena del Señor implica un compromiso de cuatro niveles con Cristo. Creemos que los comulgantes deben: (1) ser bautizados como cristianos; (2) aceptar la presencia real del cuerpo de Cristo en el pan y Su sangre en el vino; (3) confesar y arrepentirse de sus pecados y confiar en que Dios ofrece el perdón completo de esos pecados en este Sacramento; y (4) compartir la unidad de fe, doctrina y práctica entre los que comulgan. Aquellos que desean comulgan con nosotros hoy que no lo han hecho anteriormente, por favor vean al pastor o un anciano antes de que comience el servicio. (El jugo de uva está disponible para aquellos que no beben alcohol, y hostias libres de gluten están disponibles bajo petición.)*

+ PREPARATION +

Theme: “Hope in the World”

As We Gather: It is not easy to live in this world as a believer in the one true God. Faith is challenged, truth is questioned, and persecution is faced. Though hardships and challenges are there and will continue, we are reminded this is nothing new since the fall into sin. The Lord doesn't leave us though in midst of doubt and despair as we deal with division and even danger. He gives His presence and assures His lasting promises. In the Old Testament, the prophet Jeremiah and his people faced hardships, yet they modeled how our witness and testimony can be ones of boldness and confidence as we sing to and praise the Lord, for He “delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers” (Jeremiah 20:13). As Paul would face countless challenges in his Gospel proclamation to the ends of the earth, he reminds us that, even amid the battle of sin, we have received grace and that the “free gift of God is eternal life” (Romans 6:23). Jesus also reminds us that as divisiveness and persecution can be expected even from those closest to us, because of His everlasting promises we are able to “fear not.” The psalmist also assures that the Lord remains our refuge and our fortress. The world around us won't change until Christ returns, but the Lord doesn't change either. In and through Him, with faith and confidence we keep our trust.

Prelude

Welcome

Come unto Me, Ye Weary

- 1 “Come unto Me, ye weary,
And I will give you rest.”
O blessed voice of Jesus,
Which comes to hearts oppressed!
It tells of benediction,
Of pardon, grace, and peace,
Of joy that hath no ending,
Of love that cannot cease.

2 “Come unto Me, ye wand’rers,
And I will give you light.”
O loving voice of Jesus,
Which comes to cheer the night!
Our hearts were filled with sadness,
And we had lost our way;
But Thou hast brought us gladness
And songs at break of day.

3 “Come unto Me, ye fainting,
And I will give you life.”
O cheering voice of Jesus,
Which comes to aid our strife!
The foe is stern and eager,
The fight is fierce and long;
But Thou hast made us mighty
And stronger than the strong.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt., Text: Public domain

Invocation

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

Confession and Absolution

- P** We come before our Lord in confession, even as Jesus invites us to come to Him. “Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”
- C** **Gracious Lord, we confess we have not always sought rest for ourselves nor our burdened souls in You, instead seeking refuge in the temporary things of this world. Forgive us.**
- P** Jesus says, “If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.”
- C** **Lord, we confess we have not come nor followed as You desire, nor denied ourselves, instead at times denying the cross and faith You have graciously given. Forgive us.**
- P** In a parable, Jesus says, “Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

C Lord, we confess we have not always been mindful of Your eternal kingdom, instead focusing on the things of this world. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us.

P Jesus speaks of the day when the “Son of Man comes.” Until that day, as we come before Him in our sin and our shame and with our struggles in this world, He comes to us out of unconditional love with mercy and grace. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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. Come, Lord Jesus.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

O God, because Your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of Your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in Your eternal love; 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 always.

C And also with you.

+ THE WORD +

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 20:7-13 (ESV)

⁷O LORD, You have deceived me, and I was deceived;
You are stronger than I, and You have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me.

⁸For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the LORD has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.

⁹If I say, "I will not mention Him, or speak any more in His name,"
there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones,
and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

¹⁰For I hear many whispering. Terror is on every side!

"Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"

say all my close friends, watching for my fall.

"Perhaps he will be deceived; then we can overcome him
and take our revenge on him."

¹¹But the LORD is with me as a dread warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me.
They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten.

¹²O LORD of hosts, who tests the righteous,
who sees the heart and the mind,
let me see Your vengeance upon them,
for to You have I committed my cause.

¹³Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD!

