

Don't surround
yourself
with yourself.

WORDS of WISDOM

September 24, 2023

17th Sunday after Pentecost



Ascension Lutheran Church

1105 N. Washington Blvd.

Ogden, UT 84404

801.782.2810

Welcome to Worship...

Welcome to all God's guests, including those who call themselves "members" of this church named Ascension Lutheran Church more than 50 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 worshipping community, these differences become celebrations of diversity.

**Children are always welcome in worship services;
however please know a nursery space is available for
parents who need to tend to their little ones.**

Introduction

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

Welcome to Worship

Prayer of Confession

Please stand in body or spirit.

P Blessed be God,
the one who forms us,
✝ Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

All Amen

P Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

Steadfast and faithful God,

**All you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.**

P Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In ✝ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

All Amen.

Opening Song

Come Let Us Worship And Bow Down Words and Music by
Dave Doherty



Come, let us wor-ship and _ bow down, let us kneel be-fore the Lord, our God, our
Mak - er. _____ Come, let us wor-ship and _ bow down, let us
kneel be-fore the Lord, our God, our Mak - er. For He _____ is our God, and
we are the peo - ple of His pas - ture, and the sheep _____ of His
hand, just the sheep _____ of His hand.

Greeting

P The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants.

All Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

[You may be Seated](#)

A Reading from Jonah, the 3rd & 4th chapters

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a

hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

Jonah 3:10--4:11

L The word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God!

A Reading from Philippians, the 1st chapter

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God’s doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

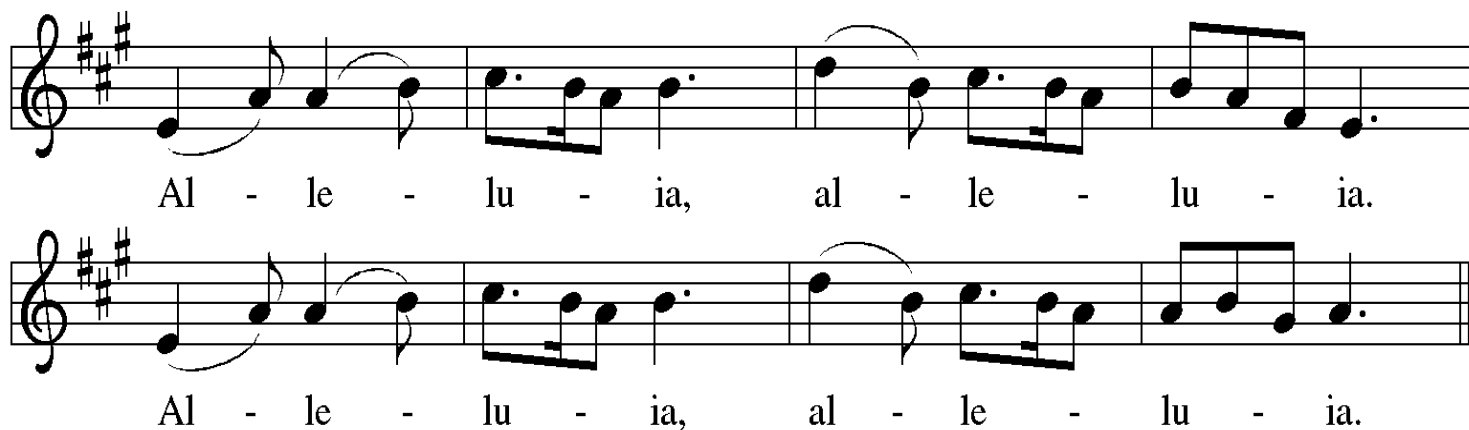
Philippians 1:21-30

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. Matthew, the 20th chapter.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.

¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour,

and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?’¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Matthew 20:1-16

P The Gospel of our Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be Seated

P Please pray with me...

O - pen our eyes, Lord, we want to see Je -

-sus, to reach out and touch Him, and

say that we love Him. O - pen our ears, Lord,

and help us to lis - ten, o - pen our

eyes, Lord, we want to see Je - sus.

Hymn of the Day

Please stand in body or spirit.

Jesus Loves Me!



1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.

Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

The Apostles' Creed

P Let us join together with the saints across the ages 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 Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.



O Lord, hear our prayer we of-fer up to you; O Lord, hear our prayer.

