



*“My eyes have seen
Your salvation”*

Luke 2:30

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
“A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone”
Sunday, December 29, 2024

FIRST 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: "REMEMBER"

AS WE GATHER: Did you already forget Christmas? The department stores have begun selling the leftovers for a discount because "Christmas is over." For the same reason, formerly decorated Christmas trees already line the streets as refuse for disposal. Even though Christmas songs speak joyously of "the twelve days of Christmas," many, if not most, people seem to think of them as a countdown rather than an extended celebration. Remember? Today, December 29, is but the fifth day of the twelve! We are not done yet. Or did you forget?

To "forget" is the opposite of the biblical word we hear today: "remember." But in Scripture, to remember means much more than merely recalling a past event as something that has no real, lasting effect on today; rather, the opposite is true. For instance, God remembers His promises by acting to fulfill them in each believer. For us, to remember means to bring a past promise or act to take effect in the present. Today we hear how the newborn Jesus, as the firstborn of Mary, was presented in the temple according to God's law, a command to remember the Lord's deliverance of His people from slavery in Egypt. Every firstborn was to be a reminder that the Lord still delivers His people from the slavery of sin and death. So, to remember that it is still Christmas is to believe that the Christ Child who came to free us comes now to each believer. Remember, that is, believe that Christ was born for you to save you. Remember, that is, believe that the forgiveness He won for us on the cross is actually given to us in the Sacrament of the Altar when, as He commanded, we do in remembrance of Him.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

A Great and Mighty Wonder

LSB 383

- 1 A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the infant
With virgin honor pure!

**Refrain Proclaim the Savior's birth:
 "To God on high be glory
 And peace to all the earth!"**

2 The Word becomes incarnate
 And yet remains on high,
 And cherubim sing anthems
 To shepherds from the sky. **(refrain)**

4 Since all He comes to ransom,
 By all be He adored,
 The infant born in Beth'lem,
 The Savior and the Lord. **(refrain)**

A Great and Mighty Wonder, Text: Germanus, c. 634–c. 734; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt., Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

C **Amen.**

OPENING SCRIPTURES Exodus 13:14; Isaiah 9:6a; Hebrews 8:12; Psalm 111:4a

P By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery.

C **For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given.**

P For I will be merciful, . . . and I will remember their sins no more.

C **He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION Genesis 3:19; Isaiah 43:25

P God our Creator said to Adam and to us all to remember that "you are dust, and to dust you shall return." But now He calls all to repentance of sin and faith in His Son, who is the remembrance of God's mercy and Who came to destroy sin and death and restore us to life. Before the newborn Redeemer of the world, let us repent and receive His forgiveness.

C O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, remember not our sins of thought, word, and deed, the sins of our youth or of our old age. Because we often forget Your mercy toward us, we ask for Your forgiveness. Remember Your gracious will that whoever calls on Your name will be saved. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us always to remember Your mercy and Your steadfast love that we may live as Your own children, now and forever. Amen.

P Thus says the Lord, “I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins.” 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.

O God, You have caused Your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore, nations will praise You forever and ever. Let Your people not forget Your works, Your Word, or Your benefits. Bring to mind Your gracious will of our salvation that we may praise You all our days; 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 READING

Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15 (ESV)

¹The LORD said to Moses, ²“Consecrate to Me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is Mine.” ³Then Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place. . . ¹¹“When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as He swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, ¹²you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD’s. ¹³Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Colossians 3:12-17 (ESV)

¹²Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-35 (ESV)

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

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

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹"Lord, now You are letting your servant depart in peace, according to Your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen Your salvation

³¹that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel."

³³And His father and His mother marveled at what was said about Him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

PRAYER AND LOVE IN ACTION REQUESTS GATHERED

- 1 Lord, bid Your servant go in peace,
Your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn,
This child so long foretold.
- 2 This is the Savior of the world,
The Gentiles' promised light,
God's glory dwelling in our midst,
The joy of Israel.
- △ 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,
To You we lift our voice;
To Father, Son, and Spirit blest
Be honor, love, and praise.

Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace, Text (sts. 1–2): James Quinn, 1919–2010; (st. 3): Henry V. Gerike, 1948, Text (sts. 1–2): © 1969, 1989 OCP Publications; (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

SERMON
“DELIVERANCE REMEMBERED”

