



*July 23, 2023*

*8th 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

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

# 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

## Come Now Is The Time To Worship

**Words and Music by  
Brian Doerksen**



Come, now is the time\_\_\_\_\_ to wor - ship.\_\_\_\_\_



Come, now is the time\_\_\_\_\_ to give\_\_\_\_\_ your\_\_ heart.\_\_\_\_\_ Come,



just as you are\_\_\_\_\_ to wor - ship.\_\_\_\_\_ Come,



*Last time to Coda* 

just as you are\_\_\_\_\_ be - fore\_\_\_\_\_ your\_\_\_ God.\_\_\_\_\_ Come.



One day ev - 'ry tongue will con - fess\_\_\_\_\_ You are God.\_\_\_\_\_



One day ev - 'ry knee\_\_\_ will bow.\_\_\_\_ Still, the great - est treas - ure re - mains\_\_\_

D.C. al Coda



\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ those \_\_\_\_\_ who glad - ly \_\_\_\_\_ choose \_\_\_\_\_ You now. \_\_\_\_\_



Come.

Come.

Come,



just as you are, \_\_\_\_\_ come.

Come.

## Greeting

*P* The Lord be with you

**All** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

*P* Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion.

**All** By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

[You may be Seated](#)

## A Reading from Isaiah, the 44<sup>th</sup> chapter

<sup>6</sup>Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,  
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

I am the first and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.

<sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,  
let them declare and set it forth before me.  
Who has announced from of old the things to come?  
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

<sup>8</sup>Do not fear, or be afraid;  
have I not told you from of old and declared it?  
You are my witnesses!  
Is there any god besides me?  
There is no other rock; I know not one.

*Isaiah 44:6-8*

*L* The word of the Lord

**All** Thanks be to God!

## A Reading from Romans, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter

*For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.*

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

*Romans 8:12-25*

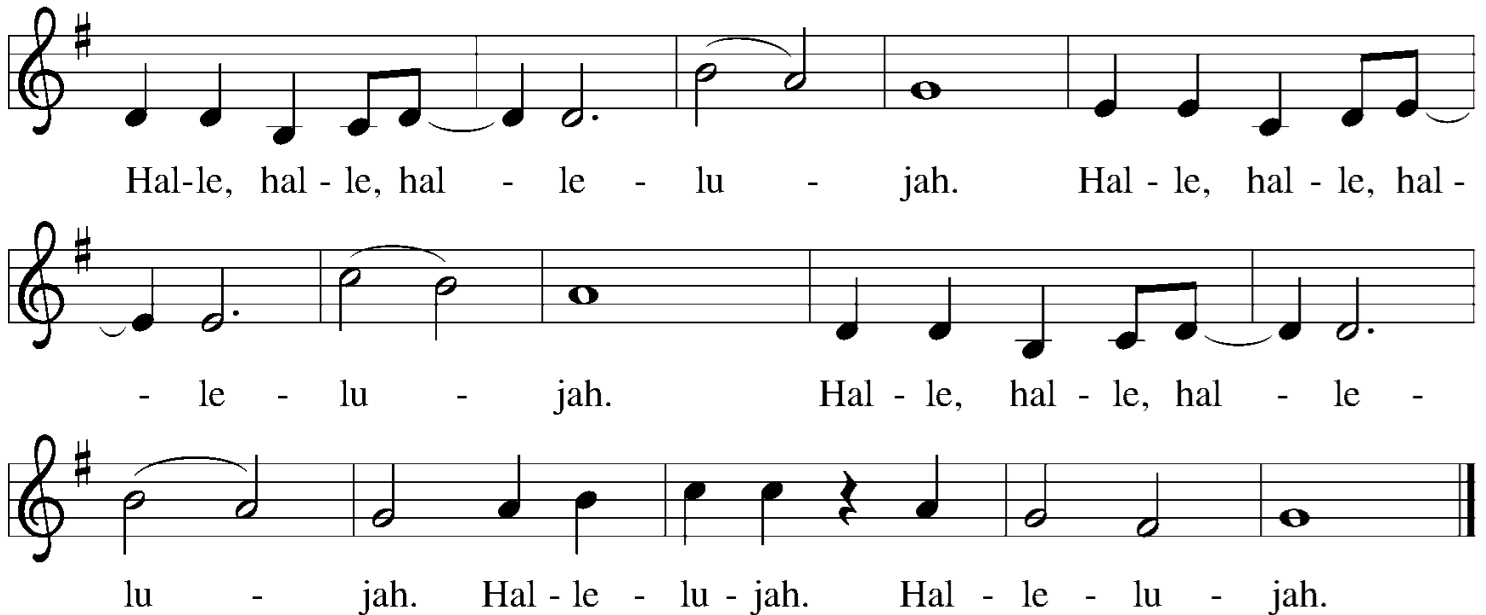
**L** The word of the Lord

**All** Thanks be to God!



## Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit.