(each prayer petition ends with)

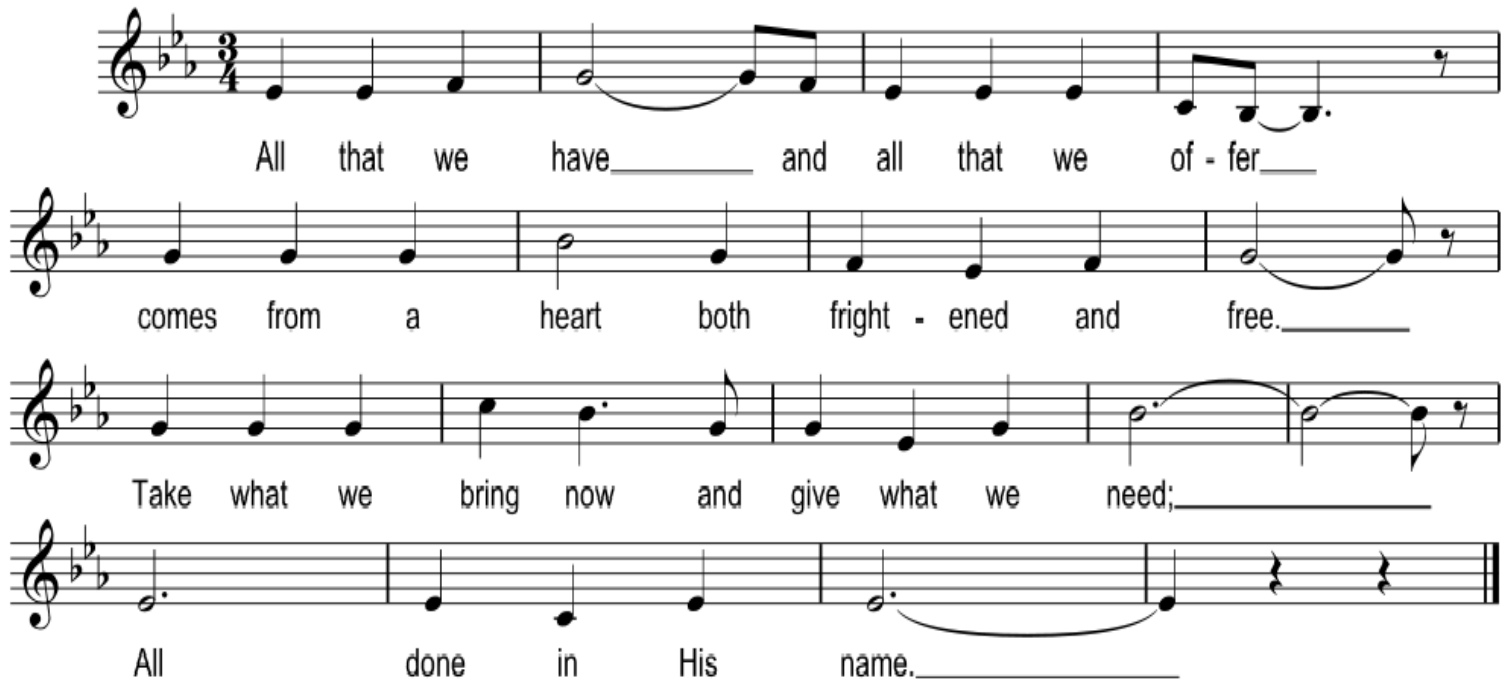
L: Merciful God, **All:** receive our prayer.

Passing of the Peace

P Christ become peace with you.

All And also with you.

Offering



All that we have _____ and all that we of - fer _____

comes from a heart both fright - ened and free. _____

Take what we bring now and give what we need; _____

All done in His name. _____

Offertory Prayer

P Let us pray:

God of field and forest, sea and sky,
you are the giver of all good things.

All Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us,
that we would feed and fill the world with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

Please stand in body or spirit.

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 And with our hearts and voices raised we remember...



(All) On the night You were be - trayed You took the bread;__ Af - ter
giv - ing thanks,__ You broke it and said, "This is My __
bod - y, bro - ken for__ you, and as you
eat__ it, re - mem - ber Me; This is My__
bod - y bro - ken for__ you, and as you
eat__ it, re - mem - ber Me." On the

night You were be - trayed You held the cup; Af - ter
 giv - ing thanks, You lift - ed it up. "This is My
 blood, poured out for you, and as you drink it, re - mem - ber
 Me; This is My blood, poured out for you, and as you
 drink it, re - mem - ber Me." So, we
 thank You for the wine and for the bread; For we
 see the life You gave and the blood You shed. And we re -
 mem - ber Your won - drous love, You gave Your
 bod - y, You shed Your blood; And we re - mem - ber Your won - drous
 love, You gave Your bod - y, You shed Your blood.

