

A scroll with text on a parchment background. The scroll is unrolled, showing the text in a black, serif font. The parchment has a textured, aged appearance with some staining and irregular edges. The scroll is held by two wooden rollers at the top and bottom.

“Did you
not know
that I
must be in
My Father’s
house?”

Luke 2:49b

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
“A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone”
Sunday, January 5, 2025

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

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: “STILL SEARCHING?”

As We Gather: What were you looking for a few days ago when we joined the crowds gathered for the annual celebration of Christmas? If you knew what you were looking for, did you find it? Of course, Christmas is all about the arrival of the Savior of the world, our Savior from sin and death. In His human birth, Jesus took on our flesh to provide the only sufficient atoning sacrifice for sin. By His holiness, His sacrifice was sufficient for the whole world of sin of all time, including your own. Did you find this forgiveness for all your sins and answers to all your troubles when you sang the Christmas songs? Or are you still searching? That’s okay, because for one more of the twelve days, it is still Christmas. It is not too late. In Joseph and Mary’s anxiety over their three-day search for their missing child, they couldn’t find Him in the crowds or among their relatives and friends. It was only as they returned to the temple, the place of God the Father’s promised earthly presence, that their worry was solved. You have come to the right place, the place of God’s promised presence for you—here, where His Word is faithfully preached, His Sacraments rightly administered, and His grace, love, and forgiveness are given and applied to you. So do not be anxious about your life. You are seeking the answers in the right place, in the kingdom of God and in His righteousness given to you this day in His mighty, saving Word.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

To Your Temple, Lord, I Come

- 1 To Your temple, Lord, I come,
For it is my worship home.
This earth has no better place,
Here I see my Savior's face.
- 2 I through Him am reconciled,
I through Him become Your child.
Abba, Father, give me grace
In Your courts Your love to trace.
- 3 While Your glorious praise is sung,
Touch my lips, unloose my tongue
That my joyful soul may bless
Christ the Lord, my righteousness.
- 7 From Your house when I return,
May my heart within me burn,
And at evening let me say,
"I have walked with God today."

To Your Temple, Lord, I Come, Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 1:3, 6–7

- P** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,
- C** to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved.
- P** In Him we have redemption through His blood,

- C** the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** God the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. And He who searches hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. Let us seek the Lord while He may be found and call upon Him while He is near.
- C** **Lord God, apart from You there is no god. Apart from You there is no hope or forgiveness. We confess our sin amid the fears and anxieties of daily life. We have gone our own way, lost in our sin and faithlessness. Therefore, we return to You here, remembering Your promise, “Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you.” Deliver us from all anxiety, forgive our sins, speak Your comforting Word of hope, and lead us in the way of Your righteousness and peace.**
- P** The Lord is your strength and your stronghold, your refuge in the day of trouble. Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word made flesh, 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.
Merciful God, as from His youthful beginning, Your Son attended to Your Word in Your holy temple, so is He Your Word come to seek and save the lost. Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word; through the same Jesus Christ, 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 READING

1 Kings 3:4-15 (ESV)

⁴ The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before You in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward You. And You have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give Your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern Your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this Your great people?” ¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴And if you will walk in My ways, keeping My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.” ¹⁵And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 1:3-14 (ESV)

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, ⁶to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, ⁸which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of His glory. ¹³In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴Who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

LAMBS' LESSON

Pr. Jim Sprengle

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:40-52 (ESV)

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁰The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him. ⁴¹Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing Him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for Him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for Him.

⁴⁶After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. ⁴⁸And when His parents saw Him, they were astonished. And His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us so? Behold, Your father and I have been searching for You in great distress." ⁴⁹And He said to them, "Why were you looking for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that He spoke to them. ⁵¹And He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And His mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

PRAYER AND LOVE IN ACTION REQUESTS GATHERED

Within the Father's House

LSB 410

- 1 Within the Father's house
The Son has found His home,
And to His temple suddenly
The Lord of life has come.
- 2 The doctors of the Law
Gaze on the wondrous child
And marvel at His gracious words
Of wisdom undefiled.
- 3 Yet not to them is giv'n
The mighty truth to know,
To lift the earthly veil that hides
Incarnate God below.
- 5 Lord, visit Thou our souls
And teach us by Thy grace
Each dim revealing of Thyself
With loving awe to trace.

Within the Father's House, Text: James R. Woodford, 1820–85, alt., Text: Public domain

SERMON
“MY FATHER’S BUSINESS”

Pr. Jim Sprengle
Luke 2:40-52

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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.

