



"How often  
have I desired to  
gather your children  
together ..."



2nd Sunday in Lent  
March 13, 2022



Ascension Lutheran Church  
1105 N. Washington Blvd.  
Ogden, UT 84404  
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Welcome to Worship...

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 worshipping community, these differences become celebrations of diversity.

Children are always welcome in worship services;  
however please know  
a nursery is provided for children under 4 years of age.

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*Please silence your cell phones at this time.*

### Introduction—It's always something...

A year ago we were hoping to be in a final "season of recovery" from the pandemic that kept us apart physically and halted our best efforts in planning and resuming our "normal" lives.

But we are still in the midst of great disturbance from "the way we imagined" life to be. In many cases, dreams have been thwarted by the pandemic through loss of life, health, and economic security. And then there's all the other hard stuff, unrelated to the pandemic, that just keeps rollin' along.

The Good News certainly is that God loves us deeply and is present to us powerfully, even and especially in the midst of the imperfect and down-right crummy moments of life.

## Welcome

### Song of Prayer for Ukraine

#### **“We Pray for Peace”**

*(TUNE: Be Still My Soul”)*

We pray for peace,  
O Christ who calmed the waters—  
who stilled the storm,  
who stilled disciples’ fear.  
You spoke with love  
and with amazing power;  
be with us now  
when trouble is so near.  
May leaders see  
the miracle you offer—  
that words and deeds  
can calm the nations here.

### Call to Worship

*sung by cantors*

♪ ♪ **What in our lives do we dream about for tomorrow, ♪ ♪  
void of sorrow?  
Time spent regretting decisions of our yesterdays,  
mistakes we made?  
Sometimes we get what we get,  
life disappoints us and yet,  
God is still here and somehow,  
this faith is good enough.**

P We continue our movement through the Lenten season this week with another kind of “letting go.”

This week we lament that so much in life is out of our control.

This is frustrating to us and so sometimes we have been tempted to believe the sayings that tell us if we just “think positively,” we can turn it all around. Yet our experience tells us that this doesn’t always work.

Let us turn ever-striving toward the expectation of a perfect life into nurturing,  
lovingly tending to “what is”  
and embracing  
our holy, good enough, lives.

(All)



What in our lives do we dream a-bout for to-mor-row, void of sor-row?  
Time spent re-grett-ing de-ci-sions of our yes-ter-days, mi-stakes we made?  
Some-times we get what we get, life dis-ap-points us and yet,  
God is still here and some-how, this faith is good e-nough.

**L** Let us pray together:

**All** **Holy One, Our Light and Salvation,**  
**we call out to you,**  
**sometimes afraid of the adversaries in life.**  
**Shelter us in days of trouble, lead us on level paths.**  
**Open us this day to your grace and peace,**  
**transform our frustrations**  
**into simple and good enough moments that fill our days.**  
**Amen.**

### **Whom Shall I Fear (God Of Angel Armies)**

Verse 1

You hear me when I call—You are my morning song  
Though darkness fills the night—It cannot hide the light  
Whom shall I fear  
You crush the enemy underneath my feet  
You are my sword and shield though troubles linger still  
Whom shall I fear

Chorus

I know Who goes before me—I know Who stands behind  
The God of angel armies is always by my side  
The One who reigns forever—He is a friend of mine  
The God of angel armies is always by my side

Verse 2

My strength is in Your name—For You alone can save  
You will deliver me—Yours is the victory  
Whom shall I fear—Whom shall I fear  
(Whom shall I fear) Chorus

(And) nothing formed against me shall stand  
You hold the whole world in Your hands  
I'm holding on to Your promises  
You are faithful, You are faithful Chorus

CCLI Song # 6440288

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## Honest Questions, Compassionate Response

*P* Even Jesus got frustrated when folks didn't behave as he would have liked. We probably aren't receiving death threats from Herod as Jesus was, but our wellbeing could be threatened by the idea that if we just try hard enough, are nice enough, say just the right thing, life will always go our way.

We run around in so many directions, trying to herd the chicks into some imagined semblance of perfect formation (have you ever tried to herd chicks?). What if we could let go of needing all things and all people to be "just so" and instead learn to dance with the unfolding of that which is not ours to control?

Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

*Silence is kept for self reflection.*

Hear this compassionate word from the Psalmist: "I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the LORD!"

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from  
feeling alone in fixing what feels oh so wrong with this world,  
inviting us to let go of the need to *be* God,  
so that we might recognize that God is *with* us,  
offering courage in difficulty.

And know, that despite our sometimes faltering steps,  
in the name of Jesus Christ, you are being forgiven, even now.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, ✝ you are forgiven.  
Glory to God! Amen.**

## 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.

## We Proclaim

### A reading from Genesis, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter

*God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram’s trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God’s promise.*

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup>Then he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” <sup>8</sup>But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” <sup>9</sup>He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove,

and a young pigeon.” <sup>10</sup>He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup>And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup>As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup>When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup>On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

*L* The word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God!**

**Gospel Acclamation**

*Please stand as you are able.*

*♪ ♪ 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.*

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**Gospel Reading**

*P* The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 13th chapter.

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

*Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.*

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you."

He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.'

