



*“Take heart; it is I.
Do not be afraid.”*

Matthew 14:27b

Ascension Lutheran Church

“A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone”

Sunday, August 13, 2023

THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Sunday August 13, 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: “God Rules”

As We Gather: The rule of God is so far above us that we cannot comprehend it. He has all power throughout all time and eternity. Although God rules in might, as He tells Job (and us) in His speech in the Old Testament Reading, He demonstrated His rule in grace by sending His Son, our Lord Jesus, to become one of us to die and rise for us. But God’s rule is thwarted in the lives of those who do not know about our Savior. Paul in the Epistle points out that “faith comes from hearing” and earnestly desires that all his fellow Jews might hear the Gospel and be saved (Romans 10:17). God, speaking to us through Paul is urging us to get the Good News to people’s ears so they may hear and believe.” Even within the Church at times doubts arise about our Lord’s care and control. As Peter needed to cling to Jesus amid the stormy seas, so our faith must reach beyond recognizing God’s rule over creation in general. He has destroyed death itself in Jesus’ resurrection. And we already live in His eternal kingdom. Thanks be to God!

Prelude

Welcome

Spread the Reign of God the Lord

- 1 Spread the reign of God the Lord,
Spoken, written, mighty Word;
Ev’rywhere His creatures call
To His heav’nly banquet hall.
- 2 Tell how God the Father’s will
Made the world, upholds it still,
How His own dear Son He gave
Us from sin and death to save.

- 3 Tell of our Redeemer's grace,
Who, to save our human race
And to pay rebellion's price,
Gave Himself as sacrifice.
- 4 Tell of God the Spirit giv'n
Now to guide us on to heav'n,
Strong and holy, just and true,
Working both to will and do.
- 6 Lord of harvest, great and kind,
Rouse to action heart and mind;
Let the gath'ring nations all
See Your light and heed Your call.

Spread the Reign of God the Lord, Text: Jonathan Friedrich Bahnmaier, 1774–1841; tr.
Composite, Text: Public domain

Invocation

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

Opening Sentences

2 Samuel 22:47; Psalm 18:3, 6, 46

- P** The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock,
C and exalted be my God, the Rock of my salvation.
- P** I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,
C and I am saved from my enemies.
- P** In my distress I called upon the LORD;
C to my God I cried for help.
- P** From His temple He heard my voice,
C and my cry to Him reached His ears.
- P** The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock,
C and exalted be the God of my salvation.

Confession and Absolution

P Let us consider our unworthiness to come before almighty God and confess our sins to Him in the presence of one another.

We confess, Creator Lord, that like Job, we become angry at times with what You have allowed in our lives and we have wondered why.

C **Forgive our pride and turn us to humbly rely on Your gracious plans for us.**

P We confess, Savior Lord, that unlike Paul, we have neglected people around us who have not accepted Your sacrifice for them.

C **Forgive our self-centeredness and inaction, and move us to tell them the Good News as You provide opportunity.**

P We confess, Spirit of truth, that like Peter, we have failed to trust You in all things and have been overwhelmed by the storms of life.

C **Forgive our weakness of faith and enable us to follow where You lead the way.**

P All things in heaven and earth are under God's rule. His almighty power was shown chiefly in sending His Son into this fallen world to destroy the powers of sin, death, and the devil. Your pride, self-centeredness, weakness of faith, and anything else that would separate you from His great love have been forgiven for Jesus' sake. 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.**

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.
Heavenly Father, ruler of this world, comfort us, we pray, with the message that Your rule is good for the whole Church and also for each of us as Your children; 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 +

Old Testament

Job 38:4-18

- ⁴[The Lord said to Job:] “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell Me, if you have understanding.
⁵Who determined its measurements—surely you know!
Or who stretched the line upon it?
⁶On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone,
⁷when the morning stars sang together
and all the sons of God shouted for joy?
⁸“Or who shut in the sea with doors
when it burst out from the womb,
⁹when I made clouds its garment
and thick darkness its swaddling band,
¹⁰and prescribed limits for it
and set bars and doors,
¹¹and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stayed’?
¹²“Have you commanded the morning since your days began,
and caused the dawn to know its place,
¹³that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth,
and the wicked be shaken out of it?”

