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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.

Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.

# Welcome to Worship

### Call to Worship

P In this third week of our stewardship campaign, I invite you to think about the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus tells this story in response to a question designed to test him. The question posed to him: 'Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?'

It is the story of an unlikely hero; instead of the usual hero suspects — it was the other — the one who worships differently, dresses differently, the foreigner — cast in the role of hero — the one who shows mercy.

Sometimes we Christians like to pretend we don't have enemies – but Jesus isn't fooled. We all have them one way or another – some enemies we choose and some choose us. The Parable of the Merciful Samaritan invites us to reflect on who our enemies are – who we distrust, dismiss, condemn, or scorn.

Would you pass a hurt man by? Jesus asks

#### All Never!

- P No, we wouldn't pass him by.
- All No, we wouldn't pass him by.
- P We'd just want to be sure.
- All Sure that we're safe

Sure that we're wearing clothes that can get dirty
Sure that we're not running late
Sure that they'll use our money only in ways we approve of
Sure that they deserve our help,
And will be grateful for it.

- P Let us pray,
- All God, right now we're the kind of people who will help under the right circumstances.

Help us become the right people to help under any circumstance. Amen

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#### All Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

All we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors.

We have ignored voices that call for your justice.

We have neglected actions that witness to your righteousness.

We have spoken and acted in ways

that disrupt your beloved community.

We truly repent of things we have done and left undone.

For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Restore our troubled spirits, so that we may live in newness, follow the way of the Spirit, and build up the body of Christ. Amen.

P Rejoice and be glad!

God hears the prayers of all who cry out, and restores us to life through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

#### All Amen.



Text and music: Larry Olson

Greeting

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 O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy.
- All We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

You may be Seated

# A Reading from Jeremiah, the 23rd chapter

Today's reading builds on the common, ancient Near Eastern metaphor of the king as shepherd. Judah's unjust rulers have caused their people, their "flock," to be scattered. Nevertheless, God will raise up a new and righteous shepherd who will rule a restored Judah.

<sup>1</sup>Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. <sup>2</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. <sup>3</sup>Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. <sup>4</sup>I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

<sup>5</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute

justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Jeremiah 23:1-6

L The word of the Lord

#### All Thanks be to God!

## A Responsive Reading of Psalm 46

Please join in a responsive reading of the Psalm. Leader will read the light print while congregation responds with the bold.

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup>Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;

<sup>3</sup>though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

<sup>4</sup>There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

<sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

<sup>6</sup>The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.

<sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

<sup>8</sup>Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;

<sup>9</sup>behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

10"Be still, then, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."

<sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

# A Reading from Colossians, the 1st chapter

An early Christian hymn praises the mystery of the political, personal, and mystical Christ, the one who was present at creation and is eternally reigning with God.

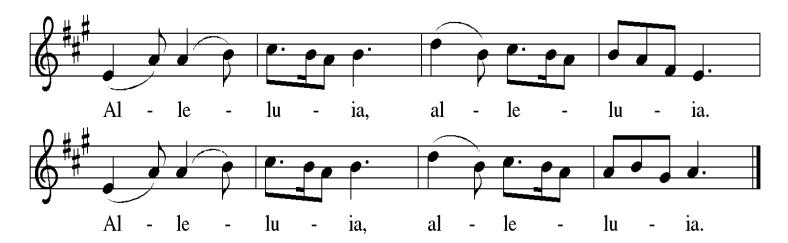
<sup>11</sup>May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup>He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup>for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Colossians 1:11-20

#### L The word of the Lord

#### All Thanks be to God!



### Gospel Reading

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

#### All Glory to you, O Lord.

Amid scoffing and slander from those who sarcastically call him Messiah and king, Jesus reveals that to be Messiah and king is to give one's life for others. Here he uses his power to welcome a despised sinner to paradise but puts his own death into God's hands.

<sup>33</sup>When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup>[Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup>And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" <sup>36</sup>The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, <sup>37</sup>and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" <sup>38</sup>There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup>And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup>Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup>He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Luke 23:33-43

P The Gospel of our Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be Seated

Message

Pr. Debra Jimenez



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# Blessing of the Shoeboxes

### Apostles' Creed

P Let us join together with the saints across the ages confessing our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

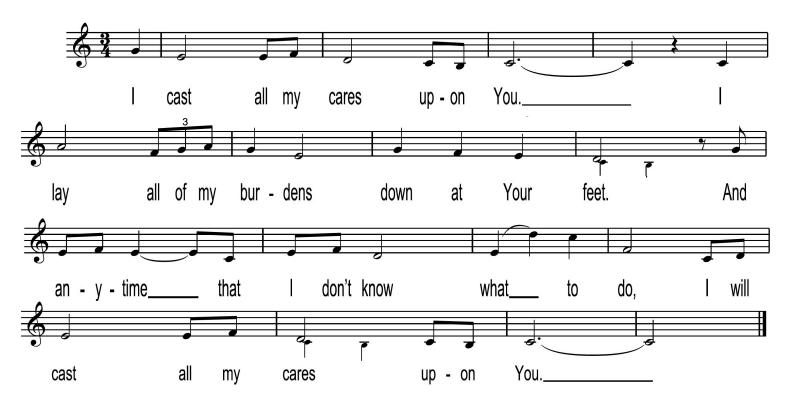
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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.

### Prayers of Intercession

L United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.



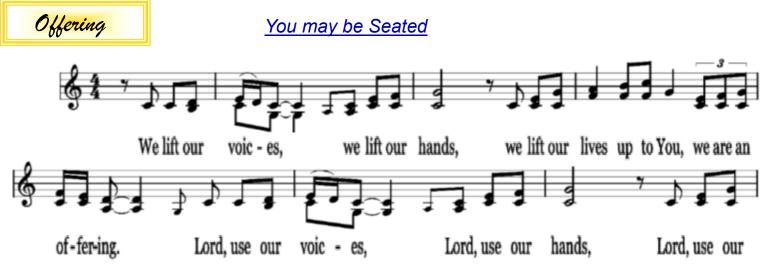
(each prayer petition ends with)

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

## Passing of the Peace

P 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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.

