

# *16th Sunday after Pentecost*

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



**JOIN US** for a day of service

*September 12, 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*

*Three weeks ago we heard Peter's confession of faith as told in John's gospel. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of messiah) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.*

# 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*

# God's Work, Our Hands

God's work, our hands: working together,  
building a future, repairing the world,  
raising up homes, planting new gardens,  
feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.  
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
sharing the good news of your Gospel.

God is at work in and around us:  
seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!  
Washed and set free, humbled and honored,  
gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.  
Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call,  
sharing the good news of your Gospel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold  
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## *The Greeting*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**All** And also with you.

## *Prayer of the Day*

**P** O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives.

**All** Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

[You may be Seated](#)

## *A Reading from Isaiah, the 50<sup>th</sup> chapter*

*The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.*

<sup>4</sup>The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—

wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to  
shame; <sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

<sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

*L* The Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God!**

## *A Reading from James, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter*

*This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.*

<sup>1</sup>Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup>For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. <sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. <sup>4</sup>Or

look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup> So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! <sup>6</sup> And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup> For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, <sup>8</sup> but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup> From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup> Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? <sup>12</sup> Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

*James 3:1-12*

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 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

*This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.*

<sup>27</sup> Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" <sup>28</sup> And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of

the prophets.”<sup>29</sup> He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.”<sup>30</sup> And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.<sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.<sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.<sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.<sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

<sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?<sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

*Mark 8:27-38*

*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.](#)

## Jesus My Lord

*Chorus*

Have you seen Jesus my Lord? He's here in plain view.  
Take a look open your eyes; He'll show it to you.

*Verse 1*

Have you ever looked at the sunset with the sky mellowin' red,  
And the clouds suspended like feathers?

Then I say you've seen Jesus my Lord. *Chorus*

Verse 2

Have you ever stood at the ocean wWith the white foam at your feet,  
Felt the endless thunderin' motion ?  
Then I say you've seen Jesus my Lord.    *Chorus*

Verse 3

Have you ever looked at the cross with a man hangin' in pain,  
And the look of love in His eyes?  
Then I say you've seen Jesus my Lord.    *Chorus*

Verse 4

Have you ever stood in the family with the Lord there in your midst,  
Seen the face of Christ on each other?  
Then I say you've seen Jesus my Lord.    *Chorus*

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[\*You may be Seated\*](#)

*Apostles' Creed*

*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.

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*

### **This Little Light of Mine**

- 1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine; (3x)  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
- 2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine; (3x)  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
- 3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

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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 19<sup>th</sup>**

<b>First Reading:</b>	Jeremiah 11:18-20
<b>Psalm:</b>	Psalm 54
<b>Second Reading:</b>	James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a
<b>Gospel:</b>	Mark 9:30-37

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