

# THE WAY



*5th Sunday in Lent*  
*March 22, 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.

The musical score is written on three staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests and a final fermata. The lyrics are centered under the notes.

Today, our Lenten Journey leads us along the path of our faith in a way that leads to new life in Jesus Christ, the message of Easter that we move towards. New paths are possible through freedom in Christ. And these ways can be made plain before us if we have eyes to see.

## **A Wilderness Wandering People**

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 musical score is written on two staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests and a final fermata. The lyrics are centered under the notes.

we will strain against adversity—such is life. We don't reach Easter until we've been through the agony of Holy Week that will soon be upon us. But new paths are always possible. New horizons are ours through relationship with God and with each other. There will be both stumbling blocks and stepping stones along the way. But God is our rock and our redeemer—God is with us in our every step.

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, onThe 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.

**All** 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.  
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 our Rock, be with us on The Way.

**All** At times we are not sure how we will  
carry the burdens of grief and disappointment  
that accumulate in life.  
We come asking for help in lightening the load  
so that we can be free to move in new directions.  
Help us to help each other as Jesus asks us to do.  
Amen.

*The prophet declares that long ago God performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, God is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new Exodus.*

*A Reading from Isaiah, the 43<sup>rd</sup> chapter*

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

*Isaiah 43: 16-19*

WA The Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God!**

*Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.*

*A Reading from Philippians, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter*

Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

*Philippians 3: 12-14*

WA The Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God!**

*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. John, the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

*Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.*

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup> But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup> After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>13</sup> Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup> For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup> Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met

him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” <sup>27</sup> She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

<sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” <sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup> When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup> He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup> The dead



## *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.

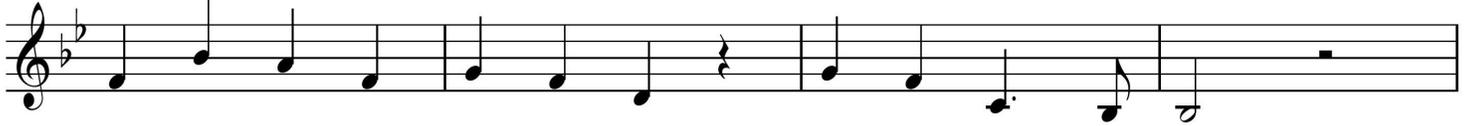
You may be Seated

*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

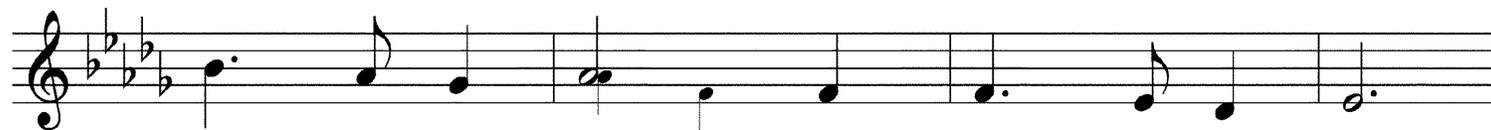
*P* O God, maker of heaven and earth,  
your steadfast love embraces all creation.

**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.



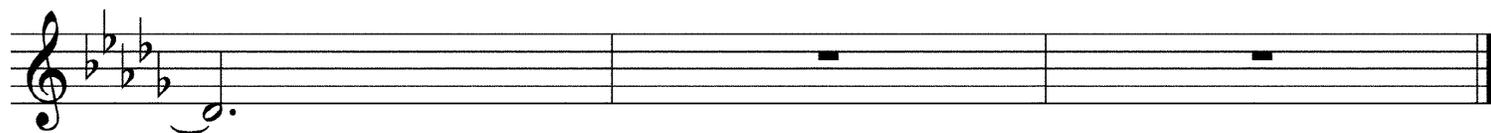
Come to the word, and come to the meal.



