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Welcome to Worship...

Welcome to all God's guests, including those who call themselves "members" of this church named Ascension Lutheran Church more than 60 years ago.

A special welcome to guests who are here for the first time or who call yourselves "visitors" among the people of this community. It is at God's invitation, through worship, the Holy Spirit calls each of us to come to a place of **community**, **communion** and **commitment**. Each of us brings a different lens to worship, and yet, in a worshiping community, these differences become celebrations of diversity.

Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The

life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."

Welcome to Worship

Song of Prayer for the World

"We Pray for Peace"

(TUNE: Be Still My Soul")

We pray for peace, O God of love and justice, communities and countries are at war.

As broken hearts and spirits in depression cry out in crisis needing love and more.

Lead us from fear to hope in prayer and action to bring your peace the world is yearning for.

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand in body or spirit.

P Blessed be the Holy Trinity,

full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love

All Amen

P Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Eternal God our creator,

All in you we live and move and have our being.

Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands.

Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.

By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our heart through the Holy Spirit given to us.

In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God + forgives you all your sins.

All Amen.

Opening Song Gather Us In Here in this place new light is stream-ing, the now is the dark - ness 1 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the van - ished a - way; this space our fears and our dream-ings see in here you shall call sons and your daugh-ters, bread of new birth, your light brought here the of this day. to you in for call a - new be salt the earth. us to Gath-er in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er in, the to drink the Give us wine of com-pas-sion, give us eat the to blind and the lame; call we shall a - wak - en. to us now, and



P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

well,

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and hearts that

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All And also with you.

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Prayer of the Day

- P Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest.
- All Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

You may be Seated

A Reading from Genesis, the 18th chapter

In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.

²⁰Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

²²So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." ²⁷Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find

thirty there." ³¹He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³²Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

Genesis 18:20-32

L The word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God!

A Reading from Colossians, the 2nd chapter

The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about "the empty lure" of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.

⁶As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹²when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

¹⁶Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. ¹⁷These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸Do not let anyone

disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.

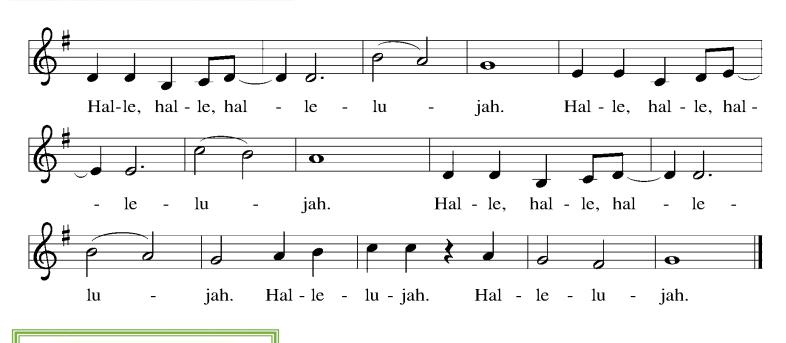
Colossians 2:6-19

L The word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit.



Gospel Reading

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 11th chapter.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

¹[Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say:

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' ⁷And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' ⁸I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Luke 11:1-13

P The Gospel of our Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be Seated

Sermon

Pr. Debra Jimenez

³Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴And forgive us our sins,

Hymn of the Day

Please stand in body or spirit.



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Apostles' Creed

- P Let us join together with one voice confessing our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.
- I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
- I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

You may be Seated

Prayers of Intercession

L Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

Lord make us whole:
Peace to all people, hope for each soul.
God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

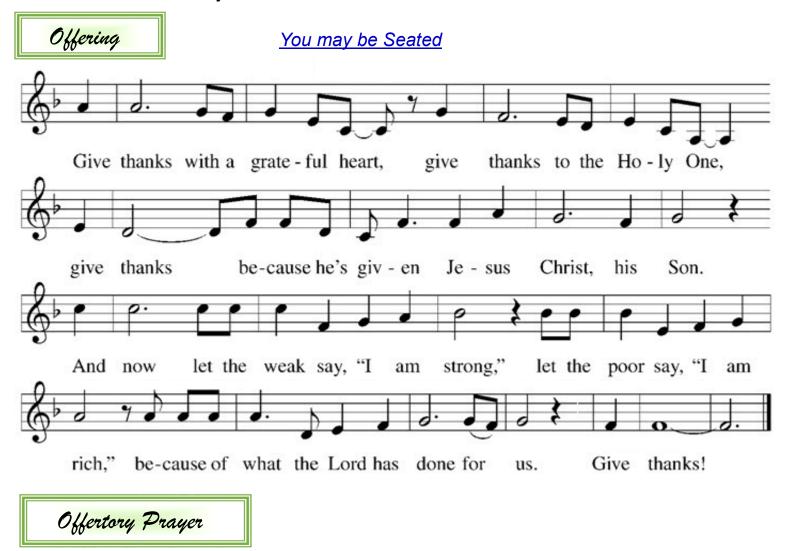
L: Merciful God, All: receive our prayer.

