



So teach
us to
number
our days
that we
may get a heart of wisdom.
Psalm 90:12

Ascension Lutheran Church
New Year's Eve ~ December 31, 2023

NEW YEAR'S EVE 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

+ PREPARATION +

Theme: "A Heart of Wisdom"

As We Gather: As the world around us gathers this evening for a grand celebration, what are they celebrating? Is the advancing of a digit on the calendar necessarily such a happy thing? Behind all the noise, God has something to say, and it is relevant no matter the date or the age. But who is listening? It is the way of the world even in all of us to despise preaching and God's Word in favor of invented excuses or illusions. God calls all people this night to awaken and listen to His saving Word, to hold it sacred, and to gladly hear and learn it. For only then can we be assured of the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. In God's Word alone do we find our wisdom for life, and a proper perspective on what is most important.

Prelude

Welcome

O Light Whose Splendor (*LSB 891*)

O Light whose splendor thrills and gladdens
With radiance brighter than the sun,
Pure gleam of God's unending glory,
O Jesus, blest Anointed One;

As twilight hovers near at sunset,
And lamps are lit, and children nod,
In evening hymns we lift our voices
To Father, Spirit, Son: one God.

In all life's brilliant timeless moments,
Let faithful voices sing Your praise,
O Son of God, our Life-bestower,
Whose glory lightens endless days.

O Light Whose Splendor, Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1944, Text: © 1989 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 43:4; 124:8

P I will go to the altar of God,

C to God my exceeding joy.

P Our help is in the name of the LORD,

C who made heaven and earth.

Confession and Absolution

P Merciful Father,

C I confess that I have not always loved You in my thinking, speaking and doing. You call me to Yourself and I ignore You. You draw me to Yourself and I resist You. I have not always been aware of Your presence in my trials nor thanked You for standing beside me. I have pushed You away in my daily schedule, spending most of my time on things that will last only for this lifetime. Forgive me, Lord, for Jesus' sake, and grant me a heart of wisdom.

P Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, 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.

Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 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 Reading

Psalm 90:1-6; 10-12 (ESV)

¹ LORD, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. ² Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God. ³ You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!" ⁴ For a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. ⁵ You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: ⁶ in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

¹⁰ The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. ¹¹ Who considers the power of Your anger, and Your wrath according to the fear of You? ¹² So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 8:31b-39 (ESV)

If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He Who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the One who died—more than that, Who was raised—Who is at the right hand of God, Who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, “For Your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 12:35-40 (ESV)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

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

³⁵[Jesus said:] “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Prayer/Love in Action Requests Gathered

Another Year Is Dawning

(tune: The Church’s One Foundation)

Another year is dawning; Dear Father, let it be,
In working or in waiting, Another year with Thee;
Another year of progress, Another year of praise,
Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.

Another year of mercies, Of faithfulness and grace
Another year of gladness In-the shining of Thy face;
Another year of leaning Upon Thy loving breast;
Another year of trusting, Of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of service, Of witness for Thy love;
Another year of training For holier work above
Another year is dawning: Dear Father, let it be,
On earth or else in Heaven, Another year for Thee.

Sermon
“WISE BEYOND OUR YEARS”

Pr. Jim Sprengle
Psalm 90:1-6; 10-12

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 ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of the Church

- P** Almighty and eternal God, all praise, honor, and glory be to You for Your glorious and good act of creating us and all things, Your daily provision of all we need to sustain life, and the gift of deliverance to an eternal inheritance in the world to come. Help all people to come in repentance and faith to the rejection of all that is false and to the praise of You as the only true God. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** O faithful God, all time rests in Your hands; nothing exists apart from Your promise or Your power; help us trust in You for all things. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Help us not only to rejoice in His saving name but to call on His name in time of trouble; we pray You, Lord, deliver us from our sins and from our fears, that we may serve You with our whole heart, mind, and will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Shine down Your peace to a world at war and bring calm amid the violent areas of the world; especially be with those who serve our nation, here and everywhere. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Touch the sick and suffering with peace and hope, and give to the troubled and dying the strength to be faithful. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

P Remove the guilt of this past year's failures and fears, forgive our sins and errors, and lead us to begin anew to serve You in the gift of this coming year. 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 for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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.**

+ 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 +

Of the Father's Love Begotten (*LSB 384*)

- 1 Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.
- 2 Oh, that birth forever blessed,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.
- 3 This is He whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.
- 4 O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing.
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

Of the Father's Love Begotten, Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; (sts. 1–4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77, Text: Public domain

God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven (LSB 877)

- 1 God, who made the earth and heaven,
Darkness and light:
You the day for work have given,
For rest the night.
May Your angel guards defend us,
Slumber sweet Your mercy send us,
Holy dreams and hopes attend us
All through the night.

- 2 And when morn again shall call us
To run life's way,
May we still, whate'er befall us,
Your will obey.
From the pow'r of evil hide us,
In the narrow pathway guide us,
Never be Your smile denied us
All through the day.

- 3 Guard us waking, guard us sleeping,
And when we die,
May we in Your mighty keeping
All peaceful lie.
When the last dread call shall wake us,
Then, O Lord, do not forsake us,
But to reign in glory take us
With You on high.

God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven, Text (st. 1): Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.; (sts. 2, 4): William Mercer, 1811–73, alt.; (st. 3): Richard Whately, 1787–1863, alt., Text: Public domain

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

O Lord, mercifully hear the prayers of Your Church throughout the fast-fleeting years that we, being delivered from all adversities and serving You with a quiet mind, may enjoy Your peace all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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.

Abide with Me (*LSB 878*)

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

Abide with Me, Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, alt. Text: Public domain

Dismissal

- P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God!

Acknowledgments

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Ascension Lutheran Church

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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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