

Installation of
Pastor Debra Jimenez



Ascension Lutheran Church
March 13, 2021



Ascension Lutheran Church

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Ogden, UT 84404

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All are welcome!

Welcome

All joining from home may wish to light a candle and to have bread and wine or juice for the celebration of Holy Communion.

Prayer of Confession

B Let us acknowledge our need to restore, repair, renew our Holy Vessels, which include the communities of which we are a part.

Let us pray:

God of All,

You created us for each other. You set in us a yearning for companionship and an empathy that binds us together, protecting each other and delighting in one another.

Yet too often we have broken down our relationships instead of building them up.

We have been set against one another with the lie of scarcity.

We have built systems and economies that widen the gap of resources rather than safeguarding equitable practices.

Too many, and growing numbers, are suffering hardship, food insecurity, joblessness.

B We cannot fathom the proportions of loss and so we look away, sometimes even from the need in our own community.

Help us, Healer.

Show us our empathy.

Forgive our complacency.

Move us to move one step at a time toward greater care for one another.

In this silence, we sense and acknowledge our yearning for wholeness.

**Vessels, holy and whole
Broken, needing the One
Open, body and soul
Healer, come.**

Assurance

B I invite you to imagine a warmth begin to arise within the core of your body. It may help to keep your eyes closed. This warm orb of light is deep within you, a flame always there and ready when you need it. Feel this warm glow begin to emerge from deep within our being to fill and flood your entire body until you are glowing with it — radiating outward. This warmth that wraps you as a blanket of assurance is one you want to share. You want everyone to feel this presence, to kindle this hope.

Know this: This love and security is meant for all people.

No. Matter. What.

We are capable of sharing our light and not running out of “enough.” Christ’s hospitality that broke through false boundaries points the way.

For you, for me, for all.

Take a deep breath in to let this truth fill you...

Peace

B I invite you to imagine the warmth that surrounds you extending to those who may be next to you or nearby.

Imagine it extending beyond your walls to the neighborhood...

the wider community...

the church...

and seeing it spread like the rising sun, let it expand to all the world.

Let this be our peace. Amen.

I invite you to open your eyes.

All And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

B Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ, you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock.

Inspire all pastors to proclaim your word diligently and your people to receive it willingly, that finally we may receive the crown of eternal glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All Amen.

Opening Song

Ancient Words

Verse 1

Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world

They resound with God's own heart.

O let the ancient words impart.

Chorus

Ancient words, ever true, changing me and changing you

We have come with open hearts,

O let the ancient words impart.

Verse 2

Holy words of our faith handed down to this age
Came to us through sacrifice.
O heed the faithful words of Christ.

CCLI Song # 2986399

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First Reading

L A reading from Isaiah.

⁵Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
⁷to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
⁸I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
⁹See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Isaiah 42:5-9

L The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

A Responsive Reading from Psalm 113

Please join in a responsive reading of the Psalm. Leader will read the light print while congregation responds with the bold.

¹Praise the LORD!

Praise, O servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.

**²Blessed be the name of the LORD
from this time on and forevermore.**

³From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the LORD is to be praised.

**⁴The LORD is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens.**

⁵Who is like the LORD our God,
who is seated on high,

**⁶who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth?**

⁷He raises the poor from the dust,
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

**⁸to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people.**

⁹He gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother of children.

Praise the LORD!

Second Reading

L A reading from Romans

⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ

according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Romans 12:4-8

L The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

B The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 21st chapter.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

John 21:15-17

B The Gospel of our Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Bishop James Gonia

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.**

Prayers of The People

L With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

(each prayer petition ends with)

L: Lord, in your mercy...

***All:* You hear our prayer.**

Installation of Pastor Debra Jimenez

B Having been authorized by the church to install Debra Jane Jimenez, our co-worker in the gospel, as Pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church, I now ask for certification of this call.

Council President After prayerful deliberation, we of Ascension Lutheran Church, have called Debra Jane Jimenez, as Pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church. I present her and this letter certifying the call.