- ¹⁴It is changed like clay under the seal,
and its features stand out like a garment.
- ¹⁵From the wicked their light is withheld,
and their uplifted arm is broken.
- ¹⁶“Have you entered into the springs of the sea,
or walked in the recesses of the deep?”
- ¹⁷Have the gates of death been revealed to you,
or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?
- ¹⁸Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?
Declare, if you know all this.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 10:9-17 (ESV)

⁹Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing His riches on all who call on Him. ¹³For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” ¹⁴How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ¹⁶But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” ¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Lambs' Lesson

Pr. Jim Sprenkle

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

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

²²Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. ²³And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone, ²⁴but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." ²⁸And Peter answered Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." ³¹Jesus immediately reached out His hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Prayer/Love in Action Requests Gathered

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

- 1 Lord, take my hand and lead me
Upon life's way;
Direct, protect, and feed me
From day to day.
Without Your grace and favor
I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior,
And lead the way.

- 2 Lord, when the tempest rages,
I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages,
Are always near.
Close by Your side abiding,
I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding,
In peace I go.
- 3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen
And night has come,
I know that You will strengthen
My steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me,
O blessèd Friend;
So take my hand and lead me
Unto the end.

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me, Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt., Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

Sermon
“WHO’S IN CHARGE?”

Pr. Jim Sprengle
Matthew 14:22-33

Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from
heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;**

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the
Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the
living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. 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 Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For the Church, gathered around Word and Sacrament, that she proclaim the Gospel in the face of turmoil and oppression; for leaders and laity alike, that the Spirit give them courage in their mission to speak the Gospel that many may hear and come to faith; and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ, that we find the unity to which our Lord calls us, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

- P** For all who serve in governmental and social positions, that they zealously promote justice and the common good; for those who work in industry and commerce, that their efforts be a blessing to all people; and for favorable weather that harvests be bountiful, famine be alleviated, and praise resound to our Creator, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** For those who are unemployed, those who deal with social injustice and discrimination, and those who are hungry and homeless, that they seek God's strength and rely on Him to meet their needs of body, soul, and spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** For those near and dear to us who call out for relief, renewal, and health, especially.... that God would hear their prayers and answer according to His great love for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** For Your blessings which are being celebrated this week...let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, hear our prayer and grant us our requests, heavenly Father, for we lift our voices in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

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 14 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.**

Words of Institution

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

+ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS +

Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray
That we may feast on You today;
Beneath these forms of bread and wine
Enrich us with Your grace divine.
- 2 Give us, who share this wondrous food,
Your body broken and Your blood,
The grateful peace of sins forgiv'n,
The certain joys of heirs of heav'n.

- 3 By faith Your Word has made us bold
To seize the gift of love retold;
All that You are we here receive,
And all we are to You we give.
- 4 One bread, one cup, one body, we,
Rejoicing in our unity,
Proclaim Your love until You come
To bring Your scattered loved ones home.
- 5 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray:
O keep us steadfast till that day
When each will be Your welcomed guest
In heaven's high and holy feast.

Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray, Text: Henry E. Jacobs, 1844–1932, alt., Text: Public domain

I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus

- 1 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free.
- 2 I am trusting Thee for pardon;
At Thy feet I bow,
For Thy grace and tender mercy
Trusting now.
- 3 I am trusting Thee for cleansing
In the crimson flood;
Trusting Thee to make me holy
By Thy blood.
- 4 I am trusting Thee to guide me;
Thou alone shalt lead,
Ev'ry day and hour supplying
All my need.
- 5 I am trusting Thee for power;
Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
Must prevail.

- 6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all.

I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79, Text: Public domain

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

- P** Let us pray.
We give You thanks, heavenly Father, that You have given us Your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament, strengthen us thereby that we may serve You in loving obedience throughout all our days; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the 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.)

