

*6th Sunday of
Easter*

**Love Your Neighbor
who doesn't**

**Speak
Like You**

**Think
Like You**

Love

Look

Like You

like you

**Pray
Like You**

Vote

Like You

May 9, 2021



Ascension Lutheran Church

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Ogden, UT 84404

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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 the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

Welcome to Worship

Please stand in body or spirit.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Opening Song

We are Called

- 1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.

Refrain

**We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.**

- 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love. *Refrain*

Text: David Haas, b. 1957

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P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Confession

Written by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

All Thou Eternal God, out of whose absolute power and infinite Intelligence the whole universe has come into being, we humbly confess that we have not loved thee with our hearts, souls and minds, and we have not loved our neighbors as Christ loved us. We have all too often lived by our own selfish impulses rather than by the life of sacrificial love as revealed by Christ. We often give in order to receive. We love our friends and hate our enemies. We go the first mile but dare not travel the second. We forgive but dare not forget.

And so as we look within ourselves, we are confronted with the appalling fact that the history of our lives is the history of an eternal revolt against you.

But thou, O God, have mercy upon us. Forgive us for what we could have been, but failed to be. Give us the intelligence to know your will. Give us the courage to do your will. Give us the devotion to love your will.

All In the name and spirit of Jesus, we pray—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 the reign of God and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all 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 have prepared for those who love you joys beyond
understanding.

All **Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things,
we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through
Jesus Christ, your Son and our 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 10th chapter

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Acts 10:44-48

L Word of God, word of hope.

All Thanks be to God!

A Responsive Reading from Psalm 98

Please join in a responsive reading of the Psalm.

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

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD | with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge
the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

Psalm 98

A Reading from 1st John, the 4th chapter

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

1 John 5:1-6

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 15th chapter.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.” **John 15:9-17**

P The Gospel of our Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

[You may be Seated](#)

Sermon

Pr. Debra Jimenez

What a Friend We have in Jesus

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear--
all because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
- 2 Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged-- take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness-- take it to the Lord in prayer.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886
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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 Loving God,
with grace you open yourself to satisfy the needs of every life

All Open our hands to receive your gifts. Open our hearts to embrace others. Open our lives to act boldly.
And may grace and gratitude accompany us on the way—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,
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 sins of the world:
Grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace. ♪ ♪

Post Communion Blessing and Praise

P God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation, you have united us with Christ, making us one, common humanity.

All Through the gifts of this holy mystery, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, teach us to love. Where there is pain and hurt, teach us to heal. And where there is despair, may your hope shine—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 16

First Reading:	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm:	Psalm 1
Second Reading:	1 John 5:9-13
Gospel:	John 17:6-19

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