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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

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have,

it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing.

By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.

Welcome to Worship

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand in body or spirit.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days.

All Amen.

P Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy and forgiveness

All we confess that sin still has a hold on us.

We have harmed your good creation.

We have failed to do justice,

love kindness,

and walk humbly with you.

Turn us in a new direction.

Show us the path that leads to life.

Be our refuge and strength on the journey, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

P Beloved of God:

your sins are forgiven + and you are made whole.

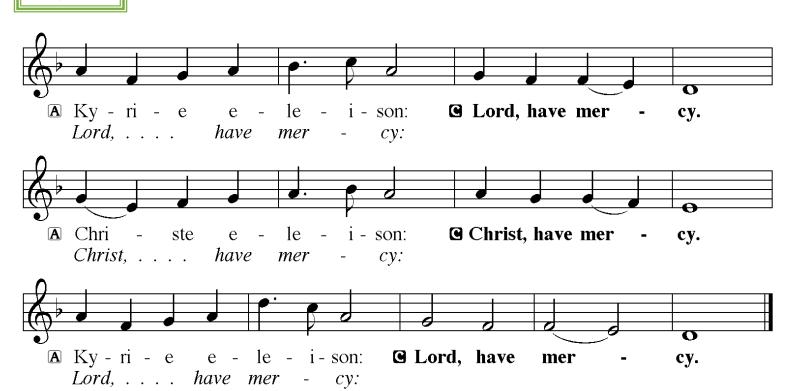
God points the way to new life in Christ,

who meets us on the road.

Journey now in God's abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

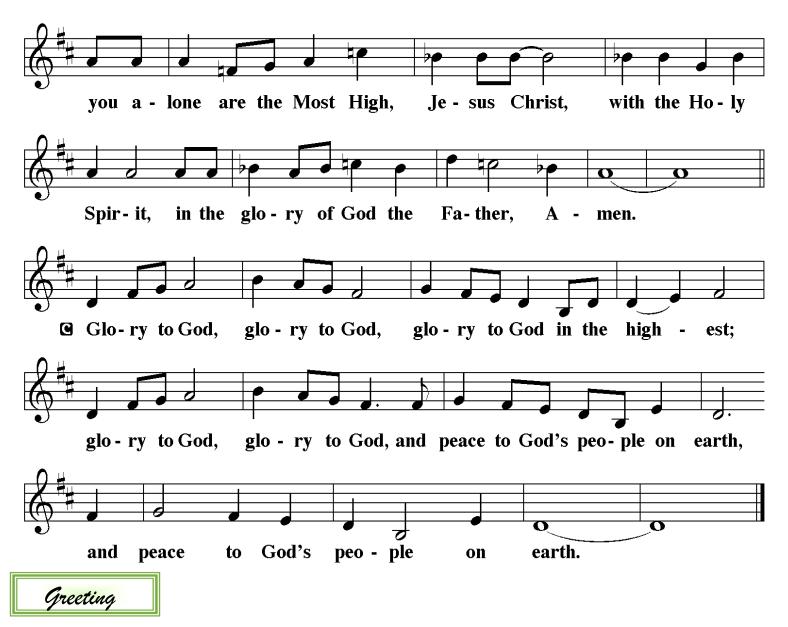
Kyrie



Opening Song of Praise







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

All And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another.

All Keep our feet from evil paths.

Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A Reading from Amos, the 8th chapter

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

⁴Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, ⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, ⁶buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

Amos 8:4-7

L The word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God!

