

THE WAY



4th Sunday in Lent
March 15, 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.

We continue along our Lenten path that invites us to contemplate our journeys in life. Yet even in the midst of journeys, we never lose a desire for “home.” No matter what we call “home” in this physical world, we yearn for a spiritual home within that offers serenity, acceptance, and belonging without question.



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.

The extravagant acceptance of the father for the son in Jesus' parable of the wandering son is difficult for us to believe sometimes—that no matter what we have done, who we are, how far we are from what we want to become, we are welcomed home by the Loving Parent.



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 Our God who is our Home, be with us on The Way.

All At times we aren't sure about
the relationship of the road we travel
and the home we seek.
Will we ever feel like we have arrived?
We come hoping for the hearth of acceptance
in the home that Jesus promises.
And whether we are feeling lost or at home,
may we know you are always with us.
Amen.

A Responsive Reading from Psalm 25

Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.
Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!
Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way.
All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

Psalm 25:4-10

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 15th chapter.

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

Once there was this man who had two sons. One day the younger son came to his father and said, "Father, eventually I'm going to inherit my share of your estate. Rather than waiting until you die, I want you to give me my share now." And so the father liquidated assets and divided them. A few days passed and this younger son gathered all his wealth and set off on a journey to a distant land. Once there he wasted everything he owned on wild

living. He was broke, a terrible famine struck that land, and he felt desperately hungry and in need. He got a job with one of the locals, who sent him into the fields to feed the pigs. The young man felt so miserably hungry that he wished he could eat the slop the pigs were eating. Nobody gave him anything.

So he had this moment of self-reflection: “What am I doing here? Back home, my father’s hired servants have plenty of food. Why am I here starving to death? I’ll get up and return to my father, and I’ll say, ‘Father, I have done wrong—wrong against God and against you. I have forfeited any right to be treated like your son, but I’m wondering if you’d treat me as one of your hired servants?’” So he got up and returned to his father. The father looked off in the distance and saw the young man returning. He felt compassion for his son and ran out to him, enfolded him in an embrace, and kissed him.

The son said, “Father, I have done a terrible wrong in God’s sight and in your sight too. I have forfeited any right to be treated as your son.”

But the father turned to his servants and said, “Quick! Bring the best robe we have and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Go get the fattest calf and butcher it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate because my son was dead and is alive again. He was lost and has been found.” So they had this huge party.

Now the man’s older son was still out in the fields working. He came home at the end of the day and heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. The servant said, “Your brother has returned, and your father has butchered the fattest calf to celebrate his safe return.”

The older brother got really angry and refused to come inside, so his father came out and pleaded with him to join the celebration. But he argued back, “Listen, all these years I’ve worked hard for you. I’ve never disobeyed one of your orders. But how many times have you even given me a little goat to roast for a party with my friends? Not once! This is not fair! So this son of yours comes, this wasteful delinquent who has spent your hard-earned wealth on loose women, and what do you do? You butcher the fattest calf from our herd!”

The father replied, "My son, you are always with me, and all I have is yours. Isn't it right to join in the celebration and be happy? This is your brother we're talking about. He was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found again!"

Luke 15: 11b-32 (The Voice)

P The Gospel of our Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be Seated

Children's Sermon & Noisy Offering

Message

Pr. Gordon Young

Hymn of the Day

All The Way My Savior Leads Me

*Words and Music by
Chris Tomlin, Matt Redman
and Fanny Jane Crosby*

Please stand in body or spirit.



1. All the way my Sav - ior leads me; Who have I to ask be - side?
2. All the way my Sav - ior leads me; O, the ful - ness of His love!



How could I doubt His ten - der mer - cy, Who through life has been my guide?
O, the sure - ness of His prom - ise in the tri - umph of His blood.



All the way my Sav - ior leads me, and cheers each wind - ing path I tread,
When my spir - it, clothed, im - mor - tal, wings its flight to realms of day,



and gives me grace for ev - 'ry tri - al, feeds me with the liv - ing Bread. You
this my song through end - less a - ges: "Je - sus led me all the way.

lead me, and keep me from fall - ing. You car - ry me close to Your heart, and
 sure - ly Your good - ness and mer - cy will fol - low me. me.

