

blessed are they?



4th Sunday after the Epiphany

January 29, 2023



1105 N. Washington Blvd.
Ogden, UT 84404
801.782.2810

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.

**Children are always welcome in worship services;
however please know a nursery space is available for
parents who need to tend to their little ones.**

Introduction

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

Welcome to Worship

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand as you are able.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

All Amen.

P Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal,

**All we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,
and cannot free ourselves.**

We have not practiced your righteousness.

Our hearts have turned away from you.

**For the sake of the world you so love,
forgive us,**

**that we may be reconciled to one another
for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass
and new things I now declare.”

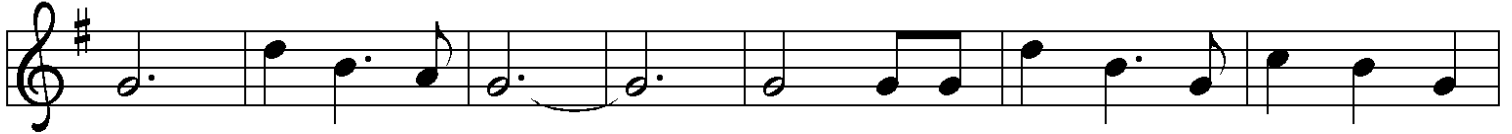
God's mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of ✝ Christ our Savior.

All Amen.

Opening Song

We Are Called



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the
2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your . . mer - cy to all those in
3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be



Lord! We are called to be light for the king - dom, to
fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less so
one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as



live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.
ha - tred and blind - ness . . . will be . . . no more.
sis - ters and broth - ers . . . u - nit - ed in love.



Refrain
We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

Greeting

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

All And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart.

All Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

[You may be Seated](#)

A Reading from Micah, the 6th chapter

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

¹Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³"O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,

what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:1-8

L Word of God, Word of Light.

All Thanks be to God

A Reading from 1 Corinthians, the 1st chapter

According to the world’s standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who

believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

L Word of God, Word of Life.

All Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand as you are able.



Thy Word is a lamp un-to___ my feet and a light un-to my path.

Last time Fine



Thy Word is a lamp un-to___ my feet and a light un-to my path.

Gospel Reading

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Matthew 5:1-12

P The Gospel of our Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be Seated

Sermon

Pr. Debra Jimenez

Hymn of the Day

Please stand in body or spirit.

Blest Are They



1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the
2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; . . . they shall in -
3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; mer - cy
4 Blest are they who seek peace; . . they are the
5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, . . . all . . . be -

king - dom of God. Blest are they,
 her - it the earth. Blest are they who
 shall . . . be theirs. Blest are they, the
 chil - dren of God. Blest are they who
 cause . . . of me. Re - joice, be glad,

full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled. *to refrain*
 hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill. *to verse 3*
 pure of heart; they shall see God. *to refrain*
 suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs. *to verse 5*
 yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see. *to refrain*

Refrain

Re - joice and be glad!

Bless - ed are you, ho - ly are you!

Re - joice and be glad!

Yours is the king - dom of God!

Sharing the Peace

In our continued physical distancing out of love for the health of one another, we will share the peace of our risen Lord by “speaking” that peace through sign language.