#### All Amen. Come Lord Jesus!

### 

#### Chorus—All

Do this in remembrance of Me
Do this in remembrance of Me
This is My body this is My blood
Do this in remembrance of Me

Verse

Presider—This is My body given for you

All—Do this in remembrance of Me

Presider—This cup's the new covenant sealed in My blood

All—Do this in remembrance of Me

For whenever you eat this bread

And whenever you drink this cup

As you do you proclaim the Lord's death

Until He comes Chorus

CCLI Song # 4695183
Billy Christopher
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# 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 spreads a table before you.Gather here with all the saints.All are welcome.



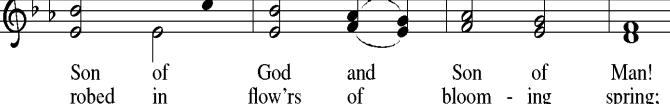
Note: the communion cups on the periphery of the tray contain red wine while the cups in the center contain white grape juice.

Gluten Free wafers available –ask the communion attendant

# **Beautiful Savior**



- Beau ti ful Fair the are
- the Fair is
- 4 Beau ti ful
- Sav ior,
- mead ows, shine,
- sun
- King fair
- the are fair is
- wood lands, the
  - moon light,
- of the Sav Lord ior, tions. na

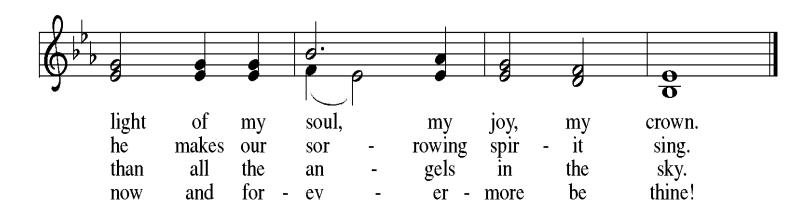


ing spring; bright the kling high; spar stars on of Son God Son of Man! and



Tru - ly I'd love thee, fair is Je sus er, sus shines bright er, Glo - ry and hon or,

ly ľd thee, tru serve is Je sus er, pur Je sus shines pur er praise, ad tion, 0 ra



Text: Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.





# Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

#### Please stand in body or spirit.

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

#### All Amen

- P We give you thanks, most gracious God, that you have fed us with the bread of heaven and given us a foretaste of Paradise.
- All Enliven us to be your body in the world and to serve those who are in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please be seated for Stewardship of Life & Ministry Announcements

### Mizpah:

The Lord keep watch between me and thee while we are absent one from another.

Cassie Barker & Callie Jo Simpson

#### Benediction

Please stand in body or spirit.

P You can't be God,

but you can ask God to work through you.

You can't know all that God knows,

but you can ask God to give you a glimpse.

You can't do what God can do,

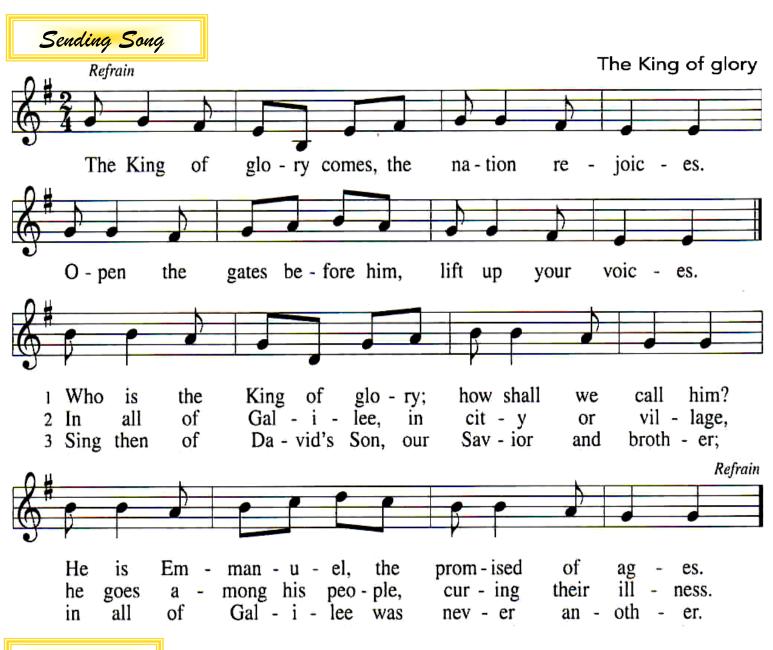
but you can ask God to help you do more than you can do alone.

You may not be the one who makes the grace,

but you can help put it into action.

May the blessing of God the Creator, + God the Redeemer, and God the Sustainer be with you as you do.

#### All Amen.



#### Dismissal

P We dare to declare that Christ is King on the eve of a new year in the life of the church.

Such simple proclamation, and yet easily forgotten.

So central to our faith, and yet dangerous to speak in the shadow of empires.

Christ is King, the patriarchy is not.
Christ is King, white supremacy is not
Christ is King, democracy is not.
Christ is King, big money is not.
Christ is King, the status quo is not.

P Christ is King, the church is not. Christ is King, and I am not.

It rings in our ears like auld lang syne—

Christ is King,

The last and truest word of all.

Go in peace. Be a blessing in the world.

#### All Thanks be to God.

Front Cover:

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Readings for next Sunday,
December 4<sup>th</sup>
1st Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm: Psalm 122

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44