*Baptism of Amy Rhees
 and Tayson Storey*

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.**

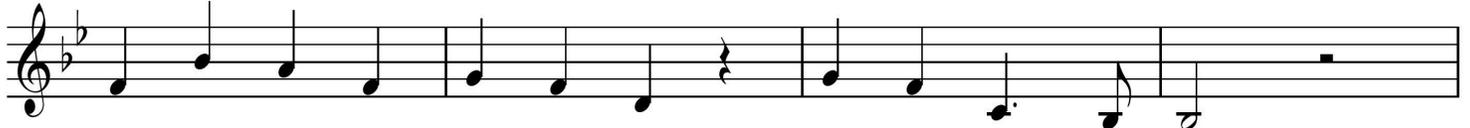
[You may be Seated](#)

Offering

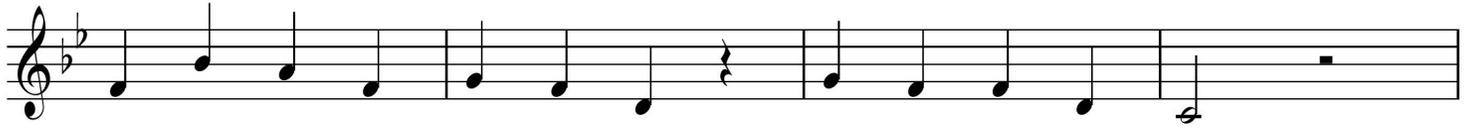
Offering plates are available at the entrance to receive your offerings.



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

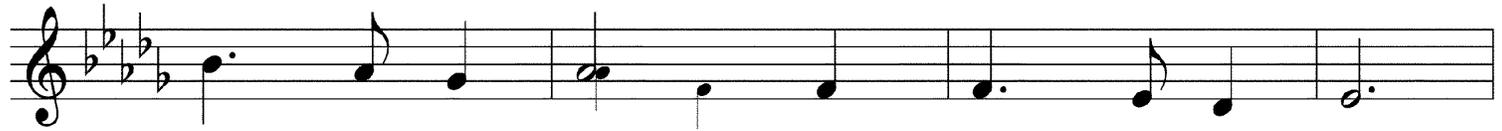
P O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.

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.



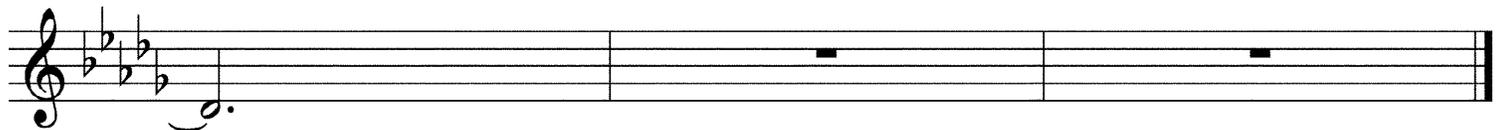
Come to the word, and come to the meal.



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

There's A Quiet Understanding

Words and Music by
Tedd Smith



1. There's a qui - et un - der - stand - ing when we're gath - ered
2. And we know when we're to - geth - er, shar - ing love and



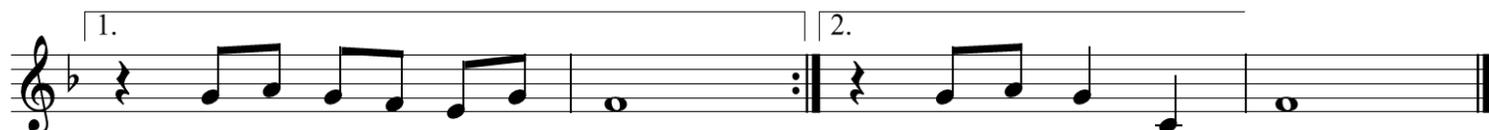
in the Spir - it; It's a prom - ise that He gives _ us, when we gath - er in His
un - der - stand - ing, that our broth - ers and our sis - ters feel the one-ness that He



name. There's a love we feel in Je - sus, there's a man - na
brings. Thank You, thank You, thank You, Je - sus, for the way You



that He feeds _ us; It's a prom - ise that He gives _ us,
love and feed _ us, for the man - y ways You lead _ us,