The Lord's Prayer

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

All 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.

The Invitation

P All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat and live..

You may be Seated

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

Communion Songs

You Are My All In All Words and Music by Dennis Jernigan



1 You are my strength when I am weak. You are the treas - ure that I
2 Tak - ing my sin, my cross, my shame, Ris - ing a - gain I bless Your



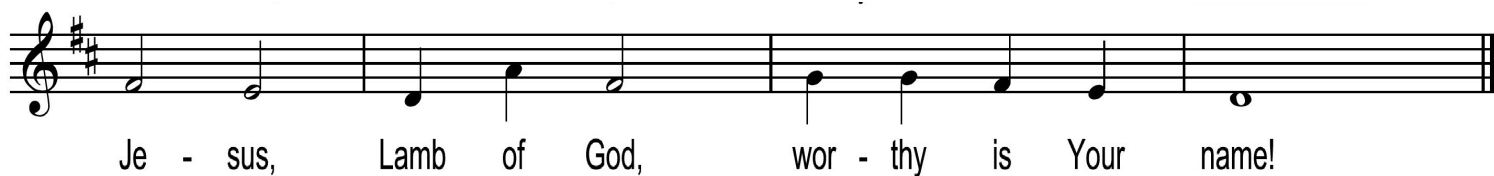
seek. You are my all in all. _____ Seek - ing You as a pre - cious
name; You are my all in all. _____ When I fall down, You pick me



jew'l, Lord, to give up I'd be a fool. You are my all in all.
up; When I am dry, You fill my cup; You are my all in all.

