

**"GIVE TO CAESAR
WHAT IS CAESAR'S,
AND TO GOD
WHAT IS GOD'S."**

MATTHEW 22:21, NIV



Ascension Lutheran Church

"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023

THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, October 22, 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: “Trusting Against All Odds”

As We Gather: Creation is bathed in light and darkness, subject to chaos and order. But in all things, God calls, equips, creates, and makes things well. The culmination of His divine care is Jesus—the One whose Word unleashes pure Gospel, unmasks pharisaical deception, acknowledges secular authority, and yet infuses into mankind unrelenting hope, steadfast faith, and incredible mercy. Believers cling to these God-given things in the midst of all wrath and affliction, confident in salvation through Christ alone.

Prelude

Welcome

You Are My All In All

You are my strength when I am weak,
You are the treasure that I seek,
You are my All in All.
Seeking You as a precious jew'l,
Lord, to give up I'd be a fool,
You are my All in All.
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name!
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name!

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame,
Rising again, I bless Your name,
You are my All in All.
When I fall down You pick me up,
When I am dry You fill my cup,
You are my All in All.
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name!
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name!

You Are My All In All, Dennis Jernigan © 1991 Shepherd's Heart Music, Inc. (Admin. by Word Music Group, Inc.), CCLI Song No. 825356 CCLI License No. 759893

Invocation

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

Opening Sentences

Psalm 121:2, 7

- P** My help comes from the LORD,
- C** **who made heaven and earth.**

- P** The LORD will keep you from all evil;
- C** **He will keep your life.**

Confession and Absolution

Silence is kept for meditation and reflection.

- P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
- C** **I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**
- P** 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.**
- P** He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** **Amen.**

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.
O God, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us that with You as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; 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

Isaiah 45:1-7 (ESV)

¹Thus says the LORD to His anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped,
to subdue nations before Him
and to loose the belts of kings,
to open doors before Him
that gates may not be closed:

²"I will go before you
and level the exalted places,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
³I will give you the treasures of darkness
and the hoards in secret places,
that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, Who call you by your name.

⁴For the sake of My servant Jacob,
and Israel My chosen,
I call you by your name,
I name you, though you do not know Me.

⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other,
besides Me there is no God;
I equip you, though you do not know Me,
⁶that people may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is none besides Me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.

⁷I form light and create darkness,
I make well-being and create calamity,
I am the LORD, who does all these things."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (ESV)

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ²We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers loved by God, that He has chosen you, ⁵because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. ⁹For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Lambs' Lesson

Pr. Jim Sprengle

Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:15-22 (ESV)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle [Jesus] in His talk. ¹⁶And they sent their disciples to Him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and You do not care about anyone's opinion, for You are not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what You think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put Me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show Me the coin for the tax." And they brought Him a denarius. ²⁰And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?"

²¹They said, "Caesar's." Then He said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard it, they marveled. And they left Him and went away.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Prayer/Love in Action Requests Gathered

Take My Life And Let It Be

- 1 Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 2 Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.
- 4 Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
- 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

Take My Life And Let It Be, Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79, Text: Public domain

Sermon
"CHOICES FOR GIVING"

Pr. Jim Sprengle
Matthew 22:15-22

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

(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.)

We Give Thee But Thine Own

- 1 We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
- 2 May we Thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive.
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,
To Thee our firstfruits give!
- 6 And we believe Thy Word,
Though dim our faith may be:
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,
We do it unto Thee.