## Gospel Reading

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

*Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.*

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;<sup>25</sup> but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' <sup>28</sup>He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' <sup>29</sup>But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."

**Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**



## 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.**

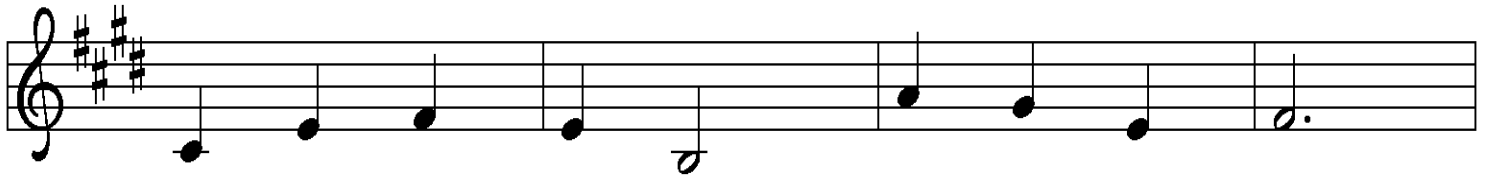
## Prayers of Intercession

[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



## 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.

Note: the communion cups on the periphery of the  
red wine while the cups in the center contain white

[You may be Seated](#)

tray contain  
grape juice.

*Gluten Free wafers available –ask the communion attendant*

# Communion Songs

## I Love to Tell the Story



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,  
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat  
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.  
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!  
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst-ing to hear it like the rest.

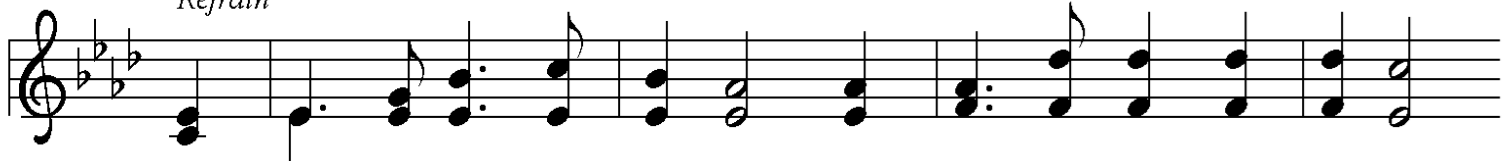


I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;  
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long-ings as noth - ing else would do.  
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.  
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

### *Refrain*



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

# I Surrender All



1. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der, All to Him I free - ly give;  
2. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der, Lord, I give my - self to Thee,



I will ev - er love and trust Him, In His pres - ence dai - ly live.  
Fill me with Thy love and pow - er, Let Thy bless - ing fall on me.



I sur - ren - der all, I sur - ren - der all.



All to Thee, my bless - ed Sav - ior, I sur - ren - der all.

## 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

### Build Your Kingdom Here

Words and Music by  
Rend Collective Experiment

1. Come set Your rule, and reign in our hearts a - gain. In -  
seek Your king - dom first. We hun - ger and we thirst; Re -  
-leash Your king - dom's pow'r, reach - ing the near and far. No

-crease in us, we pray. Un - veil why we're made. Come  
-fuse to waste our lives, for You're our joy and prize. To  
force of hell can stop Your beau - ty, chang - ing hearts. You

set our hearts a - blaze with hope, like wild - fire in our ver - y souls;  
see the cap - tives' hearts re - leased; The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace.  
made us for much more than this; A - wake the king - dom seed in us.

Ho - ly Spir - it, come, in - vade us now. We are Your  
We lay down our lives for heav - en's cause. We are Your  
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ. We are Your

church; We need Your pow'r in us.  
church; We pray, re - vive this earth.  
church; We are the hope on earth.

## Closing Song

Build Your king - dom here. Let the dark - ness  
fear. Show Your might - y hand. Heal our streets and  
land. Set Your church on fire. Win this na - tion  
back. Change the at - mos - phere. Build Your king - dom here, we  
pray! 1. 2. 3. Un - Coda pray!

## 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.**

### Front Cover:

Photo by [James Todd](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Readings for next Sunday,  
July 30th  
Pentecost 9

**First Reading:**

1 Kings 3:5-12

**Psalm:**

Psalms 119:129-136

**Second Reading:**

Romans 8:26-39

**Gospel:**

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Music licenses covered by these subscriptions

Used by Permission OneLicense.net A-705915

Used by Permission CCLI LicenSing License # 1924512