

THE WAY



3rd Sunday in Lent
March 8, 2026

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 65 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 the cry room at the back of the sanctuary is available for parents who need to tend to their little ones.

Welcome to Worship



Meet me in the still-ness, Lord, be the
air I breathe; meet me in the still-ness,
Lord, free me to re-ceive.

In this journey called life, we focus today on how the journey changes us.
This can lead to not always being understood.

Jesus found this out as he pushed against the status quo of his day
leading to a fair amount of rejection.

Close family, friends and neighbors may cling to an idea of who we are
and cannot imagine we have grown beyond that identity.

And likewise, we may do the same to them.



We are a wil-der-ness wand-ring peo-ple on a
jour-ney of the soul. May we find our des-ti-na-tion in our long-ing to be whole.

We are called to move ahead and do what we feel called to do,
claiming who we know we are,
taking the way around what others think we ought to do and be.
And we offer the same steadfast love and encouragement to others.

Our Ho-ly God is call - ing to us. With Je - sus by our

side may com - pas - sion be our com - pass may the Spir - it be our

guide, on The Way, on The Way, on The Way.

Confession and Forgiveness

P Let us join together in opening our hearts to the love of God.

All Amen.

P Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,

All You call us to a full life in community and service

But we get stuck in our own lives of doubt and regret.

We are full of anxious questions and short on reasonable answers.

We are trapped by our own inability to make decisions
that move us to service.

All We are afraid of consequences and want a guarantee that everything we do will work to our benefit.
We fear that we are not strong enough, nor wise enough, nor caring enough.

Forgive us.

Turn our eyes to you. Show us the way to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.

Amen.

P Hear this: No matter what juncture you find yourself on in your journeys, you are never alone in your “wondering while wandering.” Whether or not you know it, believe it, or feel it, Jesus is with you now because Jesus has been on this road and knows just how hard it can be.
You are forgiven and carried, ✝ especially when you think you are at the end of the road.

All Amen.

Prayer for This Day

WA God of the Bending Road, be with us on The Way.

All We find ourselves changed by the things we encounter and the people we meet.

We want to grow and yet sometimes the growing pains can be disorienting for everyone.

Help us as we navigate the twists and turns, and help us see that others are doing the same.

Amen.

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

A Reading from Romans, the 5th chapter

¹⁻² By entering through faith into what God has always wanted to do for us—set us right with him, make us fit for him—we have it all together with God because of our Master Jesus. And that's not all: We throw open our doors to God and discover at the same moment that he has already thrown open his door to us. We find ourselves standing where we always hoped we might stand—out in the wide open spaces of God's grace and glory, standing tall and shouting our praise.

³⁻⁵ There's more to come: We continue to shout our praise even when we're hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next. In alert expectancy such as this, we're never left feeling shortchanged. Quite the contrary—we can't round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit!

⁶⁻⁸ Christ arrives right on time to make this happen. He didn't, and doesn't, wait for us to get ready. He presented himself for this sacrificial death when we were far too weak and rebellious to do anything to get ourselves ready. And even if we hadn't been so weak, we wouldn't have known what to do anyway. We can understand someone dying for a person worth dying for, and we can understand how someone good and noble could inspire us to selfless sacrifice. But God put his love on the line for us by offering his Son in sacrificial death while we were of no use whatever to him.

⁹⁻¹¹ Now that we are set right with God by means of this sacrificial death, the consummate blood sacrifice, there is no longer a question of being at odds with God in any way. If, when we were at our worst, we were put on friendly terms with God by the sacrificial death of his Son, now that we're at our best,

just think of how our lives will expand and deepen by means of his resurrection life! Now that we have actually received this amazing friendship with God, we are no longer content to simply say it in plodding prose. We sing and shout our praises to God through Jesus, the Messiah!

Romans 5:1-11 (The Message)

WA The Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God!

A Responsive Reading from Psalm 32

- ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!
- ² **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**
- ³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.
- ⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**
- ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- ⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**
- ⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- ⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**
- ⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."
- ¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**
- ¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Gospel Acclamation

[Please stand in body or spirit.](#)

♪ ♪ Meet me in the stillness, Lord ♪ ♪
Be the air I breathe
Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Free me to receive

Gospel Reading

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 13th chapter.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³² He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.' ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

Luke 13:31-34

P The Gospel of our Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

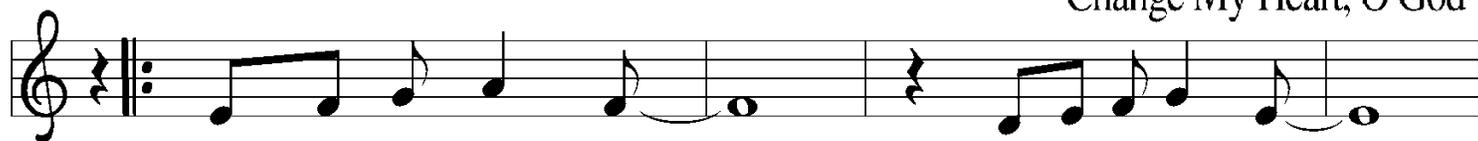
[You may be Seated](#)

Children's Sermon & Noisy Offering

Hymn of the Day

Please stand in body or spirit.

