

*4th Sunday of
Easter*



April 25, 2021



Ascension Lutheran Church

1105 N. Washington Blvd.

Ogden, UT 84404

801.782.2810

All are welcome!

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 worshiping community, these differences become celebrations of diversity.

Introduction

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

Welcome to Worship

Please stand in body or spirit.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Opening Song

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain

"Come home, (Come home,) come home! (come home!)
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me. *Refrain*

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P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.
We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.
Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.
Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.
To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God, now and forever.

All Amen

P The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love and wisdom of God,
and the light and communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All And also with you.

Kyrie and Hymn of Praise

Presider:

♪ ♪ In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord... ♪ ♪

All: Lord have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Presider: For the reign of God and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord... *(to All)*

Presider: For your people here, who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live you Word let us pray to the Lord... *(to All)*

Presider: Help, save, and defend us, O God.

All: **Amen.**

Refrain

Now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom; praise and glory forevermore!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
whose blood has freed and united us
to be one great people of God. *Refrain*

2 Power and riches, wisdom and might,
all honor and glory to Christ forever. *Refrain*

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us people of God;
to make all things new. *Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen b. 1950

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Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray,

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold.

All **Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

[You may be Seated](#)

A Reading from Acts, the 4th chapter

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Acts 4:5-12

L Word of God, word of hope.

All Thanks be to God!

A Responsive Reading from Psalm 23

Please join in a responsive reading of the Psalm.

Leader will read the light print while you respond with the bold.

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Psalm 23

A Reading from 1st John, the 3rd chapter

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

1 John 3:16-24

L Word of God, word of life.

All Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit.

♪ ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Lord to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia! ♪ ♪

Gospel Reading

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter.

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

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

John 10:11-18

P The Gospel of our Lord.

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

You may be Seated

Sermon

Pr. Debra Jimenez

Shepherd Me, O God

Refrain

**Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.**

- 1 God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace.
- 2 Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
my spirit shall sing the music of your name. *Refrain*
- 3 Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,
your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope.
- 4 You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred,
crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold. *Refrain*
- 5 Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. *Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23

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Nicene Creed

P Let us join together with one voice confessing our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.*

Prayers of Intercession

L Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

♪ ♪ O Lord, hear our prayer we offer up to you;
O Lord, hear our prayer. ♪ ♪

(each prayer petition ends with)

L: Lord, in your mercy, **All:** **You hear our prayer.**

Sharing the Peace

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.**

Offering

You may be Seated

While we still will not physically pass the offering plates we will continue to have the plates available at the entrance to receive your offerings and will lift them up in thanksgiving before the throne of grace.

♪ ♪ As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
Were gathered into one to become our bread;
So may all your people from all the ends of earth
Be gathered into one in you. ♪ ♪

Offertory Prayer

P God of love,
you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.

All Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.

**Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;
for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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 It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to all creation.

Remember Me

Verse 1

**On the night You were betrayed You took the bread.
After giving thanks You broke it and said,
“This is My body broken for you, and as you eat it remember Me.
This is My body broken for you, and as you eat it remember Me.”**

Verse 2

**On the night You were betrayed You held the cup.
After giving thanks You lifted it up
“This is My blood poured out for you, and as you drink it remember Me.
“This is My blood poured out for you, and as you drink it remember Me.**

Verse 3 (All)

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 remember Your wondrous love
You gave Your body You shed Your blood.
And we remember Your wondrous love
You gave Your body You shed Your blood.

CCLI Song # 451177 Gerrit Gustafson | Martin Nystrom
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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,

The Invitation

P The risen Christ invites us to this table.
Come, eat and be satisfied.

All Amen.

Sharing the Meal

♪ ♪ Lamb of God, You broke the bonds of sin and of death:
Have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
Grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace. ♪ ♪

Post Communion Blessing and Praise

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

All Amen

Stewardship of Life & Ministry Announcements

Benediction

Please stand as you are able.

(Pastor sings 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 Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Share the good news.

All Thanks be to God.

Readings for next Sunday,
May 2

First Reading:	Acts 8:26-40
Psalm:	Psalms 22:25-31
Second Reading:	1 John 4:7-21
Gospel:	John 15:1-8

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