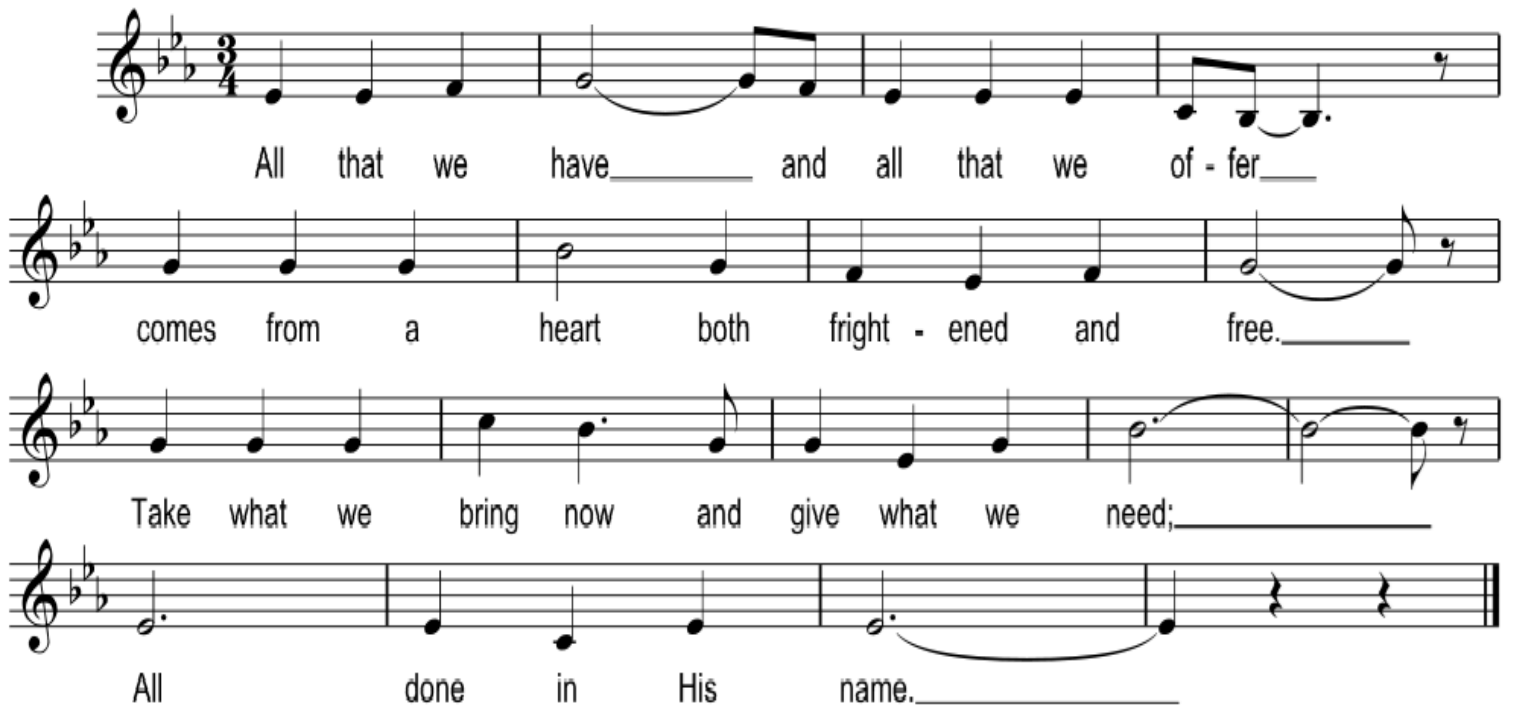
P Christ become Peace with you.

All And also with you.

Offering

[You may be Seated](#)

While we still will not physically pass the offering plates we will continue to have the plates available at the entrance to receive your offerings and will lift them up in thanksgiving before the throne of grace.



All that we have _____ and all that we of - fer _____
comes from a heart both fright - ened and free. _____
Take what we bring now and give what we need; _____
All done in His name. _____

Offertory Prayer

P Liberating God,
you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free.

All Receive these offerings in thanksgiving
for all your works of merciful power,
and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.
You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

P The Holy One be with you

All And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts

All We lift them up to our God.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.



