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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 60 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

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our

undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses." In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

Welcome to Worship

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand in body or spirit.

P Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God,
 full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love

- All Amen
- P Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against
 God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Eternal God our creator,

 All in you we live and move and have our being.
 Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands.
 Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.
 By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our heart through the Holy Spirit given to us.

In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God + forgives you all your sins.

All Amen.



Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates. Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.



The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion Ρ of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All And also with you.



- Ρ O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth.
- Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and All greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. 4

You may be Seated

A Reading from Jeremiah. the 23rd chapter

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

²³Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" ²⁶How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

Jeremiah 23:23-29

- *L* The word of the Lord
- All Thanks be to God!

A Reading from Hebrews, the 11th chapter

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

²⁹By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1}Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 11:29--12:2

L The word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God!



Gospel Reading

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 12th chapter.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹"I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided:

they will be divided

father against son

and son against father,

mother against daughter

and daughter against mother,

mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law

and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?" *Luke 12:49-56*

P The Gospel of our Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be Seated





Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888 Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

Blessing of the Backpacks, Briefcases and Laptops

Apostles' Creed

P Let us join together with one voice 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 Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

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: Merciful God, All: receive our prayer. Passing of the Peace

- *P* Christ become peace with you.
- All And also with you.



P Let us pray:

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

All Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions.

Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

Please stand in body or spirit.

- 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.

 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.

> 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 In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy.Come to the banquet.

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



Text: Gerald Patrick Coleman Music: WINTER, Gerald Patrick Coleman



- *P* The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- All Amen
- P Life-giving God,
 through this meal you have bandaged our wounds
 and fed us with your mercy.
- All Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love.
 This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Please be seated for

Stewardship of Life & Ministry Announcements

Benediction

Please stand in body or spirit.

P Go out into God's world as those born of water and Spirit.

Go as those inspired and excited to know that "God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world". No, in fact, our God sent Jesus into the world so that the world might be saved through him.

Go as those living in the mystery of the Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.

Go knowing you are loved + and are called to love each other.

All Amen.





Dismissal

P Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-1

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

All Thanks be to God.



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