



Advent Midweek 3

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"
Wednesday, December 18, 2024

ADVENT MIDWEEK 3

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!

TITHES AND OFFERINGS (Basket placed in the aisle)

(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.)

+ PREPARATION +

THEME: "THE SONG OF MARY"

AS WE GATHER: The weeks of Advent are a time for faithful listening. For centuries before the coming of Jesus, specially chosen messengers of God brought hope to God's people with words of encouragement. An often-heard prophetic voice is that of Isaiah, who told of the fulfillment of God's promises to His faithful people. In chapter 12 of Isaiah, we hear the prophet exclaim: "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation" (12:2). As the season of Advent progresses, we hear more and more voices announcing that God's plan of salvation is being fulfilled. John the Baptist calls out in the wilderness, telling us to repent of our sins as we prepare for the coming of the Savior. With Mary, we hear the message of the angel Gabriel, announcing that God is coming in person and that His coming will be a great blessing to all people. With joyful anticipation, we listen for the message of the coming salvation and respond with songs of praise.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

P Our first song today is based on the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary, recorded in the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke, in which the announcement is made by the archangel Gabriel to Mary that she would conceive and bear a son through a virgin birth and become the mother of Jesus Christ. Mary was uniquely favored among women--chosen by God to give birth to His Son! She responded with firm faith in God's word of promise carried to her by the angel Gabriel. We sing together.

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

LSB 356



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came, Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, Text and tune: Basque, c. 18th cent., Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

OPENING SCRIPTURE

Psalm 27:1, 4, 7–8, 13–14

- P** The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- C** **One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.**
- P** Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!
- C** **You have said, “Seek My face.” My heart says to You, “Your face, LORD, do I seek.”**
- P** I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!
- C** **Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 124:8

- P** Our help is in the name of the LORD,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** In this season of penitence and reflection, let us think of our unworthiness; confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed; and ask for His merciful forgiveness.

[silence for reflection and confession]

- C** **Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to life everlasting. Amen.**
- P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in 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.

Almighty Father, the advent of Your Son into the world opens the kingdom of heaven to all who believe in Him. Grant us Your Holy Spirit so that we may believe in Him with our whole heart and so serve Him in our daily lives, that when He comes again we may, together with Mary, our Lord's mother; the prophets of old; and all of the faithful, by Your mercy be gathered together into the Kingdom that abides eternal in the heavens; through Your mercy, O God, who lives and reigns forever, world without end.

C Amen.

+ THE WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Daniel 7:13-14 (ESV)

¹³I saw in the night visions,

and behold, with the clouds of heaven
there came one like a Son of man,
and He came to the Ancient of Days
and was presented before Him.

¹⁴And to Him was given dominion
and glory and a kingdom,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve Him;

His dominion is an everlasting dominion,
which shall not pass away,
and His kingdom one
that shall not be destroyed.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 26

(tune: Fight the Good Fight)

(congregation sings hymn phrases in **bold**)

C Try me, O Lord; my ways pursue.
I have walked faithfully with You.

P Examine me and test me, Lord; judge my desires and thoughts, for Your love is before my eyes. I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.

C **I have lived with integrity.
I have walked with You faithfully.**

P I do not keep company with the worthless, nor do I consort with hypocrites. I hate the company of evildoers and will not sit with the wicked.

C **Lord, I Your house with pleasure view.
I have walked faithfully with You.**

P I wash my hands in innocence, and go around Your altar, O Lord, singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and telling all Your wonderful deeds.

C **Let me Your truth and justice see.
I have walked with You faithfully.**

P Do not sweep me away with sinners, nor my life with those who thirst for blood, whose hands are full of evil plots, and whose right hands are full of bribes.

C **Save me from those who trouble me.
I have walked with You faithfully.**

P As for me, I walk in my integrity. Redeem me and be gracious to me. In the full assembly I will bless the Lord.

C **Lord, keep me trusting, good and true.
I have walked faithfully with You.**

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 1:46-56 (ESV)

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

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

⁴⁶And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for He has looked on the humble estate of His servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for He who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is His name.

⁵⁰And His mercy is for those who fear Him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with His arm;

He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵²He has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich He has sent empty away.

⁵⁴He has helped His servant Israel,
in remembrance of His mercy,

⁵⁵as He spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to His offspring forever.”

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Magnificat ~ Song Of Mary

LSB pg. 248

Refrain

My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -
 joic - es in God, my Sav - ior. My soul mag-ni-fies the
 Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.

- 1 For _____ He has re - - - - - garded
- 2 For the Mighty One has done great things to me,
- 3 He has shown strength with His arm;
- 4 He has filled the hungry with good things,
- 5 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son

- 1 the lowliness of His hand-maiden.
- 2 and holy is His name;
- 3 He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- 4 and the rich He has sent emp - - - - - ty a - way.
- 5 and to the Ho - ly Spirit;

- 1 For be - hold, from this day
- 2 and His mercy is on those who fear Him
- 3 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
- 4 He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy
- 5 as it was in the be - - - - - ginning,

- 1 all generations will call me blessèd.
- 2 from generation to gen - er - ation. *Refrain*
- 3 and has exalt - - - - - ed the lowly.
- 4 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ever.
- 5 is now, and will be forever. A - men. *Refrain*

SERMON
“THE SONG OF MARY”

Pr. Jim Sprengle
Luke 1:46-56

PRAYERS

(following each petition):

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

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.

CLOSING PRAYER

- P** Let us pray.

O Lord, grant us Your grace in this present age to live with kindness, faithfulness, and righteousness as we look for the fullness of Your coming among us in all Your glory and power at the end of the age. In Your mercy, may we come to that eternal inheritance that You have prepared for those who love You. By the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, lead us and guide us through our days until at last we join with saints and angels in endless praise around Your heavenly throne. This we ask through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

- C** Amen.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

P Our final hymn, “O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild,” written in Germany in the seventeenth century, is appropriate for Advent, the season that heralds the coming of Christ. With few words, the text tells the story of salvation: the Word of God become flesh to rescue sinners. He was born of the virgin Mary and carried out His work of reconciliation. His death on the cross has ransomed us, stayed God’s righteous anger at sinful mankind, and redeemed the world of which we are part. Filled with joy, we strive to stay “faithful, strong, and true” to Jesus.

O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild

LSB 546



1 O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild! For
2 O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild! With
3 O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild! Joy



sin - ners You be - came a child. You came from
God we now are rec - on - ciled. You have for
fills the world which sin de - filed. What - e'er we



heav - en down to earth In hu - man flesh through
all the ran - som paid, Your Fa - ther's righ - teous
have be - longs to You; O keep us faith - ful,



hu - man birth. O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild!
an - ger stayed. O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild!
strong, and true. O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild!

O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild, Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Geoffrey W. Daisley, 1877–1939, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. Frieda Pietsch, 1904–82, alt., Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623, Köln, Text and tune: Public domain

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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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.

STAFF

Rev. Jim Sprengle, Pastor
pastor@alcportland.org

Ruberto Ek Yah, Pastor
pastorekyah@alcportland.org

Brad Hall, Worship and Music Coordinator
worship@alcportland.org

Michele Sprengle, Office Administrator
office@alcportland.org

Bonnie Webber, Treasurer

Rebecca Williamson, Assist. Treasurer
treasurer@alcportland.org

Wanda Cassetty,
Council Secretary
council@alcportland.org

Hana Brandt,
Deaconess Intern
deaconess@alcportland.org

Laura Potter, Property Management
alcproperty1440@gmail.com