All: On the night You were be - trayed You took the bread;__ Af - ter



giv - ing thanks,__ You broke it and said, "This is My __

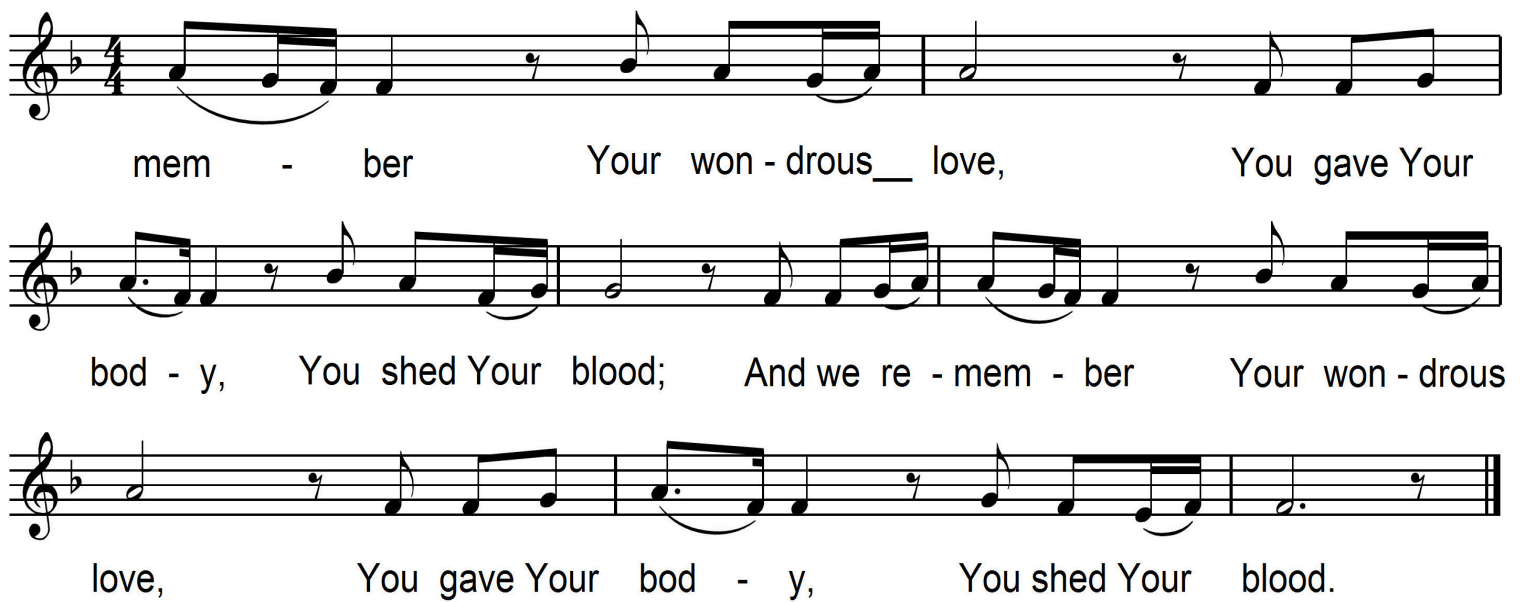


bod - y, bro - ken for__ you, and as you



eat__ it, re - mem - ber Me; This is My__

bod - y bro - ken for__ you, and as you
 eat__ it, re - mem - ber Me." On the
 night You were__ be - trayed__ You held the cup;__ Af - ter
 giv - ing thanks,__ You lift - ed it up. "This is My__
 blood, poured out for__ you, and as you drink__ it, re - mem - ber
 Me; This is My__ blood, poured out for__ you, and as you
 drink__ it, re - mem - ber__ Me." So, we
 thank You for__ the wine__ and for the bread;__ For we
 see the life__ You gave__ and the blood You_ shed. And we re -



mem - ber Your won - drous love, You gave Your
 bod - y, You shed Your blood; And we re - mem - ber Your won - drous
 love, You gave Your bod - y, You shed Your blood.

The Lord's Prayer

P Let us approach the throne of grace, praying as Jesus taught:

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 Come and taste the joy of God!

Communion Songs

God Of The Poor

Words and Music by
Graham Kendrick



1 Beau - ty for bro - ken - ness, hope for des - pair, Lord, in Your
 2 Shel - ter for fra - gile lives, cures for their ills, work for the
 3 Re - fuge from cruel wars, ha - vens from fear, cit - ies for



suff - 'ring world, this is our prayer. Bread for the chil - dren,
 crafts - men, trade for their skills. Land for the dis - pos - sessed,
 sanc - tu - 'ry, free - doms to share. Peace to the kill - ing fields,



jus - tice, joy, peace, sun - rise to sun - set Your king - dom in -
 rights for the weak, voic - es to plead the cause of those who can't
 scorched earth to green, Christ for the bit - ter - ness, His cross for the



crease. _____

speak.
 pain.



