

# *15th Sunday after Pentecost*



*Guess who God loves more...*

*September 5, 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*

*James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.*

# Welcome to Worship

## Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand in body or spirit.

*P* Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
whose teaching is life,  
whose presence is sure,  
and whose love is endless.

**All Amen**

*P* Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God our comforter,

**All like lost sheep, we have gone astray.**

**We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.**

**We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.**

**We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.**

**Free us from our sin, gracious God.**

**Listen when we call out to you for help.**

**Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

**Amen.**

*P* All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in ✝ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.

Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

**All Amen.**

## Opening Song

# 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, just the sheep of his hand.

CCLI Song # 27329

Dave Doherty © 1980 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.)

CCLI License # 1924512

## The Greeting

**P** The Lord be with you.

**All** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

**P** Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life.

**All** Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.

[You may be Seated](#)

## A Reading from Isaiah, the 35<sup>th</sup> chapter

*These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.*

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7a</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

*Isaiah 35:4-7a*

L The Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God!**

### *A Reading from James, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter*

*Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.*

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

<sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. <sup>11</sup>For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You



shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup> So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup> For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

<sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup> So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

*James 2:1-17*

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

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

*In Mark’s gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus’ ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.*

<sup>24</sup> [Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, <sup>25</sup> but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup> Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup> He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” <sup>28</sup> But she

answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”<sup>29</sup> Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.”<sup>30</sup> So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup> Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.<sup>32</sup> They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him.<sup>33</sup> He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue.<sup>34</sup> Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.”<sup>35</sup> And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.<sup>37</sup> They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

*Mark 7:24-37*

*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.](#)

## Prayer of St. Francis

1. Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,  
And where there’s doubt, true faith in you.

2. Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there’s despair in life, let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness only light,  
And where there’s sadness ever joy.

3. O Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled, as to console,  
To be understood, as to understand,  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

4. Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
In giving of ourselves that we receive,  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Text: Based on the prayer traditionally ascr. to St. Francis of Assisi, ca. 1182–1226. Text and music © 1967, 2003, OCP.  
All rights reserved. Dedicated to Mrs. Frances Tracy.  
Used by Permission OneLicense.net A-705915

## *Apostles' Creed*

[You may be Seated](#)

*P* Joining with the saints across the ages, let us confess 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.

♪ ♪ Change my heart oh God, make it ever true ♪ ♪  
Change my heart oh God, may I be like 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.*

♪ ♪ 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!

## *Offertory Prayer*

*P* God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens.

***All* Accept the gifts you have first given us.  
Unite them with the offering of our lives  
to nourish the world you love so dearly;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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* All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

### *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* People of God, you are Christ's body,  
bringing new life to a suffering world.

The holy Trinity, ✝ one God, bless you now and forever.

**All** Amen.

## *Sending Song*

# Freely, Freely

Verse 1

God forgave my sin in Jesus' name. I've been born again in Jesus' name.  
And in Jesus' name I come to you to share His love as He told me to.

*Chorus*

He said freely, freely you have received. Freely, freely give.  
Go in My name and because you believe others will know that I live.

Verse 2

All pow'r is giv'n in Jesus' name. In earth and heav'n in Jesus' name.  
And in Jesus' name I come to you to share His pow'r as He told me to. *Chorus*

CCLI Song # 13209

Carol Owens © 1972 Bud John Songs, Inc. (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

CCLI License # 1924512

## *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:**

Photo by [Clay Banks](#) on [Unsplash](#)  
Used by permission

Readings for next Sunday,  
September 12<sup>th</sup>  
God's Work, Our Hands

<b>First Reading:</b>	Isaiah 50:4-9a
<b>Psalm:</b>	Psalm 116:1-9
<b>Second Reading:</b>	James 3:1-12
<b>Gospel:</b>	Mark 8:27-38

Music licenses covered by these subscriptions