We Give Thee But Thine Own, Text: William W. How, 1823–97, Text: Public domain

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.
Give to Your Church, O Lord, Your Word and Your Spirit, that we hear Your voice and follow where You lead, proclaiming Your Gospel to every corner of the world. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Give to the nations good and faithful leaders who will work under the guidance of Your Word to lead the peoples with equity and justice, fostering freedom so that we may worship You and love our neighbor, living in peace and quietness all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Give to homes wisdom and love, that they be places of blessing and peace, bound together by forgiveness, and nurtured by the voice of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** Give to all people respect for the gift of life, courage to stand against those who would disdain the child in the womb or the aged, and encourage husbands and wives, parents and children in their life together. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Give to the sick and those who suffer every blessing of Your presence and healing in accordance with Your will, that they be supported in their afflictions and granted patience until the day when perfect healing reigns. We pray for...Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Give to us thankful hearts for the milestones being celebrated this week...Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Give to all who approach Your altar repentant hearts and a trusting faith, that they receive the body and blood of our Lord for their good and that this Holy Communion may confirm the unity of their confession and witness. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Give to us eyes to see Your goodness and the gifts of Your mercy that crown all our days, and give to our hearts gratitude that we use Your gifts for Your glory, for the good of our neighbors in need, and for the support of the work of the Kingdom here and throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** All these things, heavenly Father, for which we pray, grant to us according to Your mercy, providing to us all things needful and beneficial and keeping from us all things as may prove harmful to our faith; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

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 +

Let Us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees.

(Chorus)

**When I fall on my knees,
With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
Let us drink wine together on our knees. **(chorus)**

Let us praise God together on our knees;
Let us praise God together on our knees. **(chorus)**

Just A Closer Walk With Thee

Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

I am weak but Thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, dear Lord, close to Thee.

Thru this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.

When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more;
On that bright eternal shore
I will walk, dear Lord, close to Thee.

Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

P Let us pray.

You are without equal, O Lord, and mighty in purpose and power. Deliver us from all our fears and grant our hearts to know with confidence that You will work through all things to accomplish Your purpose and fulfill Your promise.

Help us by this very Communion upon the holy food of Christ's flesh and blood to be comforted in adversity and encouraged to everlasting life; through 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.)

God Of Grace And God Of Glory

- 1 God of grace and God of glory,
On Your people pour Your pow'r;
Crown Your ancient Church's story;
Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

- 2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us
Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

- 3 Cure Your children's warring madness;
Bend our pride to Your control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal.
- 4 Save us from weak resignation
To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of Your salvation
Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving You whom we adore,
Serving You whom we adore.

God Of Grace And God Of Glory, Text: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1878–1969, Text: Public domain

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Acknowledgments

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4.

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*Thank you to Bob and Elaina Ritchie for the lovely altar flowers,
given to the glory of God.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS OCTOBER 22, 2023

† MIKI ETZEL MEMORIAL

All are invited: Friday, Nov. 3 at 1:00pm graveside at Zion Cemetery in Canby. The memorial is planned for Saturday, Nov. 4 at 12:00pm at Ascension.

† WOMEN'S RETREAT

Seaside Oregon Beach Retreat, 2937 Sunset Blvd., Seaside, OR, the driveway is in the back of the house. Join us Friday, Jan. 12 through Sunday, Jan 14, 2024. Registration forms are available in the Narthex. Space is limited to 14 participants. Talk to Jan Oswald for more details.

† LWML SUNDAY NEWS

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Our women of LWML want to thank all the craft-makers and goodie bakers who participated in our mission efforts, and we are so grateful for the support of Pastor Jim and all our church family! Our efforts at LWML Sunday at Ascension raised a total of \$683.60. This includes donated Mites, fundraiser sales, and your generous "keep the change" donations. That total does not even include the countless hours that many have used in the making of their crafts and baked goods. Yes, "It takes a village". With combined efforts around the world, we can and do make a difference in spreading the Good News of Christ Jesus, our Savior! Please remember to pray for our missions and missionaries, near and far, and give thanks to our Lord for His countless blessings!

† THANKS, FROM CAROL HOEFER

In recent years I've often been asked "Who is your support?" I have always included "my church family" in my response. Once again you have shared your care and concern. Your prayers are felt and greatly appreciated. Thank you, Carol Hoefer.

† A LOOK AT TODAY AND A PLAN FOR TOMORROW HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR GAUGES?

