

*18th Sunday after  
Pentecost*

**CAUTION**

**TRIPPING  
HAZARD**

*September 26, 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*

*Someone who isn't part of Jesus' own circle is casting out demons in Jesus' name, and the disciples want him stopped. They appeal to Jesus, as Joshua did to Moses about the elders who prophesied without official authorization. Like Moses, Jesus refuses to see this as a threat. Jesus welcomes good being done in his name, even when it is not under his control. The circle we form around Jesus' word must be able to value good being done in ways we wouldn't do it, by people we can't keep tabs on.*

# 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, Now is the Time to Worship

### *Chorus*

Come, now is the time to worship  
Come, now is the time to give your heart  
Come, just as you are to worship  
Come, just as you are before your God, Come. *(2nd time to Ending)*

### *Verse*

One day every tongue  
Will confess You are God  
One day every knee will bow  
Still the greatest treasure remains  
For those who gladly choose You now.

### *Ending*

Come, come just as you are come, come.

CCLI Song # 2430948

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## *The Greeting*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**All** And also with you.

## *Prayer of the Day*

**P** Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you.

**All** Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

*What constitutes legitimate need and legitimate leadership is the focus of this reading. God provides manna in the wilderness, yet the people crave meat. What is truly needful? God bestows the spirit on seventy elders, yet two men not designated as leaders prophesy in the power of God's spirit. What constitutes real leadership?*

<sup>4</sup>The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! <sup>5</sup>We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; <sup>6</sup>but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

<sup>10</sup>Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the LORD became very angry, and Moses was displeased. <sup>11</sup>So Moses said to the LORD, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? <sup>12</sup>Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors'?"

<sup>13</sup>Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' <sup>14</sup>I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. <sup>15</sup>If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery."

<sup>16</sup>So the LORD said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you."

<sup>24</sup>So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent.

<sup>25</sup>Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

<sup>26</sup>Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. <sup>27</sup>And

a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.”<sup>28</sup> And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, “My lord Moses, stop them!”<sup>29</sup> But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD’s people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!”

*Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29*

*L* The Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God!**

### *A Reading from James, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapters*

*Marks of the Christian community include praying for those who are sick and in need, celebrating with those in good health, restoring those who have strayed, confessing sins to one another, and offering forgiveness to each other.*

<sup>13</sup>Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup>Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup>The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.

<sup>16</sup>Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

<sup>17</sup>Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup>Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

<sup>19</sup>My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, <sup>20</sup>you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner’s soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

*James 5:13-20*

*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.**

*On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus teaches his disciples about ministry that involves service and sacrifice. His disciples are slow to realize that these words apply to them as well as to others.*

<sup>38</sup>John said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” <sup>39</sup>But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup>Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup>For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

<sup>42</sup>“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup>If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup>And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup>And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup>where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

<sup>49</sup>“For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup>Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

*Mark 9:38-50*

*P* The Gospel of our Lord.

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

[You may be Seated](#)

*Hymn of the Day*

Please stand in body or spirit.

## Bring Forth the Kingdom of God

1. You are salt for the earth, O people: Salt for the Kingdom of God!  
Share the flavor of life, O people: Life in the Kingdom of God!

*Refrain*

Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,  
Bring forth the Kingdom of peace;  
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice,  
Bring forth the City of God!

2. You are a light on the hill, O people: Light for the City of God!  
Shine so holy and bright, O people: Shine for the Kingdom of God! *Refrain*
3. You are a seed of the Word, O people: Bring forth the Kingdom of God!  
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, Grow in the Kingdom of God! *Refrain*
4. We are a blest and a pilgrim people: Bound for the Kingdom of God!  
Love our journey and love our homeland: Love is the Kingdom of God! *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!

CCLI Song # 20285

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## 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.

*P* 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*

## **You Are My All In All**

### Verse 1

You are my strength when I am weak.

You are the treasure that I seek. You are my all in all.

Seeking You as a precious jew'l, Lord to give up I'd be a fool.

You are my all in all.

### Chorus

Jesus Lamb of God, worthy is Your name.

Jesus Lamb of God, worthy is Your name.

### Verse 2

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame, rising again I bless Your name.

You are my all in all.

When I fall down You pick me up. When I am dry You fill my cup.

You are my all in all. chorus

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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:**

ORIGINAL DESIGN

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