A Reading from 1 Timothy, the 2nd chapter

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all —this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

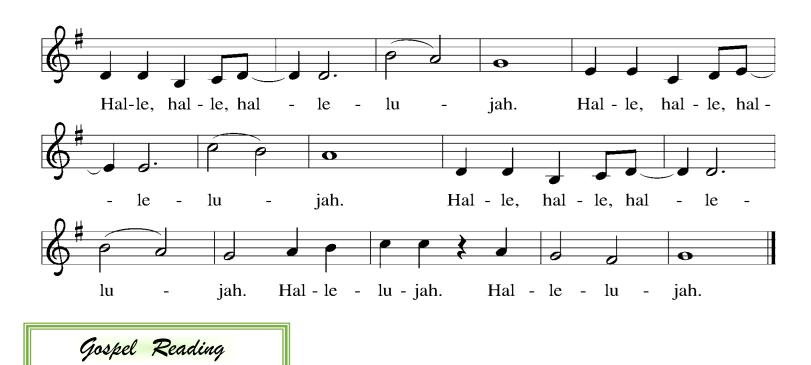
1 Timothy 2:1-7

L The word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit.



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 16th chapter.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

¹Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ²So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' ³Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now

that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' ⁵So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' ⁷Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' ⁸And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

Luke 16:1-13

P The Gospel of our Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be Seated

Sermon

Pr. Debra Jimenez

Lord Reign In Me

Words and Music by Brenton Brown



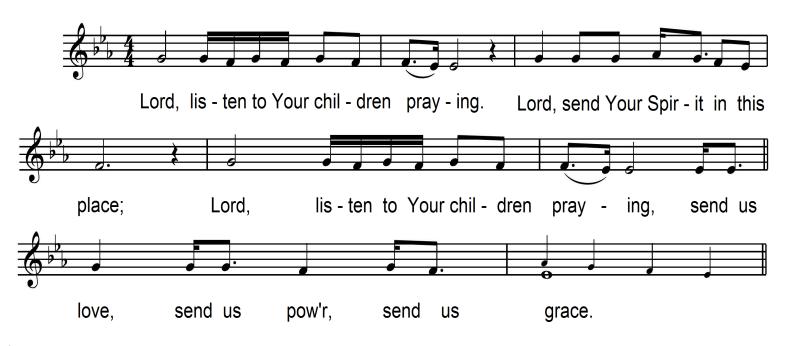
Apostles' Creed

- 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 As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.



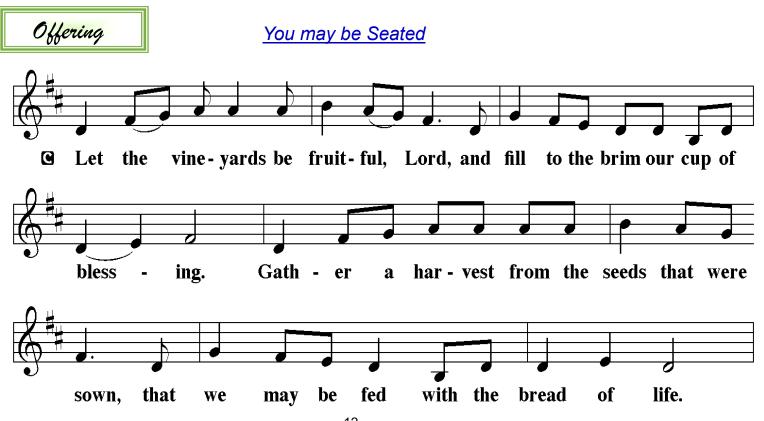
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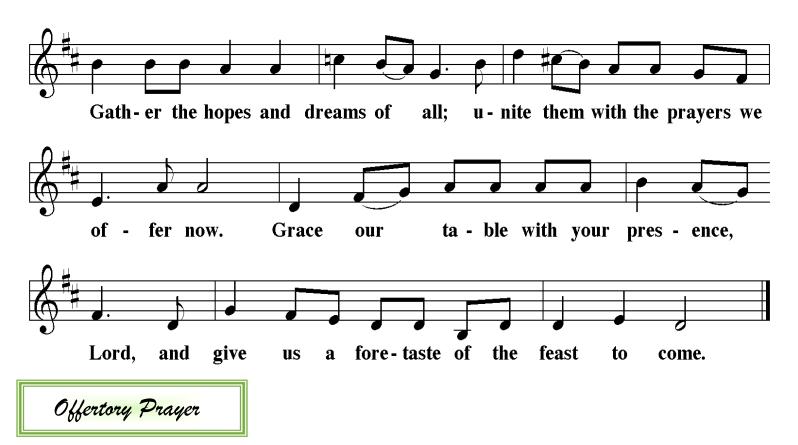
L: God of grace, All: You hear our prayer.