Who? ALL members and friends of Ascension
When? Saturday, Nov. 11 from 10:30am to 2:00pm
Where? Ascension Community Room (Yummy lunch provided)
Why? To gauge our current state of affairs and identify areas we can grow as a congregation.

† THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP WITH BIBLES!

Your help has been greatly appreciated. With your assistance the cost of the outreach Bibles has been covered. God bless you as the word of God spreads to our community!

† COME CELEBRATE THE REFORMATION

Join in the celebration at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Gresham, on Tuesday, October 31, at 7:00pm. Redeemer is located at 795 E. Powell Blvd in Gresham. We look forward to seeing you.

† PRAYER 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 — (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);

Colton Wright, Navy — (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);

Tyler Young, Navy — Deployed (nephew of Karen Arronson).

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

The family of Miki Etzel, The family of Audrey Bauch, The family of Brayson Pardue, Jim Eckart, Carol Hofer, Jaden Saunders, Diana Laxton, Gina Kreps, Cindy Linnemann, Karla Deal, Mike Fogarty, Alma Bangs, Randy Bryant's brother, Herb Reiniger's brother; Roger, Virginia Jacob's brother; Robert, Esperanza Gutierrez' mother; Antonia, *Barbara Schrader, *Kevin McInaney, *Larry Hart, *Mike Hatley, *Lorraine Haggard, *Carolyn Barendse, *Judy Blubbaum, *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 TODAY, SUNDAY, OCT. 22, 2023

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Randy Bryant	Randy Schroeder
Acolytes:		
Ushers:	Jim Eckart Stan Chapulis	Matthias McInaney Evan Kreps Eric Kreps Marcus Young
Audio/Visual:	Stan Chapulis	Laura Potter
PowerPoint:	Jenny Schuldheisz	John Hazen
Greeters:	Sheryl Maier	Celia Kreps
Readers:	Jim Eckart	Karon Keup
Altar Guild:	Both Services	Jan Oswald
Flowers:	Both Services	Bob and Elaina Ritchie
Counters:	Both Services	Bonnie Webber Rebecca Williamson

ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, OCT. 29, 2023

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Dave Oswald	Dan Parshall
Acolytes:	Lily Hodges	NEEDED
Cross Bearer	Alex Hodges	NEEDED
Ushers:	Randy Schroeder Stan Chapulis	Marcus Young Bob Freeman
Audio/Visual:	Michele Sprengle	NEEDED
PowerPoint:	Wanda Cassetty	John Hazen
Greeters:	Sheryl Maier	Wendy Hazen
Readers:	Peggy Hall	J. E. Knox
Altar Guild:	Both Services	Karla Deal
Flowers:	Both Services	Wendy and John Hazen
Counters:	Both Services	Karon Keup and Sheryl Maier

EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., OCT. 22 - SAT., OCT. 28

Sunday, Oct. 22	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship with Communion
	5:00pm	Worship in Spanish w/ Comm.
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Tuesday, Oct. 24		Newsletter Items Due
Wednesday, Oct. 25	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
	6:00pm	C-101 (Week 5)
Thursday, Oct. 26	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
Friday, Oct. 27	6:30pm	Noche Familiar

EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., OCT. 29- SAT., NOV. 4

Sunday, Oct. 29	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship
	5:00pm	Worship in Spanish
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Tuesday, Oct. 31		Halloween
Wednesday, Nov. 1	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
	6:00pm	C-101 (Week 5)
Thursday, Nov. 2	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
Friday, Nov. 3	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
Saturday, Nov. 4	12:00pm	Miki Etzel Memorial

† MILESTONES - SUNDAY, OCT. 22 – SATURDAY, OCT. 28**BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:**

Johnnie Driessner	Oct. 22	Cindy Reinert	Oct. 23
Jon Hart	Oct. 26		

BIRTHDAYS:

Keilynn Woods	Oct. 24	Elly Brown	Oct. 26
Sherry Porath	Oct. 27	Herb Reiniger	Oct. 27
James Sprengle	Oct. 27	Elaina Ritchie	Oct. 28

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

None

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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