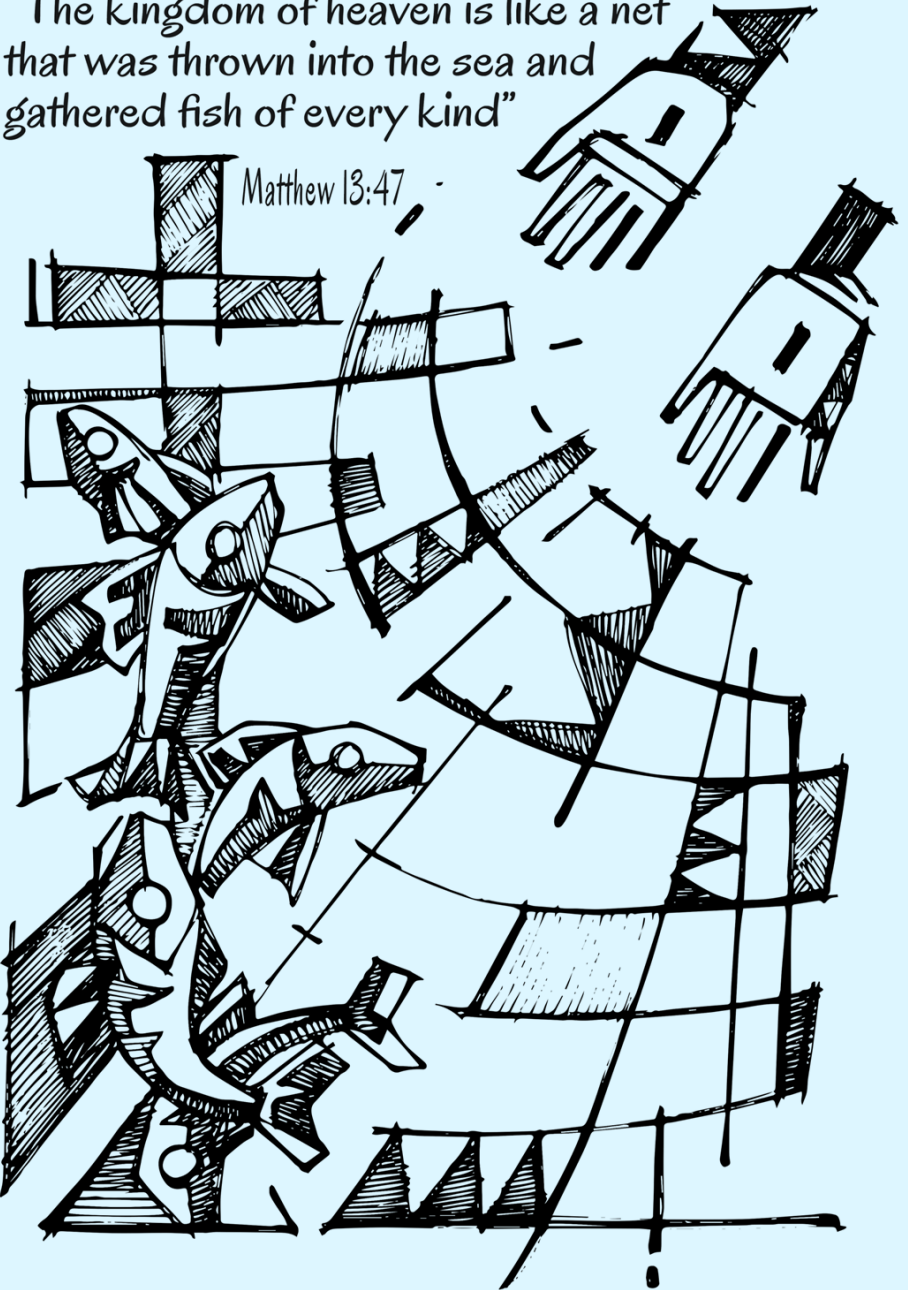


“The kingdom of heaven is like a net
that was thrown into the sea and
gathered fish of every kind”

Matthew 13:47



Ascension Lutheran Church

“A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone”

July 30, 2023

THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday July 30, 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: “The Kingdom of Heaven: To Die For”

As We Gather:

Jesus’ parables in today’s Gospel are a bit difficult to understand. In the first the kingdom of heaven is hidden, like treasure in a field. In the second it is extremely costly, like a large, perfect pearl. And we rejoice that we have found the Kingdom and value it above all. But what about that third parable, in which angels sort evil and righteous people like fish being burned or saved? Can we sinner-saints be confident as that day approaches? We can, for our inclusion in the Kingdom is not because of anything we have done. First, God chose us to be a people for His treasured possession, the Old Testament Reading tells us. Then, explains the Epistle, “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” (Romans 8:34). Our heavenly Father sent His Son to give us His own righteousness. For our Lord, incorporating us in the kingdom of heaven was something to die for.