Pr. Jim Sprengle
Luke 2:22-35

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, great are Your works of the creation of all things. Greater still is Your mighty work of the redemption of the world from the ravages of sin and death brought on by the rebellion of those created in Your own likeness. We praise You for all Your promises of salvation fulfilled in the sending of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Remember Your promise of love that whoever believes in Him will have eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant Your strength and blessing to Your whole church as we live, pray, and work in the remembrance of Your grace and gifts. Bless all pastors and workers in Your church never to forget their calling to faithfully proclaim Your Word and will to a world still struggling against the darkness of sin and unbelief. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Remember in Your mercy all leaders and servants in government that they may be endued with a love of peace and the way of justice and righteousness for all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Remember in Your mercy all Your people in their various vocations and stations in life, that they may prosper in their lives motivated by Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Remember in Your mercy all who are sick or injured, the homebound and those in the midst of any suffering or sorrow...Grant Your peace, rest, and healing, keeping them in constant faith in Your promises. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Remember in Your mercy all who celebrate special days of remembrance and occasions of joy...may Your name be praised with thanksgiving, that You would be glorified for the blessings You have bestowed. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant peace, we pray, in mercy, Lord, to all who mourn the death of loved ones. Grant that our remembrance of their faith causes us to remain closer to You in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. 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.**

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

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

- 1 Let all together praise our God
Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav'n again
To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son.

- 2 He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne,
Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall.

- 3 Within an earthborn form He hides
His all-creating light;
To serve us all He humbly cloaks
The splendor of His might,
The splendor of His might.

- 4 He undertakes a great exchange,
Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm,
His glory, and His name,
His glory, and His name.

Let All Together Praise Our God, Text: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561; (sts. 1, 3–4): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 2): tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt., Text (sts. 1, 3–4): © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673, Text (st. 2): Public domain

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God!**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

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† NEW OFFERING ENVELOPES – BEGIN JANUARY 5

The 2025 offering envelopes are in the narthex. They DO NOT have a number pre-printed on them. You will 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!

† LUTHERAN CHORAL EPIPHANY CONCERT

The Lutheran Choral Association will have it's final concert of the season on Sunday, Jan. 5 at 4:00pm at Peace Lutheran Church (2201 N. Rosa Parks Way). Music includes settings of familiar carols, choral works by composers John Rutter and George Frideric Handel, and some beautiful lesser known carols. Sue Thompson Armentrout directs the choir, accompanied by Karl Jurisons. A free-will offering will be collected.

† VOTERS' ASSEMBLY

There will be a voter's assembly on January 26 after the late service. We invite all members and interested parties 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.

† NEW YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

All young adults are welcome to attend a Bible Study each Monday night at 6:00pm.

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Sue Lewis and her family, Herb and Carol Hoefler, Barb Cochran and her family, Pastor Ruberto and his family, Riki Neagle, Carolyn Gordon, Mike Fogarty, Karla Deal, The family of Bob Rekdahl, Jan Galberth, Jim Eckart, Gina Kreps, 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, Dec. 29– Saturday, Jan. 4

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:

Virginia Hunt	Dec. 29	Dave Stabenow	Dec. ?
Jerry Bangs	Jan. 1	Kim Driessner	Jan. 1
Lorraine Haggard	Jan 1	Bonnie Webber	Jan. 1
Elliot Noonan	Jan. 2		

BIRTHDAYS:

Debbie Noonan	Jan. 2
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WEDDINGS:

Mel and Lorraine Haggard	Dec. 29, 1956
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ASSISTING IN SERVICE TODAY, SUN., DEC 29, 2024

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Dave Oswald	NEEDED
Acolytes:	NEEDED	NEEDED
Ushers:	Jim Eckart NEEDED	Marcus Young Matthias McInaney
Audio/Visual:	Stan Chapulis	Laura Potter
PowerPoint:	Wanda Cassetty	Rosemary Knox
Greeters:	Sheryl Maier	Riki Neagle
Readers:	Carlyn Staudt	Herb Hoefler
Altar Guild:	Both Services: Debbie Rekdahl	
Flowers:	Both Services: Kysa and Steven Schaefer	
Counters:	Both Services: Bob and Elaina Ritchie	
Sunday School	9:45am: Carrie and Michele – Vol 8. Ep. 2	

ASSISTING IN NEW YEAR'S EVE, DEC. 31, 2024

	7:00pm
Elder:	Randy Schroeder
Ushers:	Neil Zeller
Audio/Visual:	Stan Chapulis
PowerPoint	Jenny Schuldheisz
Greeters:	NEEDED
Altar Guild:	Wendy Hazen
Counters:	Bonnie Webber and Rebecca Williamson

ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT, SUN., JAN. 5, 2024

	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	

EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., DEC. 29 – SAT., JAN 4

Sunday, Dec. 29	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Adult Ed and Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship
	12:15pm	Bell Practice
	5:00pm	Spanish Worship
Monday, Dec. 30	6:00pm	Young Adult Bible Study
Tuesday, Dec. 31	7:00pm	New Year's Eve Worship with Comm.
Wednesday, Jan. 1		Office Closed
Thursday Jan 2	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
Friday, Jan 3	5:30pm	Confirmation

EVENTS NEXT 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
Friday, Jan 10	5:30pm	NO Confirmation

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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