For He has delivered the life of the needy
from the hand of evildoers.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 6:12-14 (ESV)

¹²Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey
their passions. ¹³Do not present your members to sin as instruments
for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who
have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as
instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over
you, since you are not under law but under grace.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Lambs' Lesson

Pr. Jim Sprengle

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

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

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, . . .²¹“Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²²and you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. ²⁴“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household. ²⁶“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear Him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³²So everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³but whoever denies Me before men, I also will deny before My Father who is in heaven.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Prayer/Love in Action Requests Gathered

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

tune: Hyfrydol

- 1 Jesus, I my cross have taken,
All to leave and follow You.
Destitute, despised, forsaken,
You on earth once suffered, too.
Perish ev’ry fond ambition,
All I’ve ever hoped or known;
Yet how rich is my condition!
God and heav’n are still my own.

- 2 Let the world despise and leave me;
 They have left my Savior, too.
 Human hearts and looks deceive me;
 You are not, like them, untrue.
 And since You have smiled upon me,
 God of wisdom, love, and might,
 Foes may hate and friends may shun me—
 Show Your face, and all is bright.
- 3 Go, then, earthly fame and treasure!
 Come, disaster, scorn, and pain!
 In Your service pain is pleasure;
 With Your favor loss is gain.
 I have called You Abba, Father!
 You my all in all shall be.
 Storms may howl, and clouds may gather;
 All must work for good to me.
- 4 Haste, my soul, from grace to glory,
 Armed by faith and winged by prayer.
 All but heav'n is transitory;
 God's own hand shall guide you there.
 Soon shall end this earthly story;
 Swift shall pass the pilgrim days,
 Hope soon change to heav'nly glory,
 Faith to sight and prayer to praise.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, abr., alt., Text: Public domain

Sermon
“WHAT’S IN IT FOR ME?”

Pr. Jim Sprengle
Matthew 5a; 21-33

We Sing Our Creed

We All Believe in One True God

- 1 We all believe in one true God,
 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
 Ever-present help in need,
 Praised by all the heav'nly host;
 All He made His love enfolds,
 All creation He upholds.

2 We all believe in Jesus Christ,
 Son of God and Mary's son,
Who descended from His throne
 And for us salvation won;
By whose cross and death are we
Rescued from all misery.

3 We all confess the Holy Ghost,
 Who from both in truth proceeds,
Who sustains and comforts us
 In all trials, fears, and needs.
Blessèd, holy Trinity,
Praise forever be to Thee!

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

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 We pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord our God, You are our refuge and fortress, in whom we make our dwelling place. Strengthen our faith in Your Word, as done through Jeremiah, the apostle Paul, and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Help us to dispel our doubts and unbelief that we be Your witnesses of truth, life, and light. In Your mercy, hear our prayer.

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P When we face the many trials and temptations living as Your people, give us strength to show Your mercy and forgiveness. With so many things fleeting and temporary, help us hold to what lasts, which is Your Word, Your promises, and life with You. In Your mercy, hear our prayer.

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P As we remain in this world, You have given us authorities for our good. Enable us to keep Your commands to honor our fathers and mothers and to be faithful citizens to authorities placed over us in our nation, state, and communities. Grant Your wisdom, truth, compassion, and care upon all those who lead that in this world we and others may in confidence and joy await Your kingdom to come when the Son of Man comes. In Your mercy, hear our prayer.

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P We pray for the ill, the suffering, and all who mourn...In Your mercy, hear our prayer.

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P We pray for those who are celebrating...In Your mercy, hear our prayer.

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

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

C **Amen.**

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.**

(8:30am service, please turn to page 12 for the benediction.)

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

**We believe in the real presence of the body and blood of Christ
in Holy Communion.**

Here our Lord offers to us the forgiveness of all our sins.

*(Grape juice is available in the center of the trays for those who do
not drink alcohol, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request.)*

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

+ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS +

The Old Rugged Cross

On a hill far away Stood an old rugged cross;
The emblem of suffering and shame. And I love that old cross
Where the dearest and best, For a world of lost sinners was slain.

(Chorus)

**So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.**

Oh, that old rugged cross, So despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me; For the dear Lamb of God,
Left His glory above, To bear it to dark Calvary. **(chorus)**

In the old rugged cross, Stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see; For 'twas on that old cross,
Jesus suffered and died, To pardon and sanctify me. **(chorus)**

God Will Take Care Of You

Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you.
Beneath His wings of love abide, God will take care of you.

(Chorus)

**God will take care of you, thro' every day, o'er all the way,
He will take care of you, God will take care of you.**

Thro' days of toil when heart doth fail, God will take care of you.
When dangers fierce your path assail, God will take care of you.