Prelude

Welcome

I Love Your Kingdom, Lord

- 1 I love Your kingdom, Lord,
The place of Your abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.
- 2 Beyond my highest joy
I prize its heav'nly ways,
Its sweet communion, solemn vows,
Its hymns of love and praise.
- 3 I love Your Church, O God,
Your saints in ev'ry land,
Dear as the apple of Your eye
And graven on Your hand.
- 4 For them my tears shall fall;
For them my prayers ascend;
For them my cares and toils be giv'n
Till toils and cares shall end.
- 5 Sure as Your truth shall last,
To Zion shall be giv'n
The brightest glories earth can yield
And brighter bliss of heav'n.

I Love Your Kingdom, Lord, Text: Timothy Dwight, 1752–1817, alt., Text: Public domain

Invocation

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

Confession and Absolution

- P** God's ways are unsearchable; all things and we ourselves belong to Him.
- C** **But we are not righteous, for we have done the evil He forbids. We are not upright in heart, for we have thought to save ourselves. We are not at peace, for we have led others astray in our thoughtless words. We cannot save ourselves. Forgive us and lead us in paths pleasing to You, gracious God.**
- P** Although you have sinned, God still surrounds you with His protection, like the mountains around Jerusalem. He never rests in His seeking to guide your hands to do good. He has sent His Word to turn your thoughts back to His grace and mercy. His peace is made sure for you in the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. In His gracious love, God declares you to be His good and righteous children. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

Thank You, Lord

Thank You, Lord, for saving my soul.
Thank You, Lord, for making me whole.
Thank You, Lord, for giving to me
Thy great salvation so rich and free!

"Thank You, Lord" by Bessie Sykes / Seth Sykes, CCLI Song No. 16763. © 1940, 1945 Singspiration Music (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing). Used by permission under CCLI License No. 759893.

Salutation

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

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Eternal Lord over all, open our eyes to see Your hidden, costly, yet universal kingdom, that we may see our value in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus; through the same, Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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

Deuteronomy 7:6-9 (ESV)

⁶“You are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set His love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that He swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Romans 8:28-39 (ESV)

²⁸We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. ²⁹For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified. ³¹What then shall we say to these things? 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.**

Lambs' Lesson

Pr. Herb Hoefler

Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:44-52 (ESV)

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

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

⁴⁴[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ “Have you understood all these things?” They said to Him, “Yes.” ⁵²And He said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Prayer/Love in Action Requests Gathered

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love To Me

(tune: Eternal Father, Strong To Save)

Jesus, Thy boundless love to me
No thought can reach, no tongue declare;
Unite my thankful heart to Thee,
And reign without a rival there!
Thine wholly, Thine alone I am;
Be Thou alone my constant flame.

O grant that nothing in my soul
May dwell, but Thy pure love alone;
Oh, may Thy love possess me whole,
My joy, my treasure, and my crown!
All coldness from my heart remove;
My ev'ry act, word, thought be love.

This love unwearied I pursue
And dauntlessly to Thee aspire.
Oh, may Thy love my hope renew,
Burn in my soul like heav'nly fire!
And day and night, be all my care
To guard this sacred treasure there.

Sermon

“A Story of the Parable of the Draught of the Fishes”

Pr. Herb Hoefler

Matt. 13:47-50

Apostles' Creed

C 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 God has chosen us to be His treasured possession and has given His Son to die for us. Let us go to Him with all our concerns.

Heavenly Father, You have redeemed us out of Your steadfast love. Grant that the Gospel may go forth unhindered and Your Spirit bring many into this fellowship of the redeemed. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P** Heavenly Father, You have revealed to us the true treasure of Christ's cross and resurrection. Grant that we may pursue Your kingdom with all our hearts, souls, minds and bodies. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Heavenly Father, You justify us for the sake of Christ. Comfort any who are troubled by the memory of past sins or visited by the temptation to believe they cannot be forgiven. Give them confidence in Christ, that He died for them and still intercedes for them. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Heavenly Father, You have given us various offices in our lives. Grant us faithfulness in these callings, that we may see them as gifts through which we serve You and our neighbors. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Heavenly Father, bestow Your comfort upon all who are burdened by sickness, affliction, or loss especially... Grant that they may await healing and deliverance in the firm conviction that nothing can separate them from Your love in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** For those celebrating this week...Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, 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.**

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.)