Passing of the Peace

Р Christ become peace with you.

All And also with you.





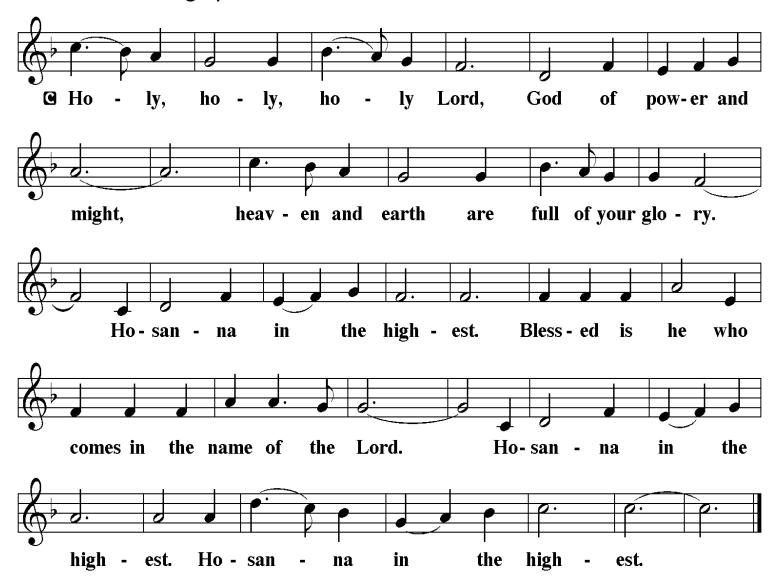
- P Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs.
- All Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all. Amen.

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.

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who rose beyond the bounds of death and, [on this day,] as he had promised, poured out your Spirit of life and power upon the chosen disciples. At this the whole earth exults in boundless joy. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All 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,
forever and ever. Amen.

The Invitation

P Christ invites you to this table.Come, taste and see.All are welcome.



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





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

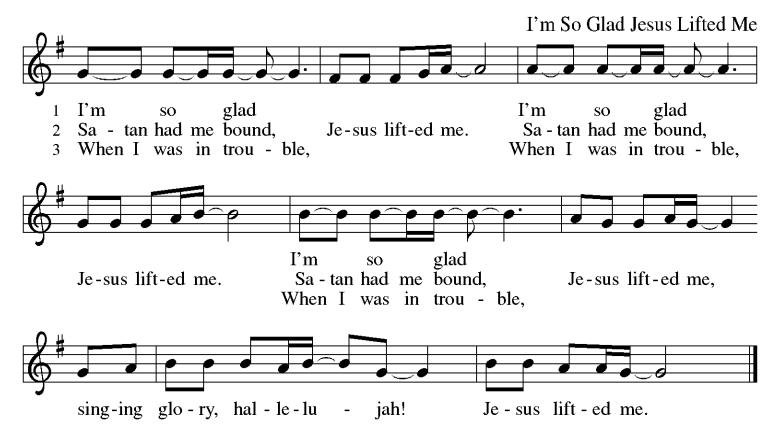
Benediction

Please stand in body or spirit.

P God, who gives life to all things
 and frees us from despair,
 bless you with truth and peace.
 And may the holy Trinity,
 → one God,
 guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

All Amen.

Sending Song



Text: African American spiritual

Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual

Dismissal

P Be alert. Continue strong in the faith. Have courage and be strong.Do everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

All Thanks be to God.

Readings for next Sunday, September 25th First Reading: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Psalm: Psalm 146

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

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