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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.

Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

Call to Worship

Please stand as you are able

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

All Amen.

P In the waters of baptism,

we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation.

For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

We thank you, God, for your river of life,

flowing freely from your throne:

through the earth,

through the city,

through every living thing.

You rescued Noah and his family from the flood;

You opened wide the sea for the Israelites.

Now in these waters you flood us with mercy,

and our sin is drowned forever.

You open the gate of righteousness and we pass safely through.

In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters.

You nourish us and enclose us in safety.

You call us forth and send us out.

In lush and barren places, you are with us.

P You have become our salvation.

Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more. Claim us again as your beloved and holy people.

Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.

To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb, be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever.

All Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!



Lift Up Your Heads

Verse 1

Lift up your heads O you gates, Swing wide you everlasting doors. Lift up your heads O you gates, Swing wide you everlasting doors.

Chorus

That the King of glory may come in, That the King of glory may come in That the King of glory may come in, That the King of glory may come in

Verse 2

Up from the dead He ascends through every rank of heavenly power Let heaven prepare the highest place throw wide the everlasting doors

Verse 3

With trumpet blast and shouts of joy all heaven greets the risen King With angel choirs come line the way throw wide the gates and welcome Him

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Graham Kendrick
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Greeting

You may be Seated

- P The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love and wisdom of God, and the light and communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- All And also with you.



- P In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- All Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
- P For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- All Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
- P For your people here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.
- All Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
- P Help, save, and defend us, O God.
- All Amen.

Now the Feast and Celebration

Refrain

Now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy to the God of life and love and freedom; praise and glory forevermore!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has freed and united us to be one great people of God. Refrain

- 2 Power and riches, wisdom and might, all honor and glory to Christ forever. Refrain
- 3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us people of God; to make all things new. Refrain

Text: Marty Haugen b. 1950
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- P The Lord be with you
- All And also with you.

Prayer for This Day

- Let us pray:
 Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life.
- All Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A Reading from Acts, the 16th chapter

A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.

⁹During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for

some days. ¹³On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

Acts 16:9-15

Word of God, Word of Life!

All Thanks be to God!

A Reading from The Revelation, the 21st chapter

John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet in this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplants sun and moon.

¹⁰And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

²²I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

^{22:1}Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will

worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Revelation 21:10, 22--22:5

L Word of God, Word of Hope!

All Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand as you are able

Alleluia, alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life: Alleluia!

Gospel Reading

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14th chapter.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.

²³Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe."

John 14:23-29

P The Gospel of our Lord.

Sermon Pr. Debra Jimenez

Hymn of the Day

Please stand as you are able

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer! Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear-all because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
- 2 Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged--take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness--take it to the Lord in prayer.
- Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge--take it to the Lord in prayer. Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer. In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

The Apostles' Creed

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- 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.

You may be Seated

Prayers of Intercession

- L Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.
 - Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:
 peace to all people, hope for each soul.

 God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

(each prayer petition ends with)

L: God, in your mercy, All: You hear our prayer.

Passing of the Peace

P Christ become peace with you.

All And also with you.

Offertory

As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill A were gathered into one to become our bread; so may all your people from all the ends of earth be gathered into one in you.

Offertory Prayer

- P Risen One, as you broke bread with the disciples on the shore, meet us now in this meal.
- All Nourish us to follow you, using our gifts to feed the hungry and tend the weary, and all for your love's sake. Amen.

Holy Communion

Please stand as you are able

- 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 It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to all creation.

And so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

God of power and might;
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in your name.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

You are indeed holy, gracious and merciful God; everything is filled with your glory.

We give you thanks for your promise and presence which have sustained the faithful in this and every generation.

Above all, we give you thanks for Jesus, born of Mary, who in word and deed announced your gentle rule of justice, reconciliation and peace.

On the night of his betrayal 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 if for all to drink saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for your and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

- P Christ has died. Christ is risen. S. Christ will come, come again.
- All タタ Christ has died. Christ is risen. タタ Christ will come, come again.
- P Remembering his command to love one another, his life and death, his resurrection and his ascension, we pray for his coming again, even as we cry:
- Amen, Come Lord Jesus. Amen, Come Lord Jesus.
- All Amen, Come Lord Jesus. Amen, Come Lord Jesus.
- P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that all of your promises may come to us and your whole creation.

P Amen, Come Holy Spirit. Amen, Come Holy Spirit.

All Amen, Come Holy Spirit. Amen, Come Holy Spirit.

- P This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and our friend.
 - In the unity of the Spirit
 All glory and honor is yours, O God,
 Now and forever, Amen.

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,

The Invitation

P The risen Christ dwells with us here.All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

You may be Seated

forever and ever. Amen.

Note: the communion cups on the periphery of the tray contain red wine while the cups in the center contain white grape juice.

Gluten Free wafers available —ask the communion attendant



Communion Songs

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Refrain

Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea; daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

- 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Jesus, keep me from all wrong; I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. Refrain
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

3 When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more; guide me gently, safely o'er to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore. Refrain

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We Fall Down

Verse

We fall down, We lay our crowns at the feet of Jesus The greatness of mercy and love at the feet of Jesus

Chorus

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Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

Please stand as you are able

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

All Amen

Praise to You, O God of Mercy

- Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever!
 Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever!
- 2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you forever! Truth and justice you have taught us: thanks be to you forever!

Bridge

Strong is your faithfulness, strong is your love, rememb'ring your covenant of life with us.

3 Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever! Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever! Thanks be to you forever!

Text: Now the Feast and Celebration, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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Please be seated for Stewardship of Life & Ministry Announcements

Benediction and Sending Song

Please stand as you are able

(Cantors sing each line, the congregation repeats.)

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face to shine on you.

And be gracious to you.

May the Lord lift His countenance on you.

May the Lord lift His countenance on you.

May He keep you in perfect peace.

Dismissal

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

With the joy of new life in Christ Jesus,

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." Ephesians 4:23

Go in peace. Live in love, as Christ loved us.

Thanks be to God.

Readings for next Sunday, May 29th First Reading: Acts 16:16-34

Psalm: Psalm 97

Second Reading: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17,

20-21

Gospel: John 17:20-26

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