# The power of

# persistent prayer





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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

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with

the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

# Welcome to Worship

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand in body or spirit.

- 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 Ο **A** Ky - ri - e **C** Lord, have mer le - i - son: e \_ cy. *Lord*, . . . . have mer cy: θ A Chri le **G** Christ, have mer ste i - son: e cy. -Christ, . . . have mer cy: -Ο **A** Ky - ri - e **C** Lord, have e - le - i - son: mer cy. have mer -Lord, . . . . cy: Opening Song of Praise **G** Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est; glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth. glo-ry to God, heav-en - ly king, al-might-y God and **I** Lord God, Fa - ther, we 0

wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.





- 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.



- P O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries.
- All Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

You may be Seated

A Reading from Genesis, the 32<sup>nd</sup> chapter

Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother's birthright and his father's blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to "Israel," a name that means "he wrestles with God."

<sup>22</sup>The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup>He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. <sup>24</sup>Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. <sup>25</sup>When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup>Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." <sup>27</sup>So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." <sup>28</sup>Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." <sup>29</sup>Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. <sup>30</sup>So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." <sup>31</sup>The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Genesis 32:22-31

*L* The word of the Lord

# All Thanks be to God!

A Reading from 2 Timothy, the 3rd chapter

The writer of this letter continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.

<sup>14</sup>But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup>and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. <sup>4:1</sup>In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: <sup>2</sup>proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. <sup>3</sup>For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, <sup>4</sup>and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. <sup>5</sup>As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

*L* The word of the Lord

2 Timothy 3:14--4:5



All Thanks be to God!

*P* The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter.

# All Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. <sup>2</sup>He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. <sup>3</sup>In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' <sup>4</sup>For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, <sup>5</sup>yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" <sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup>And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? <sup>8</sup>I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

*P* The Gospel of our Lord.

### All Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be Seated

Pr. Debra Jimenez Sermon Please stand in body or spirit. Hymn of the Day You Are My All In All Words and Music by Dennis Jernigan 1You are my strength when You are the treas - ure I am weak. that 2 Tak - ing Ris - ing a - gain 1 bless Your mv sin, cross. shame. my mv all. You are my all Seek - ing You pre - cious seek. in as а You are my all in all. fall down, You name; When pick me jew'l, Lord, ľd fool. You are my to give up be а all in all. When You fill am dry, You are my all all. up; my cup; in of God. wor - thy Your Je Lamb is name! -SUS. of Lamb God, wor - thy Your Je is name! SUS. 9

Luke 18:1-8

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.

#### Prayers of Intercession

*L* In gratitude and humility, let us join together in prayer on behalf of all of God's creation.





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:



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.  P 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.

*P* 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.

*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.









- *P* The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- All Amen
- P God of the abundant table,you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey.
- All Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Please be seated for Stewardship of Life & Ministry Announcements

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.

Benediction



Dismissal

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

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

All Thanks be to God.

Readings for next Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> First Reading: Psalm: Second Reading: Gospel:

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22 Psalm 84:1-7 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14

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1 Corinthians 16:13-14

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