Church of God, Elect and Glorious

tune: Hyfyrdol

- 1 Church of God, elect and glorious,
Holy nation, chosen race;
Called as God's own special people,
Royal priests and heirs of grace:
Know the purpose of your calling,
Show to all His mighty deeds;
Tell of love that knows no limits,
Grace that meets all human needs.
- 2 God has called you out of darkness
Into His most mar'ulous light;
Brought His truth to life within you,
Turned your blindness into sight.
Let your light so shine around you
That God's name is glorified
And all find fresh hope and purpose
In Christ Jesus crucified.

- 3 Once you were an alien people,
Strangers to God's heart of love;
But He brought you home in mercy,
Citizens of heav'n above.
Let His love flow out to others,
Let them feel a Father's care;
That they too may know His welcome
And His countless blessings share.
- 4 Church of God, elect and holy,
Be the people He intends;
Strong in faith and swift to answer
Each command your Master sends:
Royal priests, fulfill your calling
Through your sacrifice and prayer;
Give your lives in joyful service—
Sing His praise, His love declare.

Church of God, Elect and Glorious, Text: James Edward Seddon, 1915–83, Text: © 1982 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

Dismissal

- P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
G **Thanks be to God!**

Acknowledgments

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 3.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

JULY 30, 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! It's a great opportunity to invite your friends and family for a time of worship, good food and fellowship!

† NEW MEMBERS TO BE WELCOMED!

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

† MILESTONES - SUN., JULY 30 - SAT., AUGUST 5

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:

Trever Fogarty	Aug. 1	Travis Osgood	Aug. 1
Barbara Schrader	Aug. 5		

BIRTHDAYS

Josue Aguilar	July 30	Erika Teyema	July 30
Teresa Osgood	Aug. 2	Will Teyema	Aug. 2
Jim Eckart	Aug. 5		

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

Don and Clydette Hilliard	July 31, 1976
Eric and Celia Kreps	Aug 1, 1998
Don and Norma Dillon	Aug. 2, 1970
Tim and Karla Deal	Aug 4, 1979

† 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.

† PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

The Family of Rich Zahursky, The Brown Family, Carolyn Barendse, Gina Kreps, Kevin McInaney, 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.

EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., JULY 30 - SAT., AUG. 5

Sunday, July 30	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship
	5:00pm	Worship in Spanish
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Tuesday, Aug. 1	6:00pm	No Elder Meeting
Wednesday, Aug. 2	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
Thursday, Aug. 3	6:00pm	Praise Team
Friday, Aug. 4	6:30pm	Noche Familiar

EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., AUG 6 - SAT., AUG. 12

Sunday, Aug. 6	8:30am	Worship with Communion
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship
	5:00pm	Worship in Spanish
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
Tuesday, Aug. 8	6:00pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, Aug. 9	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
Thursday, Aug. 10	6:00pm	Praise Team
Friday, Aug. 11	6:30pm	Noche Familiar

ASSISTING IN SERVICE TODAY, JULY 30, 2023

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Randy Schroeder	Dan Parshall
Acolytes:		
Ushers:	Bob Rekdahl Stan Chapulis	Marcus Young Matthias McInaney
Audio/Visual:	Stan Chapulis	J.E. Knox
PowerPoint:	Jenny Schuldheisz	Rosemary Knox
Greeters:	Sheryl Maier	Virginia Jacobs
Readers:	Sheryl Maier	Karon Keup
Altar Guild:	Both Services	Virginia Jacobs
Flowers:	Both Services	NEEDED
Counters:	Both Services	Bonnie Webber and Rebecca Williamson

ASSISTING IN SERVICE SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2023

	8:30am	11:00am
Elder:	Randy Schroeder	Dan Parshall
Acolytes:		
Ushers:	Bob Rekdahl Stan Chapulis Jim Eckart NEEDED	Marcus Young Matthias McInaney
Audio/Visual:	Stan Chapulis	Laura Potter
PowerPoint:	Wanda Cassetty	Rebecca Williamson
Greeters:	Margo Bachhuber Elizabeth Alvarado	Carrie Graham
Readers:	Randy Schroeder	Carlyn Staudt
Altar Guild:	Both Services	Debbie Rekdahl
Flowers:	Both Services	NEEDED
Counters:	Both Services	Karon Keup and Sheryl Maier

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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