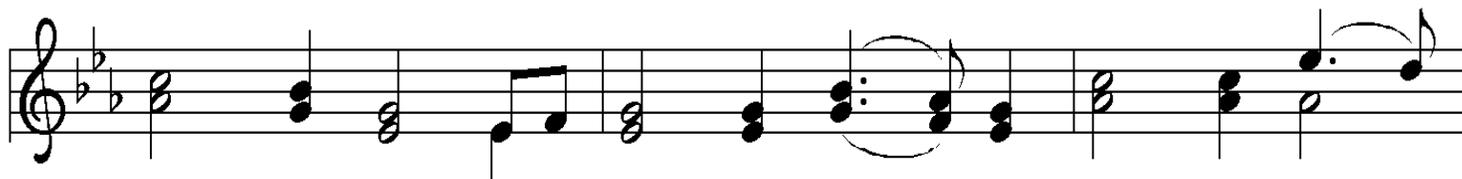


1. when we gath - er in His name. 2. thank You, thank You, Lord.

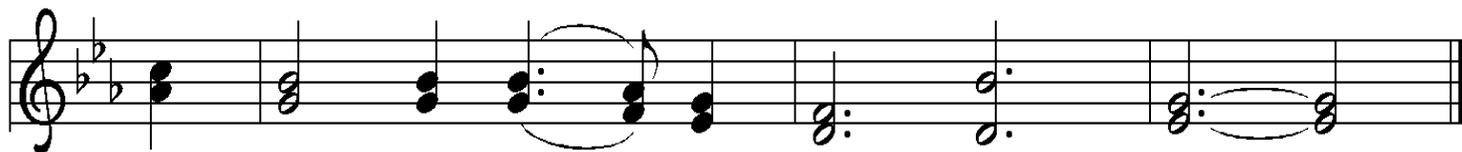
Just As I Am, without One Plea



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - ya con - flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

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**

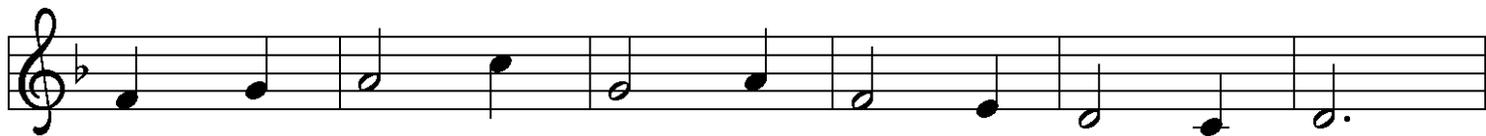
P May this week be filled with opportunities to choose
good over evil; humility over pride;
and loving God over loving the things that do not last.

✝ “Buen Camino!”

***All* Amen**

Sending

Will You Come and Follow Me *The Summons*



“Will you love the you you hide if I but call



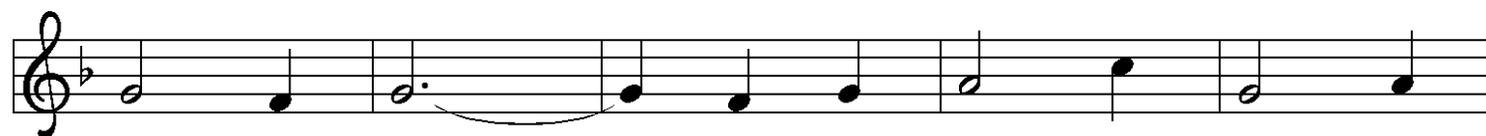
your name? Will you quell the fear in -



side and nev - er be the same?



Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the



world a - round, through my sight and touch and



sound in you and you in me?”

Dismissal

WA Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

All Thanks be to God.

YOU KNOW, SOME PEOPLE
ARE OFFENDED BY GOD'S
LAVISH GENEROSITY.



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

OH, I DON'T HAVE A
PROBLEM WITH THAT.



AS LONG AS I GET
MY *FAIR SHARE*.



LUKE 15:1-3, 118-32

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Readings for next Sunday,
March 22nd

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-19
Second Reading: Philippians 3:12-14
Gospel: John 11:1-45

Revised Common Lectionary,
March 22nd

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm: Psalm 130
Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11
Gospel: John 11:1-45

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