

*3rd Sunday after  
Pentecost*



*I've got a mustard seed  
and I'm not afraid to use it!*

*June 13, 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 mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.*

# Welcome to Worship

## Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand in body or spirit.

*P* Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

**All Amen**

*P* Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God our provider,

**All help us.**

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share.**

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways  
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you.**

**We take offense at your teachings and your ways.**

**Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn?**

**Share with us the words of eternal life**

**and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

*P* Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, ✝ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy:

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

**All Amen.**

## *Opening Song*

# Gather Us In

1 Here in this place the new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away;  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away—  
here in this place the new light is shining,  
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever,  
gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
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## *The Greeting*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**All** And also with you.

## *Prayer of the Day*

**P** O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world.

**All** **Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth,  
that we may bear your truth and love to those in need,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

[You may be Seated](#)

## *A Reading from Ezekiel, the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter*

*Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the LORD will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.*

<sup>22</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar;  
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs;  
I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain.

<sup>23</sup> On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may  
produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest  
winged creatures of every kind.

<sup>24</sup> All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish.

I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

*Ezekiel 17:22-24*

L The Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God!**

## *A Reading from 2 Corinthians, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter*

*Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.*

<sup>6</sup> So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home  
in the body we are away from the Lord—<sup>7</sup> for we walk by faith, not by sight.

<sup>8</sup> Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body  
and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup> So whether we are at home or away, we make it  
our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup> For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of  
Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the  
body, whether good or evil.

<sup>11</sup>Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. <sup>12</sup>We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

*2 Corinthians 5:6-17*

*L* The Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God!**

*Gospel Acclamation*

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

♪ ♪ Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. ♪ ♪  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

*Gospel Reading*

*P* The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

*Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.*

<sup>26</sup>[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup>and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would

sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

<sup>30</sup>He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup>he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

*Mark 4:26-34*

*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.*

## Great Is The Lord

Verse

Great is the Lord, He is holy and just  
By His power we trust in His love.  
Great is the Lord, He is faithful and true  
By His mercy He proves He is love.

Chorus

Great is the Lord and worthy of glory  
Great is the Lord and worthy of praise  
Great is the Lord, now lift up your voice  
Now lift up your voice. Great is the Lord!



## *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 Intercession*

*L* Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

♪ ♪ The Spirit intercedes for us  
with sign too deep for words to express. Oh, oh. ♪ ♪

*(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*

*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.*

♪ ♪ Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, ♪ ♪  
give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, “I am strong,” let the poor say, “I am rich,”  
because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Text: Henry Smith

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[You may be Seated](#)

## *Offertory Prayer*

*P* Jesus, Bread of life,  
you have set this table with your very self,  
and called us to the feast of plenty.

**All** Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal.  
Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the  
world. 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* 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.

Again, 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.

## *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* Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

## *Sharing the Meal*

♪ ♪ Oh Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God.  
I love the holy Lamb of God.  
O wash me in His precious blood,  
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. ♪ ♪

## *Post Communion Blessing*

*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.*

*P* The blessing of God,  
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  
✝ be upon you now and forever.

**All Amen.**

## *Sending Song*

# My Life Is In You

### Chorus

My life is in You Lord. My strength is in You Lord.  
My hope is in You Lord, in You it's in You.  
My life is in You Lord. My strength is in You Lord.  
My hope is in You Lord, in You it's in You.

### Verse

I will praise You with all of my life;  
I will praise You with all of my strength.  
With all of my life, With all of my strength,  
All of my hope is in You.

### Ending

In You.

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## *Dismissal*

*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,  
**June 20**

<b>First Reading:</b>	Job 38:1-11
<b>Psalm:</b>	Psalms 107:1-3, 23-32
<b>Second Reading:</b>	2 Corinthians 6:1-13
<b>Gospel:</b>	Mark 4:35-41

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