Almighty God, we give You thanks for hearing our prayers and praises during this blessed Christmas season, and especially for Your Holy Word and Sacraments that we may have confidence in Your mercy and gracious will, enlightening us with the wisdom of Your salvation in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Help us to always remain steadfast in Your Word, spirit, and truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Holy Lord, guide and bless Your whole church, making Your people perfect in love and in all good works. Grant Your wisdom to all pastors and servants in Your church, that many may come to the knowledge of Your saving truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** God of all creation, guide our nation in the ways of justice, honor, and peace. Grant that all in public service lead their people according to Your holy will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Great Physician, by Your Word and Spirit, comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Defend all who suffer persecution for the faith, and have mercy on those to whom death draws near. We pray for...Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Gracious God, we give You thanks for Your goodness and for all that we enjoy. We pray for those who celebrate this week...Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Eternal Lord, as we remember those who have loved and served You in this life, who now rest from their labors, keep us in that larger fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us to the joys of Your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- 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.

(11:00am 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

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

+ DISTRIBUTION SONGS +

I Come To The Cross

I come to the cross
Seeking mercy and grace,
I come to the cross
Where You died in my place.
Out of my weakness
And into Your strength,
Humbly, I come to the cross.

Your arms are open,
You call me by name.
You welcome this child that was lost.
You paid the price
For my guilt and my shame.
Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come,
Jesus, I come to the cross.

(repeat from beginning)

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Jesus, Strong And Kind

Jesus said that if I thirst,
I should come to Him.
No one else can satisfy,
I should come to Him.

Jesus said if I am weak,
I should come to Him.
No one else can be my strength,
I should come to Him.

Chorus

**For the Lord is good and faithful.
He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus,
Jesus, strong and kind.**

Jesus said that if I fear,
I should come to Him.
No one else can be my shield,
I should come to Him. **(chorus)**

Jesus said if I am lost,
He will come to me.
And He showed me on that cross,
He will come to me. **(chorus x2)**

Jesus, Strong And Kind, Colin Buchanan | Jonny Robinson | Michael Farren | Rich Thompson
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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

Blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself to us in this Holy Sacrament. Keep us in Your faith and favor that we may live in You even as You live in us. Grant that Your body and blood preserve us in the true faith to life everlasting. Hear us for the sake of Your name, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G 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.

G Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Lord, the light of Your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth You now bring us;
Shine on me. Shine on me.

chorus

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;

Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.

Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;

Send forth Your word, Lord and let there be light.

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
From the shadows into Your radiance;
By the blood I may enter Your brightness;
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness;
Shine on me. Shine on me. **(chorus)**

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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1.

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† USE YOUR NEW OFFERING ENVELOPES TODAY

The 2025 offering envelopes are in the narthex. They DO NOT have a number pre-printed on them. You need to fill in ALL the information on the envelopes each time you give. Your new number will be the same as your MAILBOX number. It will not change again.

If you give online, you will now use your mailbox number as the account number on your check. Please try to change that at your giving institute. If you cannot add the number to your online account, we can do it from this end, but if you can it is super helpful.

Please pick up a letter beside the envelopes to explain all the steps and reasons we handle your donations the way we do.

Thank you for your faithful gifts. You are making a difference at this church and in the kingdom of our great God!

† THANK YOU FROM PASTOR JIM AND MICHELE

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks for the generous Christmas gifts and cards you have shared with us during the holiday season. Your thoughtfulness means so much to us, and we are truly blessed to serve alongside such a loving and caring church family. May God's love continue to bless each of you throughout the new year.

† LUTHERAN CHORAL EPIPHANY CONCERT TODAY

The Lutheran Choral Association has it's final concert of the season today at 4:00pm. Peace Lutheran Church (2201 N. Rosa Parks Way). A free-will offering will be collected.

† CAROL HOEFER MEMORIAL SERVICE

The service honoring the life of Carol Hoefer will be on January 25 at 1:00pm. All are invited to this worship and celebration of life.

† VOTERS' ASSEMBLY

There will be a voter's assembly on January 26 after the late service. We invite all members and anyone interested to attend. First time members who attend need to sign in to one meeting and then can be a voting member at subsequent meetings. We ask you to come and take part in the decisions of your church.

† PRAYER NEEDS?