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

- 1 Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

- 2 O Christ, whose voice the waters heard
And hushed their raging at Thy word,
Who walkedst on the foaming deep
And calm amid its rage didst sleep:
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.
- 3 Most Holy Spirit, who didst brood
Upon the chaos dark and rude,
And bid its angry tumult cease,
And give, for wild confusion, peace:
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

Eternal Father, Strong to Save, Text: William Whiting, 1825–78, alt.; (sts. 2a–3a): Robert N. Spencer, 1877–1961, alt., Text: Public domain

Dismissal

- P** Go in peace as you 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 Don Brown for the lovely Altar flowers,
In memory of Jessica and his anniversary.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUGUST 13, 2023

† FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY AND CHURCH POTLUCK

There will be **ONE** worship service at 10:30am on August 20th, followed by a potluck lunch in the Community Room. Fried and grilled chicken, drinks, and dinnerware will be provided. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex if you would like to bring your favorite main, side, salad, or dessert. Make sure it serves 8 to 10 people. Can you help with setup or cleanup? You can let us know by filling in your name on the sign-up sheet. Join us!

† NEW MEMBERS TO BE WELCOMED!

We will have a new member welcome on August 20 at the 10:30am Friendship Sunday service.

CHOIR BEGINS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

All singers are invited to join our choir! Just show up and you are a member. Choir practice is each Thursday at 7:00pm.

† MILESTONES - SUN., AUGUST 13 - SAT., AUGUST 19

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:

Danny Graham	Aug. 14	Marty Blankenburg	Aug. 16
Barbara Lewis	Aug. 17	Rev. Dan Parshall	Aug. 17

BIRTHDAYS

Cindy Reinert	Aug. 13	Elaine Miller	Aug. 14
Seydi Moreno	Aug. 14	Randy Bryant	Aug. 16
Barbara Greco	Aug. 18	Dan Parshall	Aug. 19

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

Herb and Carol Hoefer Aug 13, 1966

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

The family of Debbie Noonan, whose mother, Barbara Magleby, died of a sudden illness at the age of 88 in Idaho. The Family of Rich Zahursky, The Brown Family, Carolyn Barendse, Gina Kreps, Kevin McInaney, Randy Bryant's Brother, Alma Bangs, Judy Blubaum, Robert (Virginia Jacobs' Brother), Cindy Linnemann, Brian Laxton, Karla Deal, Mike Fogarty, Mike Hatley, Lorraine Haggard, Esperanza Gutierrez, Kim Laxton, Antonia Martinez (mother of Esperanza Gutierrez), *Barbara Schrader, *Larry Hart. *Home Bound.

† PRAYER NEEDS?

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

ASSISTING IN SERVICE SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2023

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Randy Bryant	Bob Ritchie
Acolytes:		
Ushers:	Stan Chapulis NEEDED	Matthias McInaney Johnnie Driessner James Freeman Bob Freeman
Audio/Visual:	Teresa Osgood	John Hazen
PowerPoint:	Taylor Osgood	Rebecca Williamson
Greeters:	Sue Lewis Heather Gulde	Christina Freeman Virginia Jacobs
Readers:	Sheryl Maier	Karon Keup
Altar Guild:	Both Services	Wendy Hazen
Flowers:	Both Services	Don Brown
Counters:	Both Services	Dave and Jan Oswald

ASSISTING IN SERVICE SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2023

	10:30am
Elder:	John Hazen
Acolytes:	Jaden Mundo
Ushers:	Jonathan Mundo Joshua Mundo
Audio/Visual:	J.E. Knox
PowerPoint:	Rosemary Knox
Greeters:	Esperanza Gutierrez Margaret Hubbard
Readers:	Michele Sprengle
Altar Guild:	Margo Bachhuber
Flowers:	Merci McInaney
Counters:	Bob and Elaina Ritchie

EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., AUG 13 - SAT., AUG. 19

Sunday, Aug. 13	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship with Communion
	5:00pm	NO Worship in Spanish
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Tuesday, Aug. 15	6:00pm	3:10 Group
Wednesday, Aug. 16	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
Thursday, Aug. 17	6:00pm	Praise Team
Friday, Aug. 18	6:30pm	Noche Familiar

EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., AUG 20 - SAT., AUG. 26

Sunday, Aug. 20	10:30am	ONE Worship
Friendship Sunday	12:00pm	All Church Potluck
	5:00pm	Worship in Spanish
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Tuesday, Aug. 22		NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE
Wednesday, Aug. 23	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
Thursday, Aug. 24	6:00pm	Praise Team
Friday, Aug. 25	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
Saturday, Aug. 26	10:00am	Lutheran Latino Quarterly Meeting

Ascension Lutheran Church

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.”

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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