



July 16, 2023

7th Sunday after Pentecost



Ascension Lutheran Church

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

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation.

It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth.

Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

Welcome to Worship

Prayer of Confession

Please stand in body or spirit.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

All Amen

P Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,

**All we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts.

We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.

We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

**We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.**

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

By your grace, forgive us;

through your love, renew us;

and in your Spirit, lead us;

so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

P Beloved of God,

by the radical abundance of divine mercy

we have peace with God through ✝ Christ Jesus,

through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.

Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,

because God's love has been poured into our hearts

through the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Opening Song

As We Gather

Words and Music by
Tom Coomes and Mike Fay

As we gath - er, may___ Your Spir - it work with - in us.

As we gath - er, may___ we glo - ri - fy Your name. Know - ing well that as___ our

hearts be - gin to wor - ship, we'll be blessed be - cause___ we

came,_____ we'll be blessed be - cause___ we came.

Greeting

P The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.

All Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

[You may be Seated](#)

A Reading from Isaiah, the 55th chapter

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Isaiah 55:10-13

L The word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God!

A Reading from Romans, the 8th chapter

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of

sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Romans 8:1-11

L The word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit.

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Gospel Reading

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th chapter.

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

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

P The Gospel of our Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pr. Debra Jimenez

Hymn of the Day

Please stand in body or spirit.

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

The 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

[You may be Seated](#)

L Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.



Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:



peace to all peo - ple, hope for each soul.



God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

(each prayer petition ends with)

L: Hear us, O God. *All:* Your mercy is great .

Passing of the Peace

P Christ become peace with you.

All And also with you.

Offering

We lift our voic - es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You, we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic - es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are Yours, we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have,
all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to You, we give to You.
We lift our voi - ces, we lift our hands, we lift our
lives up to You, we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Offertory Prayer

P Let us pray:

Holy Community of Love,

All use our gifts as you reach out to heal the broken,

as you take the hands of the lost

and as you pull out a chair to welcome the outcast to your table
of wonder and hope. 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 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 All people are called to Christ's table.

Come, eat what is good.

[You may be Seated](#)

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

Communion Songs

Enter In

Verse 1

Enter into His presence, Enter into His love
Enter into the presence of the Lord by His blood
Enter into salvation by the blood of the Lamb
Enter into the throne room of the Great I Am

Verse 2

Enter into His presence and receive by His grace
The privilege to worship Him here in this place
Enter into His presence let us bow before Him
Give Him glory and honor as we enter in

Bridge

Enter into the throne room of God
By the precious blood of the Lamb
Praise Him, praise Him, sing of His great love
As we all enter in

Billy Christopher
CCLI Song #4695200
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Sanctuary
Words and Music by
John W. Thompson
and Randy Scruggs



true; _____ With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a
 liv - ing _____ sanc - tu - ar - y for _____ You.

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 thank you, generous God,
 for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table.

**All Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
 through the one who is our dearest treasure,
 Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated for Stewardship of Life & Ministry Announcements

Benediction

Please stand in body or spirit.

P May all that is unforgiven in you be released.
 May your fears yield their deepest tranquilities.
 May all that is unlived in you blossom into a future graced with love.
 In the name of the Father, the Son, ✝ and Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Closing Song

Love The Lord

Words and Music by
Lincoln Brewster



1. Love the Lord, _ your God, with all _ your heart, with all _ your soul, _ with all _ your mind, .
2. I will serve _ the Lord with all _ my heart, with all _ my soul, _ with all _ my mind, .



— and with all _ your strength; _
— and with all _ my strength; _



Love the Lord, _ your God, with all _ your heart, with all _ your soul, _ with all _ your mind, .
I will serve _ the Lord with all _ my heart, with all _ my soul, _ with all _ my mind, .



— and with all _ your strength. With all _ your heart, _ with all _ your soul, .
— and with all _ my strength; With all _ my heart, _ with all _ my soul, .



— with all _ your mind, _ with all _ your strength; _
— with all _ my mind, _ with all _ my strength; _



Love the Lord, _ your God, with all _ your heart, with all _ your soul, _ with all _ your mind, .
I will serve _ the Lord, with all _ my heart, with all _ my soul, _ with all _ my mind, .



— and with all _ your strength. _
— and with all _ my strength. _



I will love _ you Lord, with all _ my heart, with all _ my soul, _ with all _ my mind, .



— and with all _ my strength. _

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. Share the harvest.

All Thanks be to God.

SO, YOU'RE SAYING THAT THE CARELESSNESS OF THE SOWER IS A SIGN OF GOD'S EXTRAVAGANT GRACE?

YES.

THE GOSPEL IS FOR *EVERYONE* TO HEAR! GOD DOESN'T *DISCRIMINATE* NOR DO THE *PEOPLE OF GOD!*

THAT'S NOT TRUE. I ONLY SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH A *VERY NARROW DEMOGRAPHIC*, THE PEOPLE WHO I TALK TO AT CHURCH.



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MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23

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Front Cover:

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Readings for next Sunday,
July 23th
Pentecost 8

First Reading:

Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalm:

Psalm 86:11-17

Second Reading:

Romans 8:12-25

Gospel:

13:24-30, 36-43

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