B A reading from John:

Jesus said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." *John 20:21-23*

A reading from Matthew:

Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." *Matthew 28:18-20*

B A reading from First Timothy:

Set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Attend to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers. *1 Timothy 4:12-16*

addressing Pastor Debra

B Pastor Debra, in the presence of this assembly will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God through the call of the church?

R *I will, and I ask God to help me.*

B Will you preach and teach in accordance with the holy scriptures and with the confessions of the Lutheran Church? Will you carry out this ministry in harmony with the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

R *I will, and I ask God to help me.*

B Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures and in your use of the means of grace? Will you love, serve, and pray for God's people, nourish them with the word and sacraments, and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

R *I will, and I ask God to help me.*

B Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

R *I will, and I ask God to help me.*

B Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

All Amen.

addressing the assembly

B People of God, will you receive Pastor Debra as a messenger of Jesus Christ sent to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation? Will you regard her as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God?

All We will, and we ask God to help us.

B Will you pray for her, help, and honor her for her work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

All We will, and we ask God to help us.

addressing Pastor Debra

B Pastor Debra, the office of Pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church in Ogden, Utah, is now committed to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

B **Blessing**

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

All Amen.

L You have been called to be among us to baptize, to teach, and to forgive sins.

You have been called to be among us to proclaim the good news.

You have been called to be among us to preside at the Lord's Supper.

You have been called to be among us to send us out in mission, into our homes, our workplaces, our schools, our communities, and the world.

B People of God, I present to you Debra Jane Jimenez, your pastor. Let us welcome her in the name of Christ.

Song of Preparation

Make Us Holy, Make Us Whole

In your love, make us whole.
May we rest in your compassion.
Calm the lost, weary soul
in the warmth of your love.
May your peace fill our hearts.
May we know the love of Jesus.
By your grace, you console.
Make us holy, make us whole.

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The Great Thanksgiving

P Our God is with you!

All And also with you!

P Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them up to our God.

P Let us give thanks to our Sovereign God.

All It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you.
In the beginning you breathed life into raw materials,
creating and animating containers of beauty and goodness.
We, your Holy Vessels, were fired in the kiln of love
until we shined with your light.
Susceptible to shattering, we find ourselves broken,
unable at times to remember your promise of repair.
You remind us time and again that, though broken,
we are held in your presence
and made whole by your grace.
When Jesus ascended,
he promised to be with us always.
In the power of your Word and Holy Spirit,
we are not alone.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

P Joining with all who are being transformed, let us pray the prayer 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.

The Invitation and The Meal

P Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus.
Come and be fed.

Sharing the Meal

Post Communion Blessing

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

All Amen

Sending Song

I Will Follow

Verse 1

All Your ways are good, All Your ways are sure.
I will trust in You alone.
Higher than my sight, High above my life,
I will trust in You alone.

Chorus

Where You go I'll go .Where You stay I'll stay.
When You move I'll move. I will follow.

Verse 2

Light into the world. Light into my life.
I will live for You alone.
You're the One I seek, knowing I will find,
All I need in You alone. *Chorus*

Bridge

In You there's life everlasting. In You there's freedom for my soul.
In You there's joy unending joy. And I will follow. *Chorus*

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Blessing

P May truth and wisdom bless and protect you. May you know the Divine Face as your face and be a beacon of grace. May you know the Divine Face as every face and bring peace to all you meet.

And may the Spirit hover, move, and deliver
healing and peace to your soul✝ and a spring in your step.

All Amen.

Sending

L Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All Thanks be to God!

A Note of Thanks

What a joyful day this is! Thank you, Ascension Lutheran for calling me to serve as your pastor. As today we officially begin our ministry together, I look forward with great anticipation to the ministry God is calling us to right here in this place and outside these walls.

I offer my sincere gratitude to those who shared in preparation for this day, and to all those working behind the scenes to ensure we are able to enjoy meaningful worship together, especially in this challenging time.

To all who have taken time away from your weekend, family, and friends to share in our joy, I offer my sincere gratitude. Thank you Bishop Jim for doing the same. You have accompanied me on this journey from Ordination in Georgia to New Mexico and now here in Ogden, Utah.

Front Cover: Pastor Debra Jimenez

Page 12 Pastor Debra Jimenez
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Holy Vessels

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