





# 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*

*Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.*

# 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

# Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

### Verse 1

O soul are you weary and troubled, No light in the darkness you see  
There's light for a look at the Savior, And life more abundant and free.

### Chorus

Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace.

### Verse 2

Through death into life everlasting He passed and we follow Him there.  
Over us sin no more hath dominion for more than conquerors we are.

*Chorus*

### Verse 3

His Word shall not fail you He promised, believe Him and all will be well.  
Then go to a world that is dying His perfect salvation to tell. *chorus*

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## The Greeting

**P** The Lord be with you.

**All** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

**P** O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures.

**All** Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

[You may be Seated](#)

## *A Reading from Deuteronomy, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter*

*The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.*

<sup>1</sup>So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

<sup>6</sup>You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup>But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

*L* The Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God!**

## *A Reading from James, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter*

*The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.*

<sup>17</sup>Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

<sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

<sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

*James 1:17-27*

*L* The Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God!**

*Gospel Acclamation*

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

♪ ♪ Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia. ♪ ♪

*Gospel Reading*

*P* The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

*Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples

were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” <sup>6</sup>He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; <sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ <sup>8</sup>You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.” <sup>14</sup>Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.” <sup>21</sup>For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

*Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23*

*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.](#)

# Give Us Clean Hands

### Verse

We bow our hearts we bend our knees, Oh Spirit come make us humble.  
We turn our eyes from evil things, Oh Lord we cast down our idols.

### Chorus

Give us clean hands give us pure hearts, Let us not lift our souls to another.  
Give us clean hands give us pure hearts, Let us not lift our souls to another.  
And oh God let us be a generation that seeks,  
That seeks Your face oh God of Jacob.  
And oh God let us be a generation that seeks,  
That seeks Your face oh God of Jacob.

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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.**

### *Prayers of Intercession*

**L** Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

♪ ♪ 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 cares upon You.

*(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.*

♪ ♪ 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

## *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.

**All** 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*

### *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

# I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me

- 1 I'm so glad Jesus lifted me. I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.  
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me, singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.
- 2 Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me. Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.  
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,  
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.
- 3 When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me. When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.  
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,  
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

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## Dismissal

- P** Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.  
Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.  
*Romans 12:12-13*
- Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### Front Cover:

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Readings for next Sunday,  
September 5<sup>th</sup>

<b>First Reading:</b>	Isaiah 35:4-7a
<b>Psalm:</b>	Psalm 146
<b>Second Reading:</b>	James 2:1-17
<b>Gospel:</b>	Mark 7:24-37

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