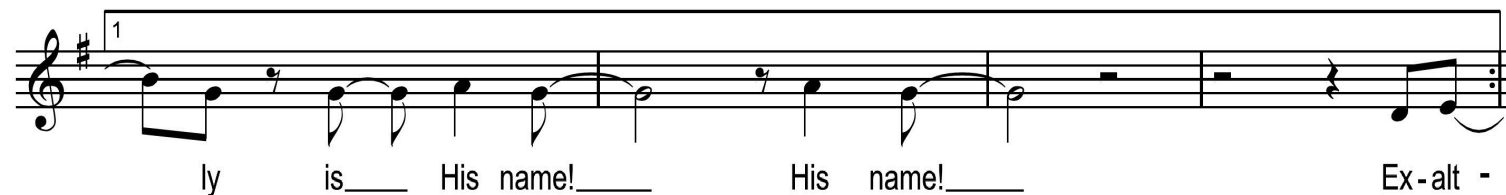
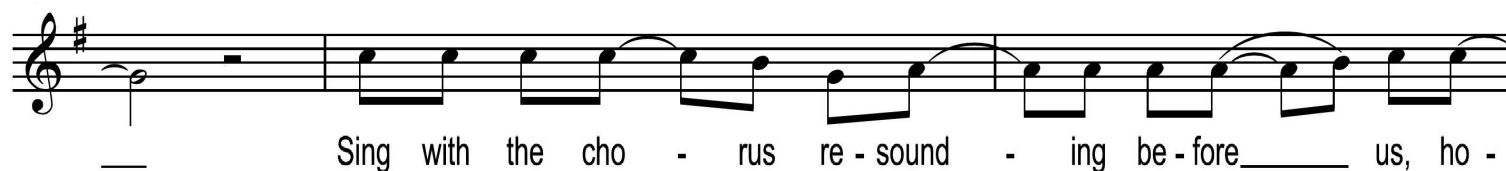
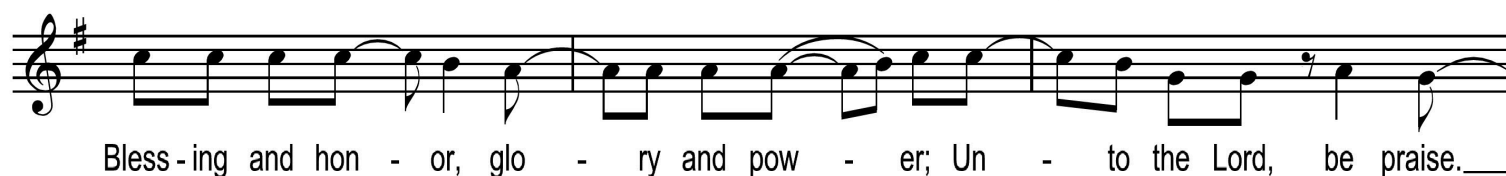
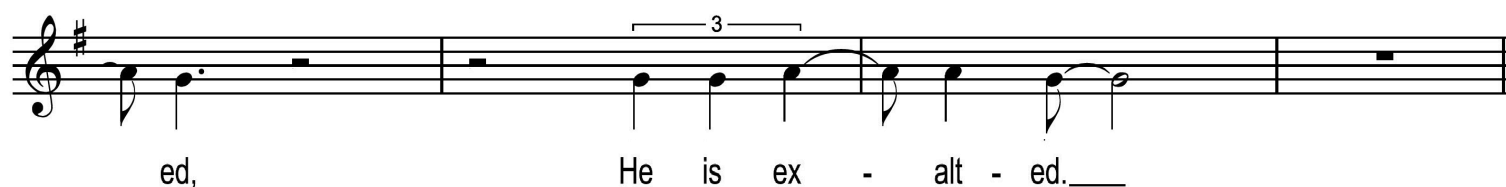
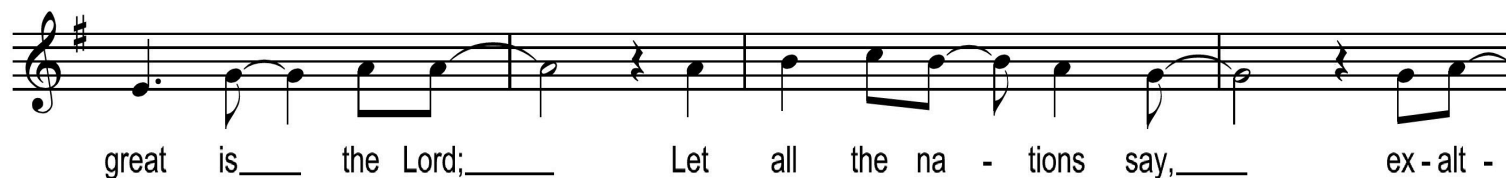
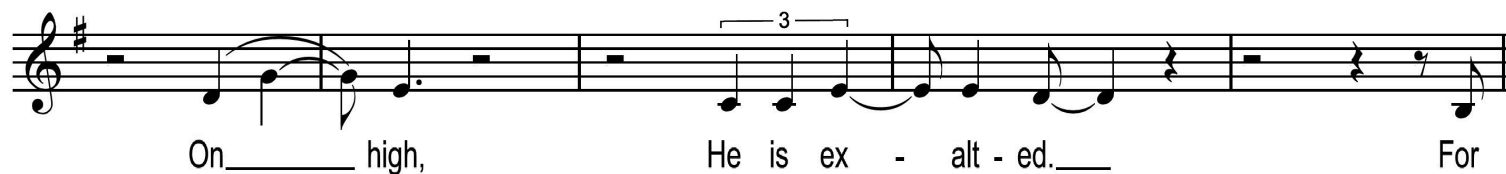
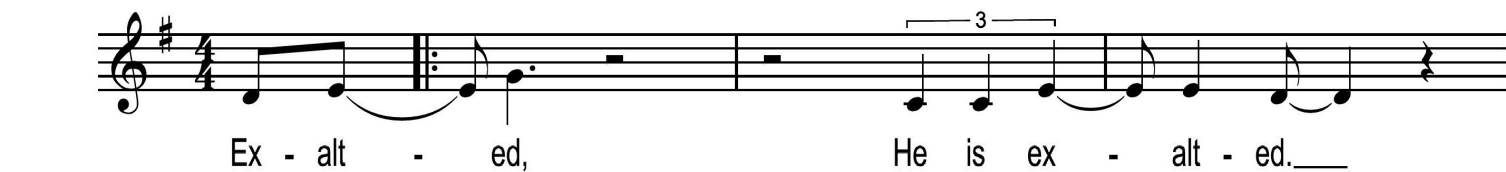


Je - sus, Lamb of God, 14 wor - thy is Your name! _____



Exalted

Words and Music by
Chris Tomlin and Jesse Reeves



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 We thank you, generous God,
for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table.

**All Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated for Stewardship of Life & Ministry Announcements

Benediction & Sending

Please stand in body or spirit.

(Leaders sing each line, the congregation repeats.)

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make His face to shine on you.
And be gracious to you.

May the Lord lift His countenance on you.
May the Lord lift His countenance on you.
May He keep you in perfect peace.

Dismissal

P Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

Romans 12:12

Go in peace. God is at work in us.

All Thanks be to God.

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