God of the poor, _____ friend of the _____ weak,



give us com - pas - sion we pray, melt our cold



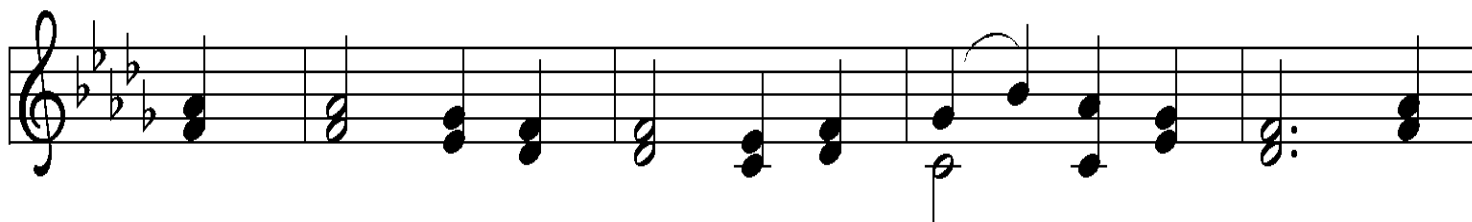
hearts, let tears fall like _____ rain. Come change our love _____



_____ from a spark _____ to a _____ flame. _____



When Peace, like a River *It Is Well with My Soul*



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul,

Post Communion Blessing *and* Prayer

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

All Amen

P Holy One, we thank you for the healing
that springs forth abundantly from this table.

All Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness,
and journey humbly with you. Amen.

Stewardship of Life and Ministry Announcements

Benediction

Please stand in body or spirit.

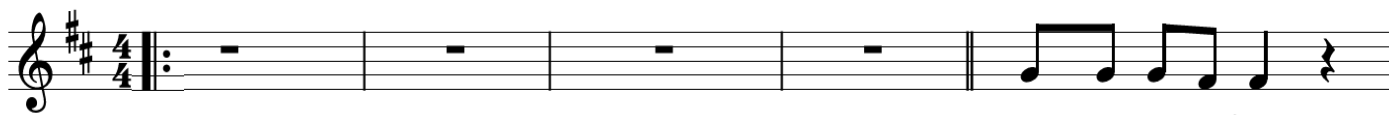
P The God who faithfully brings forth justice
and breaks the oppressor's rod
✝ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

All Amen

Sending Song

All The People Said Amen

Words and Music by
Matt Maher, Trevor Morgan
and Paul Moak



1. You are not a-lone

2. If you're rich or poor,



if you are lone - ly. When you feel a - fraid, you're not the on - ly.

well, it don't mat - ter. Weak _ or strong, you know love is what we're af - ter.



We are all the same, in need of mer - cy, _ to be for - giv - en and be

We're all bro - ken, but we're all in this to - geth - er. _ God knows we stum - ble and fall, _



free. It's all you got to lean on, but thank God, it's all you need. _

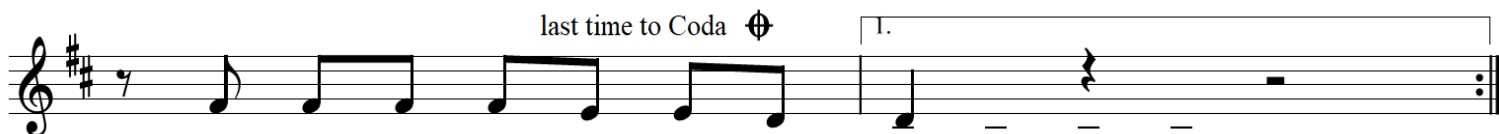
and He so loved the world, He sent His Son to save us all.



And all the peo - ple said, "A - men." Whoa. _ And all the peo - ple said, "A -



-men." Give thanks to the Lord, _ for His love _ nev - er ends. _



And all the peo - ple said, "A - men."



men." Bless-ed are _ the poor in spir - it who are torn a - part. Bless-ed are _

the per - se - cut - ed and the pure in heart. Bless - ed are the peo - ple hun - gry for an -

-oth - er start, for theirs is the king - dom, the king - dom of God. _____

- men." And all the peo - ple said, "A - men."

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

All Thanks be to God.

Front Cover:

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Readings for next Sunday,
January 29th

First Reading:

Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalm:

Psalm 112:1-10

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 2:1-13-16

Gospel:

Matthew 5:13-20

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