

# *17th Sunday after Pentecost*



*Whoever welcomes one such child  
in my name welcomes me*

*September 19, 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*

*Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.*

# 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

# As We Gather

As we gather may Your Spirit work within us  
As we gather may we glorify Your name  
Knowing well that as our hearts begin to worship  
We'll be blessed because we came  
We'll be blessed because we came

CCLI Song # 35469

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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 teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children.

**All** Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

[You may be Seated](#)

## A Reading from Jeremiah, the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter

*Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.*

<sup>18</sup> It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;  
then you showed me their evil deeds.

<sup>19</sup> But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me  
that they devised schemes, saying,



“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,  
let us cut him off from the land of the living,  
so that his name will no longer be remembered!”

<sup>20</sup>But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,  
who try the heart and the mind,  
let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

*Jeremiah 11:18-20*

L The Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God!**

### *A Reading from James, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> chapters*

*The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.*

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. <sup>4:</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

<sup>8a</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

*James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a*

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 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

*Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.*

<sup>30</sup>[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

*Mark 9:30-37*

P The Gospel of our Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

*You may be Seated*

*Sermon*

*Pr. Rick Hartmann*

## Hymn of the Day

Please stand in body or spirit.

### Jesus Loves Me

1 Jesus loves me! this I know, for the Bible tells me so;  
little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.

*Refrain*

Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,  
yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

2 Jesus loves me! he who died, heaven's gates to open wide;  
he will wash away my sin, let his little child come in. *Refrain*

3 Jesus loves me, he who cares for all people everywhere;  
He has called us all to live with full hearts that share and give. *Refrain*

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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*

### **Pass It On**

#### Verse 1

It only takes a spark to get a fire going  
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing  
That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it  
You spread His love to ev'ryone, you want to pass it on.

#### Verse 2

What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding  
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming  
That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it  
You want to sing it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.

#### Verse 3

I wish for you my friend this happiness that I've found  
You can depend on Him, it matters not where you're bound  
I'll shout it from the mountain top, I want my world to know  
The Lord of love has come to me; I want to pass it on.

CCLI Song # 14284

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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.**

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Readings for next Sunday,  
**September 26<sup>th</sup>**

<b>First Reading:</b>	Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29
<b>Psalm:</b>	Psalm 19:7-14
<b>Second Reading:</b>	James 5:13-20
<b>Gospel:</b>	Mark 9:38-50

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