(chorus)

All you may need He will provide, God will take care of you.
Nothing you ask will be denied. God will take care of you. **(chorus)**

No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you.
Lean weary one upon His breast, God will take care of you. **(chorus)**

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that as we have come to You weary and burdened and sinful, You come to us still through this Means of Grace through which You have strengthened us in faith and forgiven our sins. We thank You for the foretaste of the feast to come when the Son of Man returns, when being free from sin, struggle, and sorrow in this world, we will live with You who lives and reigns, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benediction

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

(See the FYI in the back of the Bulletin for more information.)

Lift High the Cross

(Refrain)

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.**

- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. **(refrain)**
- 2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. **(refrain)**
- 3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. **(refrain)**
- 6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! **(refrain)**

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt.

Text: © 1974 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Acknowledgments

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 3.

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*Thank you to Sheryl Maier for the lovely Altar flowers
in honor of Jere and Haylee's Birthdays.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUNE 25, 2023

† SAVE THE DATE

Save the date! Sunday, August 20 at 10:30am ~ ONE WORSHIP ~ Lunch will follow. Look for more details to come!

† THANK YOU FROM JULIE WILLIAMSON

Thanks to all of you who donated to Julie for the Fun Run to benefit First Image.

† PRAYER NEEDS?

Contact the church office with any requests, please e-mail: office@alcpportland.org or call 503-665-8821 Monday through Friday 9am to 3pm.

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

The Family of Rich Zahursky, The Brown Family, Carolyn Barendse, Gina Kreps, Jerry and Alma Bangs, Kevin McInaney, Judy Blubaum, Robert (Virginia Jacobs Brother), Cindy Linnemann, Brian Laxton, Karla Deal, Mike Fogarty, Emily Kohnke (member of the Webber Family), Mike Hatley, Lorraine Haggard, Esperanza Gutierrez, Kim Laxton, Antonia Martinez (mother of Esperanza Gutierrez), *Barbara Schrader, *Larry Hart. *Home Bound.

† PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY:

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 — (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);
Tyler Young, Navy — Deployed (nephew of Karen Arronson).

† MILESTONES - SUN., JUNE 25 THROUGH JULY 1

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:

Jere Maier	June 28	Don Tigges	June 30
Michele Sprengle	July 1	Kaydence Altizer	July 1
Don Brown	July 1	Carolyn Haase	June ?

BIRTHDAYS

Katie Nelson	June 26	Ginny Whitney	June 26
Haylee Harris	June 27	Douglas Whittier	June 27
Karen Arronson	June 29		

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

Gary and Maxine Markwart June 29, 1969

Spencer and Rachel Kelley June 30, 2016

ASSISTING IN SERVICE TODAY, JUNE 25, 2023

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Herb Hoefler	Bruce Blubaum
Acolytes:		
Ushers:	Jim Eckart NEEDED	Matthias McInaney Evan Kreps Eric Kreps Marcus Young
Audio/Visual:	Stan Chapulis	J. E. Knox
PowerPoint:	Jenny Schuldheisz	Rosemary Knox
Greeters:	Sheryl Maier	Riki Neagle
Readers:	Jim Eckart	Peggy Hall
Altar Guild:	Both Services	Debbie Rekdahl
Flowers:	Both Services	Sheryl Maier
Counters:	Both Services	Bob and Elaina Ritchie

ASSISTING IN SERVICE SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2023

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Randy Schroeder	John Hazen
Acolytes:		
Ushers:	Jim Eckart Bob Rekdahl Stan Chapulis NEEDED	Matthias McInaney Marcus Young
Audio/Visual:	Laura Potter	NEEDED
PowerPoint:	Wanda Cassetty	Rebecca Williamson
Greeters:	Elizabeth Alvarado Margo Bachhuber	Carrie Graham
Readers:	Randy Schroeder	Carlyn Staudt
Altar Guild:	Both Services	Wendy Hazen
Flowers:	Both Services	Wilma Aguilar
Counters:	Both Services	Bonnie Webber and Rebecca Williamson

EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., JUNE 25 - SAT., JULY 1

Sunday, June 25	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship with Communion
	5:00pm	Worship in Spanish with Comm.
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Wednesday, June 28	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
	6:00pm	C-101 week 5
Thursday, June 29	6:00pm	NO Praise Team
Friday, June 30	6:30pm	Noche Familiar

EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., JULY 2 - SAT., JULY 8

Sunday, July 2	8:30am	Worship with Communion
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship
	5:00pm	Worship in Spanish
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Tuesday, July 4	Closed	Independence Day
	6:00pm	NO Elders Meeting
Wednesday, July 5	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
	6:00pm	C-101 week 6
Thursday, July 6	6:00pm	Praise Team
Friday, July 7	6:30pm	Noche Familiar



1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233

Church: 503-665-8821 · 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.”

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