

*“We are blessed,
regardless”*



*Maundy Thursday
April 14, 2022*



Ascension Lutheran Church
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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 worshiping 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.

Please silence your cell phones at this time.

Introduction to this Day

This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.

Welcome

P During this Lenten season, we have focused on, embracing the life that is right in front of us, rather than constantly climbing for what this world defines as success. We have been embracing “good enough” lives and “good enough” selves that are worthy of love, no matter what.

In our worship this evening commemorating the last night Jesus spent in community with his disciples, we see a supper in which Jesus showed his beloved friends, and shows us, what “blessing” really means, *regardless*.

Please stand as you are able.

(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.

Calling on God

L Let us pray:
Holy One, You who lay a table of blessing before us,
you have heard us and have come to us.

All We lift up the cup of salvation in praise,
we break open and share our love.
Open us this night to your presence
in our lives of delight and sorrow—
in the simple and good enough moments that fill our days. Amen.

Honest Questions, Compassionate Response

P The mid-20th century brought a particular shift as televangelists began to speak of blessing as a “pact” with God in which our good works (mostly our good wallets) would multiply the prosperity in our lives.

But for Jesus, this moment in the Upper Room was full of trouble, danger, deception, and uncertainty. Surely Jesus, Son of God, had enough blessing capital to out-manuever this set of circumstances!

In the midst of the pain of his moment, Jesus defines the real blessing pact—washing feet, breaking the bread, lifting the cup, sharing even with those who are about to betray him.

In this moment of silence,
take in this graceful invitation of Jesus to the table, no matter what.

Silence is kept for self reflection.

Hear this compassionate word:

Love that cannot be quantified reminds us
that each and every person is blessed, always,
regardless of who we are, how we’ve failed,
or what we’ve accomplished.

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from never feeling good enough for all the blessings of life and faith,
inviting us to love and to bless in the same way—
indiscriminately, extravagantly.

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

Blest Are They

Matthew 5: 1-11

- 1 Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow; they shall be consoled.
- 2 Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill.

Refrain

Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you.
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

- 3 Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart; they shall see God.
- 4 Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith; the glory of God is theirs. *Refrain*
- 5 Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me.
Rejoice, be glad, yours is the kingdom; shine for all to see. *Refrain*

Text: David Haas, b. 1957

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“We are blessed, regardless”

Where Charity and Love Prevail

- 1 Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
- 5 Let us forgive each other's faults as we our own confess,
that we may love each other well in Christian gentleness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th. cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.

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Invitation to the Upper Room

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.

Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

A Good Enough Step

An Invitation to Foot Washing

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Refrain

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

- 1 Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them. *Refrain*
- 2 Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
varied in color and race,
neighbors are near us and far away. *Refrain*
- 3 These are the ones we will serve,
these are the ones we will love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. *Refrain*
- 4 Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet:
this is the way we will live with you. *Refrain*

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000, alt.

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Holy Communion

Please stand as you are able.

P The Holy Living God be with you.

All And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts!

All We lift them up to the Lord!

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
anytime and everywhere to give thanks to you.
You created this world full of so much beauty and sorrow
and called it Good. And called it Enough.

Although we feel lost at times,
you are ever present.

We doubt, resist, turn away, and rage,
insistent on our own power to pull us through,
and yet sure that we are to blame,
making life seem like a confusing paradox.

But you are patient.

You are here to meet us—reside with us in strange and alienating times,
always faithful, always present
in this Body...
in this Body.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

P

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](#)

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

Take, oh, take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
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Lamb Of God

Verse 1

Your only Son no sin to hide, but You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod, and to become the Lamb of God

Verse 2

Your gift of love they crucified, they laughed and scorned Him as He died
The humble King they named a fraud, and sacrificed the Lamb of God

Chorus

Oh Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God
I love the holy Lamb of God
Oh wash me in His precious blood
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God

Verse 3

I was so lost I should have died, but You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod, and to be called a lamb of God Chorus

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Post Communion Blessing

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

All Amen.

Stay with Me

Stay with me,
remain here with me.
Watch and pray.
Watch and pray.

Text: Taizé Community

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He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.” Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.” Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.”

While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him, “Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?” When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, “Lord, should we strike with the sword?” Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, “Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!”

Luke 22: 39-53

Offering of Song

Rebekah Washburn

His Hands

You are invited to stay as long as you wish and leave in silence

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A Blessing for When You Don't Feel Blessed

Blessed am I when I lose sleep over what troubles me. When my worries keep me watching the clock tick by. When I have no energy to do anything but fret. The kingdom of God is here and now.

Blessed am I when I am drowning in grief. When wave after wave after wave crashes over me. When I start to feel okay, then something reminds me of what I've lost, and I'm pulled under once again. God promises to comfort me.

Blessed am I when I feel silenced and afraid to speak up. When I am forgotten and left out. When I feel small and feel as though my work, my presence, my life doesn't matter. The whole world is mine.

Blessed am I when I am starving for justice. When the world around me feels so unfair that I could scream, but no one seems to be listening. No one seems to care. May justice flow like a river.

Blessed am I when someone hurts me, when I feel offended, and I don't return insult with insult. Instead, I forgive, recognizing the number of times I've needed to be forgiven.

Blessed am I when I strip away all the extra. When I see the world as it really is—broken, tender, fragile, beautiful. These are the same eyes that see God in everything too.

Blessed am I when I take the hard road. The winding one that doesn't opt for the shortcut of rage or resentment or unkind words. That doesn't pave over with trite niceties, but walks toward peacemaking. For I am God's kid.

Blessed am I when I face hardships of all sorts. Insults, hurt feelings, lies, and vindictive neighbors (why is loving your *actual* neighbor so hard, God?). Blessed am I when I work to usher in God's kingdom of love and compassion and justice and forgiveness and peace, even when it's hard.

Blessed are we. The imperfect and don't-have-it-all- together. God's beloved.

