



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

Apparently not satisfied by Jesus' feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want. As always in John's gospel when people want a sign, Jesus offers himself. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.

Welcome to Worship



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, I the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

All Amen.



Come, Let Us Worship and Bow Down

Come, let us worship and bow down;let us kneel before the Lord, our God, our maker.Come, let us worship and bow down;let us kneel before the Lord, our God, our maker.

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand, and the sheep of his hand.

CCLI Song # 27329 Text: Psalm 95:6-7

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The Greeting

- P The Lord be with you.
- All And also with you.



- P Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth.
- All Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

A Reading from Exodus, the 16th chapter

A food crisis becomes a faith crisis for the Israelites in the wilderness. The hungry people forget God's saving work in the exodus, and they wish for the food they had in Egypt. Nevertheless, God miraculously meets their needs, with manna for bread and quail for meat.

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not."

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹²"I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

L The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God!

A Reading from Ephesians, the 4th chapter

Christians share fundamental unity and diversity. Our unity consists in the one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God. Our diversity is expressed in various forms of ministry whose goal is equipping the saints and building up Christ's one body.

¹I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it is said,

"When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;

he gave gifts to his people."

⁹(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:1-16

L The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God!

コート Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia. コート

Gospel Reading

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 6th chapter.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Many of the five thousand people Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him throughout the countryside. Jesus challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest.

²⁴When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were [beside the sea,] they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate vour fill of the loaves. ²⁷Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" ²⁹Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³²Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

³⁵Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

John 6:24-35

- *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.

I Am the Bread of Life

1 "I am the Bread of life.You who come to me shall not hunger, and who believe in me shall not thirst.No one can come to me unless the Father beckons."

2 "The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world, and if you eat of this bread, you shall live forever, you shall live forever." *Refrain*

Refrain "And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, and I will raise you up on the last day."

- 3 "Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man and drink of his blood, and drink of his blood, you shall not have life within you."
- 4 "I am the resurrection, I am the life.If you believe in me,even though you die, you shall live forever." *Refrain*

5 Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who have come into the world. *Refrain*

Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6

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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.

You may be Seated

Prayers of Intercession

L Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

I cast all my cares upon You.
I lay all of my burdens down at Your feet.
And anytime that I don't know what to do,
I will cast all my care upon You.

(each prayer petition ends with)

L: Hear us, O God. *All:* Your mercy is great.

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.



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.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
 Praise Him all creatures here below
 Praise God above, Praise God above ye heavenly host
 Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost

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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.



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

- *P* The body of Christ broken for you.
- All Amen
- *P* The blood of Christ shed for you.
- All Amen

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



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

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
 Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
 Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
 born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, all the day long: this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long. *Refrain*

- 2 Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight; angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*
- 3 Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest, watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. Refrain

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915 © Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain

Dismissal

- P Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. *Ephesians 4:23* Go in peace. Live in love as Christ loved us.
- All Thanks be to God.



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