Did you know you can send the office your prayer request written exactly how you want, and it will be forwarded to the prayer chain? You may also just let the office know your request and Michele will word the request for you. Either one is fine. Please e-mail: office@alcportland.org or call 503-665-8821.

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

The Family of Carol Hoefler, Pastor Ruberto and his family, Riki Neagle, Carolyn Gordon, Mike Fogarty, Karla Deal, Jan Galberth, Jim Eckart, Gina Kreps, Bobbie Adams, Mae Smith, Ed Hubbard, Alma Bangs, Marcia Bryant's relative (Ron), Kaye Beaulieu's Brother (Dick), Virginia Jacob's brother (Robert), Esperanza Gutierrez' mother (Antonia), *Barbara Schrader, *Larry Hart, *Mel and Lorraine Haggard. *Home Bound.

† PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY

Brett Monson – Navy, San Diego CA (Grandson of Joann Schulz)
Michael Williamson, Air Force, Reserve, Texas (grandson of Rebecca Williamson);
Jamie Wong-Lopez, Navy, Kaneohe Bay HI (nephew of Merci McInaney);
Clayton Wright, Air Force – (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);
Colton Wright, Navy – (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);
Tyler Young, Navy – Deployed (nephew of Karen Arronson).
Bradley Zeller, Army – Fort Lewis WA (grandson of Neil and Deb Zeller)
Kyle Zeller, Army – Ft. Hood TX (grandson of Neil and Deb Zeller)

† MILESTONES – Sunday, Jan. 5– Saturday, Jan. 11

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:

Jeff Latter	Jan. 5	Jerelyn Carlson	Jan. 8
Savannah Spencer	Jan. 8		

BIRTHDAYS:

Sheryl Maier	Jan. 5	Warren Thompson	Jan 10
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WEDDINGS:

Cody and Danielle Brown	Jan 5, 2019
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ASSISTING IN SERVICE TODAY, SUN., JAN. 5, 2025

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Bruce Blubaum	Bob Ritchie
Acolytes:	NEEDED	NEEDED
Ushers:	Mike Adams John Aden Stan Chapulis	Paul Walter Marcus Young
Audio/Visual:	Laura Potter	Johnnie Driessner
PowerPoint:	Jenny Schuldheisz	John Hazen
Greeters:	Margo Bachhuber Elizabeth Alvarado	Riki Neagle
Readers:	Peggy Hall	J. E. Knox
Altar Guild:	Both Services: Margo Bachhuber	
Flowers:	Both Services: Needed	
Counters:	Both Services: Bonnie Webber and Rebecca Williamson	
Sunday School	9:45am: Carrie and Michele – Vol 8. Ep. 2	

ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT, SUN., JAN. 12, 2025

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Randy Bryant	Randy Schroeder
Acolytes:	NEEDED	NEEDED
Ushers:	Jim Eckart NEEDED	Matthias McInaney Marcus Young Bob Freeman James Freeman
Audio/Visual:	Stan Chapulis	Laura Potter
PowerPoint:	Debbie Rekdahl	Rebecca Williamson
Greeters:	Sue Lewis	Christina Freeman
Readers:	Joann Schulz	Carlyn Staudt
Altar Guild:	Both Services: Barb Cochran	
Flowers:	Both Services: Rick and Robin Wymore	
Counters:	Both Services: Karon Keup and Sheryl Maier	
Sunday School	9:45am: Hana and Gina	

EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., JAN. 5 – SAT., JAN 11

Sunday, Jan. 5	8:30am	Worship with Communion
	9:45am	Adult Ed and Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship
	12:15pm	Bell Practice
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship
Monday, Jan. 6	1:00pm	Human Care Board Meeting
	6:00pm	Young Adult Bible Study
Tuesday, Jan. 7	6:00pm	NO Elder's Meeting
Thursday Jan 9	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
	5:30pm	NO Confirmation

EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., JAN. 12 – SAT., JAN 18

Sunday, Jan. 12	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Adult Ed and Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship with Communion
	12:15pm	Bell Practice
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship NO Comm.
Monday, Jan. 13	6:00pm	Young Adult Bible Study
Tuesday, Jan. 14	2:00pm	Women's Bible Study
	6:00pm	Council Meeting
Thursday Jan 16	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
	5:30pm	Confirmation
Friday, Jan 17	5:30pm	Confirmation
	6:30pm	Youth and Family Event

Ascension Lutheran Church

1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233

Office Phone: 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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