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.**

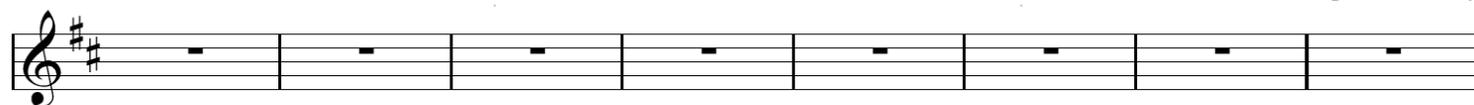
**♪♪ Come to me, come to us, broken or building, ♪♪  
come with your children, your choices, your chains.  
All are invited to friendship and rest,  
to share in our struggle, our call, and our quest.**

*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***



We pray\_ for the lone - ly ones know-ing that some of us are  
 We pray\_ for the wound-ed ones know-ing that some of us are  
 We pray\_ for the starv - ing ones know-ing that some of us are  
 We pray\_ for the dy - ing ones know-ing that some of us are



lone - ly\_ and We pray\_ for the heart - bro - ken  
 wound-ed and we pray\_ for the re - gret ful  
 starv - ing\_ and we pray\_ for the im - pris oned  
 dy - ing\_ and we pray\_ for the new - ly\_ born



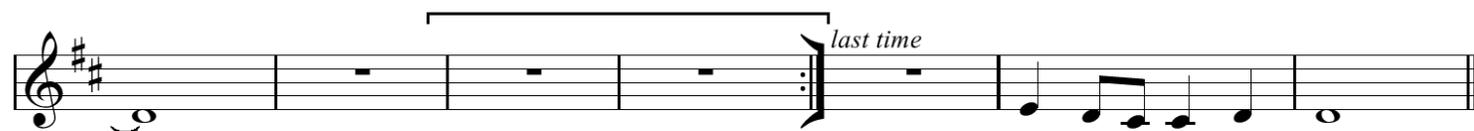
ones know-ing that some of us are\_ heart - brok - en\_.  
 ones know-ing that some of us are\_ re - gret-ful.  
 ones know-ing that some of us are\_ im - pris-oned  
 ones know-ing that some of us are\_ ar - riv - ing.



All - our hearts and minds are lean-ing in\_ with clear in - ten tion\_



join - ing in your way of love\_ in\_ the world.  
 heal-ing  
 just - ice  
 love\_



A - - men.

# Sanctuary / Create in Me

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc-tu - ar - y, — pure and ho - ly, tried and  
true; — With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a  
liv - ing — sanc - tu - ar - y for — You.  
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,  
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.  
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,  
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.  
Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, O

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of eight staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a sharp sign, and a 4/4 time signature. The music features various note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and slurs. The lyrics are: "Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc-tu - ar - y, — pure and ho - ly, tried and true; — With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a liv - ing — sanc - tu - ar - y for — You." The second staff continues the melody with a slur over the first few notes. The lyrics are: "true; — With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a". The third staff concludes the first phrase with a double bar line. The lyrics are: "liv - ing — sanc - tu - ar - y for — You." The fourth staff begins a new phrase. The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,". The fifth staff continues the melody. The lyrics are: "and re - new a right spir - it with - in me." The sixth staff begins another phrase. The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,". The seventh staff continues the melody. The lyrics are: "and re - new a right spir - it with - in me." The eighth staff concludes the piece. The lyrics are: "Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, O".



Lord, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.



Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,



and re - new a right spir - it with - in 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*



Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



my name. Let me turn and fol - low



you and nev - er be the same.

In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and  
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and  
 grow in you and you in me.

*Dismissal*

**WA** Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**All** Thanks be to God.



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JESUS' ENEMIES  
DECIDE TO KILL HIM  
**BECAUSE** HE  
RAISES LAZARUS?



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

IT'S LIKE THE **LAST  
STRAW** FOR THEM. A FEW  
VERSES LATER THEY'VE  
DECIDED HE HAS TO DIE.



GIVEN HOW THINGS  
WORKED FOR LAZARUS,  
THEY THOUGHT JESUS  
WOULD **STAY DEAD?**



JOHN 11:1-45

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Readings for next Sunday,  
March 29<sup>th</sup>  
Palm Sunday

Psalm:

Ps 37:1-9

Gospel:

Luke 19:28-40

Revised Common Lectionary,  
March 29<sup>th</sup>  
Palm Sunday

Processional Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

First Reading:

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm:

Psalm 31:9-16

Second Reading:

Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel:

Matthew 26:14—27:66

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