Please stand in body or spirit.

Passing of the Peace

P Christ become peace with you.

All And also with you.



P Let us pray:

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

All Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions.

Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

- P The Lord be with you
- All And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- All We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- All It is right to give God thanks and praise.
- P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

P Make us bold, O merciful God, to address you as our Abba as we pray:

ΑII

The Invitation

P In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy.Come to the banquet.

Note: the communion cups on the periphery of the tray contain red wine while the cups in the center contain white grape juice.

Gluten Free wafers available -ask the communion attendant

What a Friend We Have in Jesus



- 1 What a friend we have in Je sus,
- 2 Have we tri als and temp-ta tions?
- 3 Are we weak and heav-y-lad en,

all our sins and griefs to bear!

Is there trou-ble an - y-where? cum-bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer! We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer. Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Can we find a friend so faith - ful Do your friends de-spise, for - sake you? oh, what need-less pain we bear—who will all our sor-rows share? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be-cause we do not car - ry ev-'ry-thing to God in prayer! Je - sus knows our ev-'ry weak-ness— take it to the Lord in prayer. In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so-lace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886

Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918





Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

Please stand in body or spirit.

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All Amen

- P Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy.
- All Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love.This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Please be seated for Stewardship of Life & Ministry Announcements

Benediction

Please stand in body or spirit.

P Go out into God's world as those born of water and Spirit.

Go as those inspired and excited to know that

"God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world".

No, in fact, our God sent Jesus into the world so that the world might be saved through him.

Go as those living in the mystery of the Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.

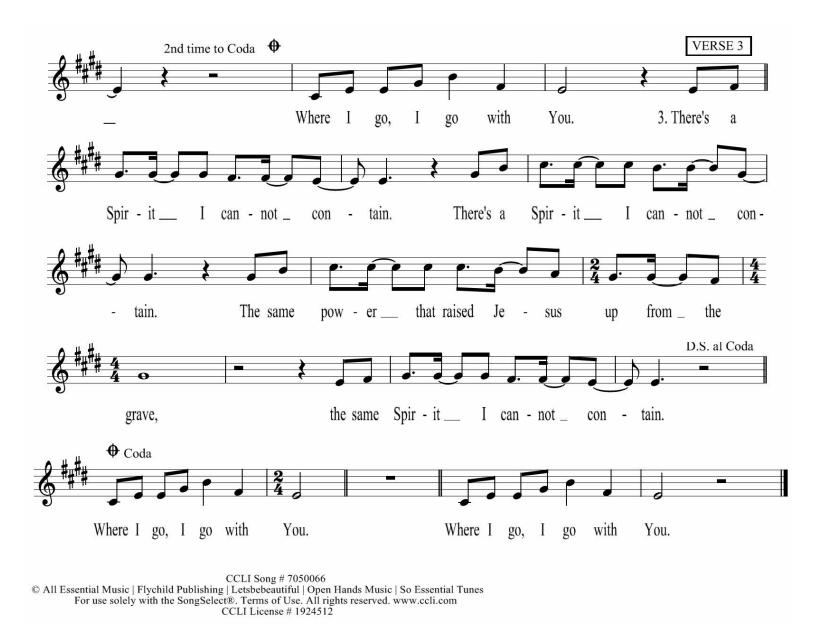
Go knowing you are loved + and are called to love each other.

All Amen.

Everywhere I Go

Words and Music by Jason Ingram, Paul Mabury and Tim Timmons





Dismissal

P Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-1

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

All Thanks be to God.

Readings for next Sunday, July 31st First Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14;

2:18-23

Psalm: Psalm 49:1-12

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-11

Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

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