

*5th Sunday of  
Easter*



*May 2, 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*

*This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.*

# Welcome to Worship

Please stand in body or spirit.

*P* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**All** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

## Opening Song

### Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

3 Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922  
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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 God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot  
live.

**All** **Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love  
and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and  
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now  
and forever. Amen.**

*You may be Seated*

## *A Reading from Acts, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter*

*Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.*

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L Word of God, word of hope.

**All Thanks be to God!**

*A Responsive Reading from Psalm 22*

*Please join in a responsive reading of the Psalm.*

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

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead,  
shall kneel before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

*Psalm 22:25-31*

*A Reading from 1<sup>st</sup> John, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter*

*We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.*

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to

love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

*1 John 4:7-21*

*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 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.*



[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

*John 15:1-8*

*P* The Gospel of our Lord.

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

[You may be Seated](#)

*Sermon*

*Pr. Debra Jimenez*

*Hymn of the Day*

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

## **Bread of Life from Heaven**

*Refrain*

Bread of life from heaven, your blood and body given,  
we eat this bread and drink this cup until you come again.

- 1 Break now the bread of Christ's sacrifice;  
giving thanks, hungry ones, gather round.  
Eat, all of you, and be satisfied;  
in Christ's presence the loaves will abound. *Refrain*
  
- 3 Love as the one who, in love for you,  
gave himself for the life of the world.  
Come to the one who is food for you,  
that your hunger and thirst be no more. *Refrain*

5 Drink of this cup and declare his death;  
eat this bread and believe Easter morn;  
trust his return and, with ev'ry breath,  
praise the one in whom you are reborn. *Refrain*

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

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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

## 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.

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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,  
    forever and ever. Amen.

## *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.

CCLI Song # 6128634

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## *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 9

<b>First Reading:</b>	Acts 10:44-48
<b>Psalm:</b>	Psalm 98
<b>Second Reading:</b>	1 John 5:1-6
<b>Gospel:</b>	John 15:9-17

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