



5th Sunday in Lent  
*April 3, 2022*



Ascension Lutheran Church  
1105 N. Washington Blvd.  
Ogden, UT 84404  
801.782.2810

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.

**“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 The story of Jesus includes many moments around tables, as this was part of his ritual of relationship even to the last.

This week, we will hear a story of love and devotion from the disciple Mary, directed at Jesus at the table.

As we will see,

Jesus tries to prepare his beloved companions for his death.

Talk of death is like a gut-punch to many of us; we would rather believe we and our loved ones are invincible, are able to will ourselves into being strong.

We all know that isn't always how the story goes.

*We are fragile.*

Our lives are susceptible to elemental dangers and a life-cycle of letting go in order to live.

(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-enough.

## Calling on God

**L** Let us pray:  
**Holy One, Lover of Souls, we call out to you.**

**All** You know our tears and sorrows,  
and you bear the seeds of grief with us.  
Open us this day to your comfort  
that nurtures these seeds into sheaves of joy—  
the simple and good enough moments that fill our days.  
**Amen.**

### Be Still and Know

#### Verse 1

Be still and know that He is God. Be still and know that He is holy.  
Be still oh restless soul of mine, bow before the Prince of Peace,  
Let the noise and clamor cease. Be Still.

#### Verse 2

Be still and know that He is God. Be still and know that He is faithful.  
Consider all that He has done. Stand in awe and be amazed,  
And know that He will never change Be still.

#### Verse 3

Be still and know that He is God. Be still and know He is our Father  
Come rest your head upon His breast, listen to the rhythm of  
His unfailing heart of love, beating for His little ones  
Calling each of us to come. Be still... be still.

## Honest Questions, Compassionate Response

P Jesus speaks the words no one wanted to admit:  
he was not always going to be around.

“Oh, don’t say that,” so many of us have said to a loved one who speaks the truth about the fragility of life.

Perhaps we get uncomfortable because it reveals the precious nature of the present moment, laying bare the beauty and horror of it all.

The indescribable pain we know we will one day face invades our senses like a pervasive perfume, inescapable.

What if we stopped denying the limited nature of our lives  
and breathed in deeply the fragrance of vulnerability?

Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

*Silence is kept for self reflection.*

Hear this compassionate word from Paul’s Letter to the Philippians:

“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.”

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from  
the need to avoid suffering at the cost of denying the fullness of life.

We are invited into the knowledge that Christ’s vulnerability  
in life, death, and resurrection  
shows us the sacred nature of the heights and depths  
of sorrow and joy in our own saga.

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 , the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Philippians

*Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.*

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup> If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup> Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup> More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

*Philippians 3:4b-14*

*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. John, the 12th chapter.

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

*Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.*

<sup>1</sup>Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup>There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. <sup>3</sup>Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup>But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup>"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup>(He said this not because he cared about



the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.)<sup>7</sup> Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial.”<sup>8</sup> You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

*John 12:1-8*

*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

“We are fragile”

**Hymn of the Day**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## The Compassion Hymn

Verse 1

There is an everlasting kindness You lavished on us  
When the radiance of heaven came to rescue the lost  
You called the sheep without a shepherd to leave their distress  
For Your streams of forgiveness and the shade of Your rest

Verse 2

And with compassion for the hurting You reached out Your hand  
As the lame ran to meet You and the dead breathed again  
You saw behind the eyes of sorrow and shared in our tears  
Heard the sigh of the weary let the children draw near

Chorus

What boundless love what fathomless grace  
You have shown us O God of compassion  
Each day we live an off'ring of praise  
As we show to the world Your compassion

Verse 4

How beautiful the feet that carry this gospel of peace  
To the fields of injustice and the valleys of need  
To be a voice of hope and healing to answer the cries  
Of the hungry and helpless with the mercy of Christ *Chorus*

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## 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. ♪ ♪*

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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?

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.*

## God Of The Poor

Verse 1

Beauty for brokenness, Hope for despair  
Lord in Your suff'ring world, This is our prayer  
Bread for the children, Justice joy peace  
Sunrise to sunset, Your kingdom increase

Verse 2

Shelter for fragile lives, Cures for their ills  
Work for the craftsmen, Trade for their skills  
Land for the dispossessed, Rights for the weak  
Voices to plead the cause, Of those who can't speak

Chorus

God of the poor, Friend of the weak  
Give us compassion we pray  
Melt our cold hearts, Let tears fall like rain  
Come change our love from a spark to a flame

Verse 3

Refuge from cruel wars, Havens from fear  
Cities for sanctu'ry, Freedoms to share  
Peace to the killing fields, Scorched earth to green  
Christ for the bitterness, His cross for the pain *Chorus*

Verse 4

Rest for the ravaged earth, Oceans and streams  
Plundered and poisoned, Our future our dreams  
Lord end our madness, Carelessness, greed  
Make us content with the things that we need *Chorus*

Verse 5

Lighten our darkness, Breathe on this flame  
Until Your justice burns brightly again  
Until the nations learn of Your ways  
Seek Your salvation and bring You their praise *Chorus*

# Lord, Be Glorified

1 In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;  
in my life, Lord, be glorified today.

2 In our song, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;  
in our song, Lord, be glorified today.

3 In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;  
in your church, Lord, be glorified today.

4 In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.  
In your world, Lord, be glorified today.

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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 the grief-stricken parts, 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're in Grief

*"Blessed are you, dear, dear one,  
doing this holy work of suffering what must be suffered.  
Of grieving what has been lost.  
Of knowing the unthinkable truth that must be known.  
This grief can make you feel on the other side of glass from the world around you,  
a force field of different realities separating you.  
Yet blessed are you in yours, for yours is the one most seen  
by God who breathes compassion upon you, even now.  
Who has walked this path, and who leans toward you,  
gathering you up into the arms of love. Rest now, dear one. You are not alone."*

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