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

*Luke 13: 31-35*

*P* The Word of God that is still speaking,

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

[You may be Seated](#)

Thoughts about an Imperfect Life and Faith

Pr. Debra Jimenez

“So much is out of our control.”

**Hymn of the Day**

[Please stand as you are able.](#)

## Thy Holy Wings

- 1 Thy holy wings, O Savior, spread gently over me,  
and let me rest securely through good and ill in thee.  
Oh, be my strength and portion, my rock and hiding place,  
and let my ev'ry moment be lived within thy grace.
- 2 Oh, let me nestle near thee, within thy downy breast  
where I will find sweet comfort and peace within thy nest.  
Oh, close thy wings around me and keep me safely there,  
for I am but a newborn and need thy tender care.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite  
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[You may be Seated](#)

## Apostles' Creed

*P* Let us join together with the saints across the ages 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 the People

*L* Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

***♪ ♪ O Lord, hear our prayer we offer up to you;  
O Lord, hear our prayer. ♪ ♪***

Text: Ralph C. Sappington, b. 1952  
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*(each prayer petition ends with)*

***L: God of grace,            All: You hear our prayer.***

## 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.*

*♪ ♪ 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*

## Offertory Prayer

*P* Generous God,

***All*** in light of your extravagant blessings—  
no matter what the state of the world or our imperfect lives—  
we offer our gifts and ourselves,  
and know that you transform what we give  
into the offering of Your love. Amen.

## Holy Communion

*Please stand as you are able.*

*P* Christ looks upon each one with love and says,

***All*** “you are welcome at my table.”

*P* Christ looks upon each one with compassion and says,

***All*** “whatever troubles you, bring it here.”

*P* Christ looks upon each one with grace and says,

***All*** “whatever you’d like to leave behind, do it here.”

*P* Will you come?

Will you bring your troubles?

Will you shed all that is unnecessary in your life?

*P* This is the place where you need not be perfect,  
you need not be sure of yourself or your faith,  
you need not feel whole and right with the world.

Jesus invited many to his tables and in doing so, he assured them of their place in the illogical reign of love and grace.

He just wanted them to be hungry for relationship—  
hungry to look across a table into another’s eyes,  
to break open their lives,

and lift a cup in the midst of the hard times and hear,

*“this is for all, and so this is for you, beloved.”*

On 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.

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.

For as often as we eat this bread and drink of this cup  
we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes again.

**All Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

## **The Lord’s Prayer**

*P I invite you to connect with the people around you—*

*Take a moment, look around, for as you look upon the Body of Christ,  
you do indeed, turn your eyes upon Jesus.*

*Now gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught.*

**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** Here is food and drink for the journey.  
Take and be filled.

## Communion Songs

[You may be Seated](#)

### The Lamb

1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?  
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!

Refrain

Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me his own!  
The Lamb is reigning on his throne!

2 The Lamb, the Lamb, one perfect final offering.  
The Lamb, the Lamb, let earth join heav'n his praise to sing. Refrain

3 The Lamb, the Lamb, as wayward sheep their shepherd kill.  
So still, his will on our behalf the Law to fill. Refrain

4 He sighs, he dies, he takes my sin and wretchedness.  
He lives, forgives, he gives me his own righteousness. Refrain

5 He rose, he rose, my heart with thanks now overflows.  
His song prolong till ev'ry heart to him belong. Refrain

# Dance With Me

This is holy time, we're gathered together  
To worship you, to love one another.  
And as we pray. And as we sing.  
And as we dance, and as we dream  
Oh Lord I beg of you Just this one thing

Won't you dance with me throughout the heavens  
And below the sea and upon the mountain tops  
Flow with the breeze, come carry me  
Lord won't you dance with me.

Greg Evans—willcmusic.com  
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## Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

*P* The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

***All* Amen.**

*P* Let us pray.  
Tender and merciful one,

***All* at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing,  
turning our emptiness into joy.**

**Filled with your abundant grace, send us now to be ministers of reconciliation, mending broken hearts, working for justice, and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

# Stewardship of Life and Ministry Announcements

## Benediction

Please stand as you are able.

*P* And now, may the God who loves all of creation,  
especially when it's painful,  
and Jesus, our companion along this crooked path called life,  
and the Holy Spirit, who loves to improvise in surprising ways,  
go with you, ✝ dwell among you, and give you joy.

**All Amen.**



## Dismissal

*P* Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## A Blessing for When You Realize Everyone is Struggling

*“Blessed are you who see things clearly, where struggle is everyone’s normal.  
You walk among the fellowship of the afflicted, a club no one wants to join.*

*And while this life isn’t shiny, it does come with superpowers.  
Superpowers of ever-widening empathy and existential courage  
that gets you back up after another fall  
and a deepened awe at the beauty and love  
that can be found amid life’s rubble.*

*Like flowers that grow from the cracks in the sidewalk.  
These virtues blossom in you. And thank God for you.*

*Blessed are all of us who struggle, for we are in good company,  
and we’ll never walk alone.”*

Readings for next Sunday,  
March 20<sup>th</sup>  
Third Sunday in Lent

<b>First Reading:</b>	Isaiah 55:1-9
<b>Psalm:</b>	Psalm 63:1-8
<b>Second Reading:</b>	1 Corinthians 10:1-13
<b>Gospel:</b>	Luke 13:1-9

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