Change My Heart, O God



Change my heart, O God; make it ev-er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

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.

Prayers of the People

[You may be Seated](#)

WA Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray
for the world and its needs.

♪ ♪ Meet me in the stillness, Lord ♪ ♪
Be the air I breathe
Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Free me to receive

(each prayer petition ends with)

WA: Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

[Please stand in body or spirit.](#)

*In our continued physical distancing out of love for the health of one another, we will
share the Peace of our risen Lord by "speaking" that Peace through sign language.*

P Christ become Peace with you.

All And also with you.

[You may be Seated](#)

Offering

Offering plates are available at the entrance to receive your offerings.



All I am, I lay it down, for you, my God and friend;



take my life in - to your hands, here I am to send.



Search my heart, and you will find will - ing - ness to serve,



for your cross has co - vered me with grace I don't de - serve.



Oh _____ Lord lead me _____ on. _____



Oh _____ Lord lead me _____ on. _____

Offertory Prayer

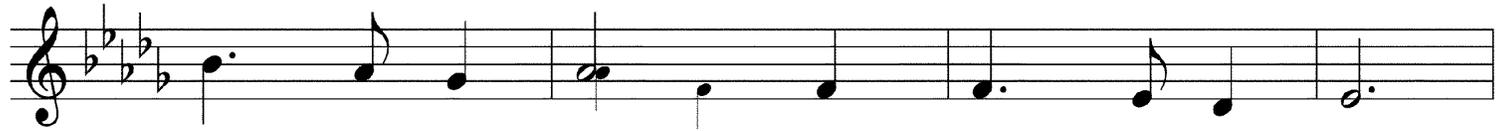
P O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.

All Use what we have gathered on our journey to feed the hungry,
house the poor and embrace all with the reign of God come near,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Come to Us



Come to me, come to us, you who are bur-dened.



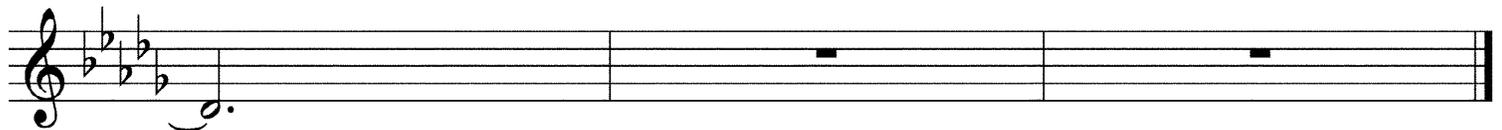
Come to the word, and come to the meal.



Come with-out ques - tion or pres - sure or price:



Come, be em - braced by the bod - y of Christ.



The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

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 Almighty God, Creator of all that was, and is, and is to come,
You led those who could not see by a road they did not know.
You have turned nighttime before them into light.
You have smoothed out the rough places and made them plain.
You have released the prisoners from the dungeon.
You have made all things new.

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.

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.

 **Come to me, come to us, pilgrim or stranger, **
looking for change, or challenge, or light.
We all are people whose calling is care,
bearers of mercy, nourished in prayer.

P Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

***All* Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Please stand in body or spirit.

P Let us together pray as Jesus taught us:

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.**

♪ ♪ Come to me, come to us, broken or building, ♪ ♪
come with your children, your choices, your chains.
All are invited to friendship and rest,
to share in our struggle, our call, and our quest.

The Invitation

P Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

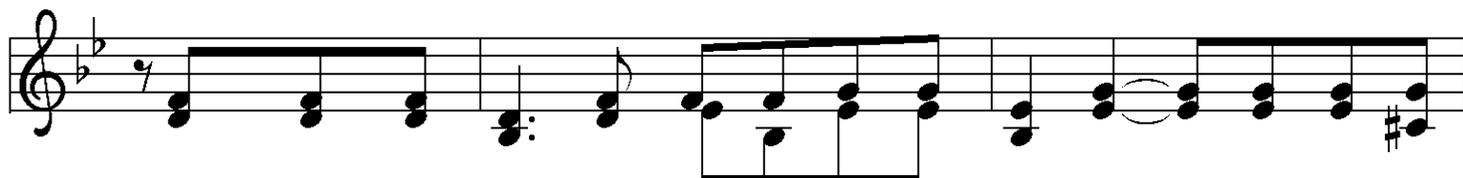
You may be Seated

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

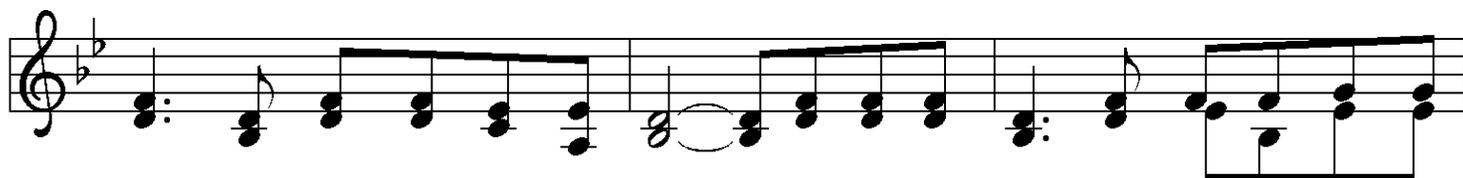
Gluten Free wafers available –ask the communion attendant

Communion Songs

How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
 2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der, I hear the
 3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y
 birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft-y moun-tain
 die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-

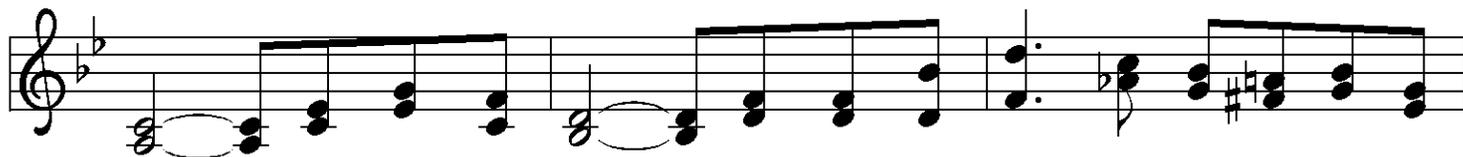


thun-der, thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played;
 gran-deur and hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze;
 bear-ing he bled and died to take a-way my sin;
 ra-tion and there pro-claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Spir - it of the
 liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Melt me, mold me,
 fill me, use me. Spir - it of the
 liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.

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 Let us pray,
 God of our salvation,
 we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
 reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.

**All Through the body and blood of your Son,
 may we become Christ's body in the world,
 bearing witness to your love for all creation,
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen

[You may be Seated](#)

Stewardship of Life and Ministry Announcements

Benediction

[Please stand in body or spirit.](#)

P The Creator God filled you with breath,
inviting you to this journey called Life.

***All* We will follow on the way**

P Jesus, our Guide, showed us what it means
to make a new way with Love.

***All* We will follow on the way**

P The Spirit gives us strength to move forward
with Courage and Compassion for all we meet.

***All* We will follow on the way**

P May this week be filled with opportunities to choose
good over evil; humility over pride;
and loving God over loving the things that do not last.

✝ “Buen Camino!”

***All* Amen**

Sending

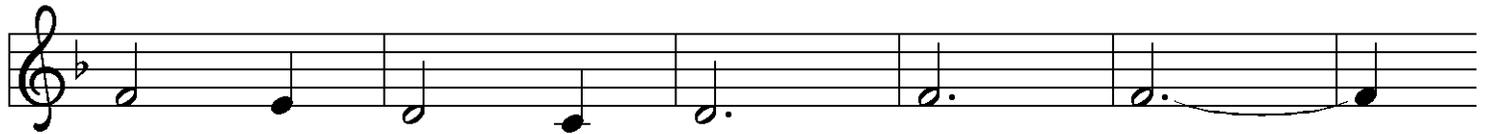
Will You Come and Follow Me
The Summons



3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call



your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners



free and nev - er be the same?



Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as



this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I



mean in you and you in me?"

Dismissal

WA Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

All Thanks be to God.



Front Cover:

Photo by WDS
Used by permission

Readings for next Sunday,
March 15th

Psalm: Psalm 25:4-10
Gospel: Luke 15:11b-32

Revised Common Lectionary,
March 15th

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm: Psalm 23
Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14
Gospel: John 9:1-41

Music licenses covered by these subscriptions

