



July 30, 2023

9th 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

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

We Pray for Peace

We pray for peace, O God of love and justice,
as battles rage and people live in fear.

The meek and humble try amid the crisis—
to love and build, to nurture and restore.

May leaders hear the truth the prophets teach us—
that gifts of peace are well worth struggling for

We pray for peace, O Christ who calmed the waters—
who stilled the storm, who stilled disciples' fear.

You spoke with love and with amazing power;
be with us now when trouble is so near.

May leaders see the miracle you offer—
that words and deeds can calm the nations here.

We pray for peace, O Spirit here among us;
your love emboldens, judges and restrains.

Take any hate and acts of impulse from us;
make leaders wise, amid competing claims.

May we seek peace, O God of love and justice;
may love and mercy be our highest aims.

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

Here I Am To Worship

Words and Music by
Tim Hughes



1 Light of the world, You stepped down in - to dark - ness,
2 King of all days, oh so high - ly ex - alt - ed,



o - pened my eyes, let me see.
 glo - rious in heav - en a - bove.



Beau - ty that made this heart a - dore You,
 Hum - bly You came to the earth You cre - a - ted,



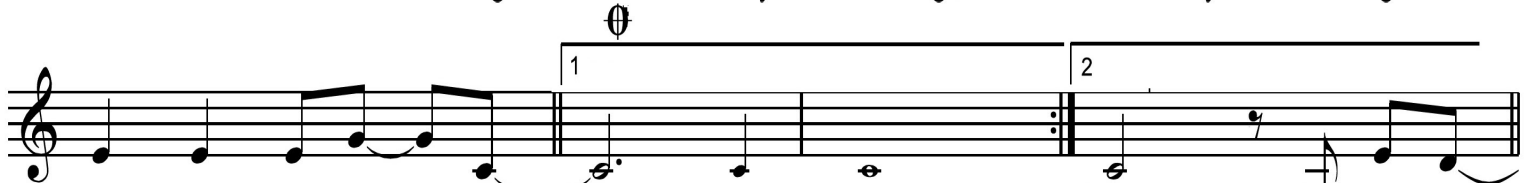
hope of a life spent with You. So, here I am to
 all for love's sake be - came poor. So, here I am to



wor - ship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that You're my God.



And You're al - to - geth - er love - ly, al - to - geth - er wor - thy, al - to - geth - er



won - der - ful to me. And I'll nev -



- er know how much it cost to see my sin up - on

D.S. al Coda



that cross. And I'll nev - that cross. So here I am to

Coda



Greeting

P The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy.

All By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

You may be Seated

A Reading from 1 Kings, the 3rd chapter

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself

understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

1 Kings 3:5-12

L The word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God!

A Reading from Romans, the 8th chapter

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:26-39

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.

Gospel Reading

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs

and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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.

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart *Gift of Finest Wheat*

Refrain



You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.



Come give to us, O sav - ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.



- 1 As when the shep-herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
- 4 The mys - t'ry of your pres-ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
- 5 You give your-self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,

Refrain



so when you call your fam-'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joi - ce.
that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav'n - ly food.
Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?
whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

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.**

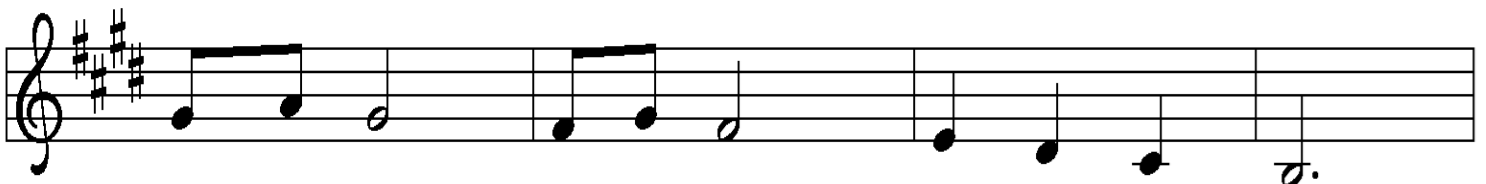
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of 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.**

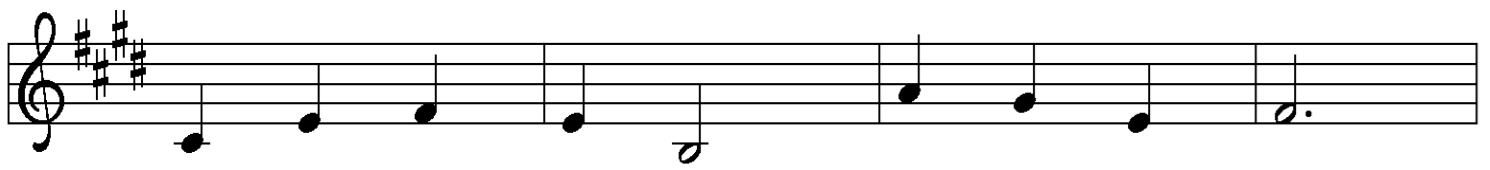
Prayers of Intercession

[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.

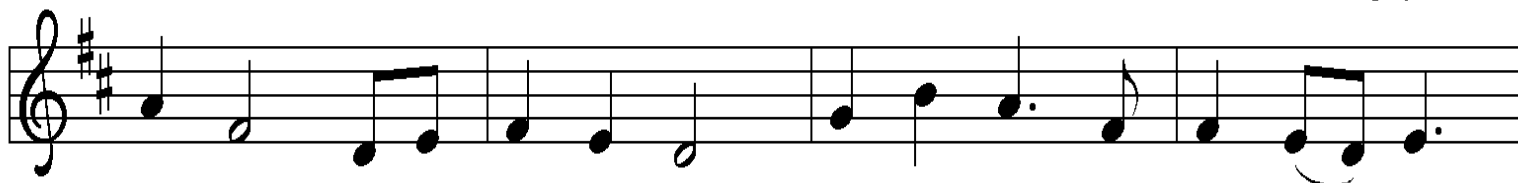
You may be Seated

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

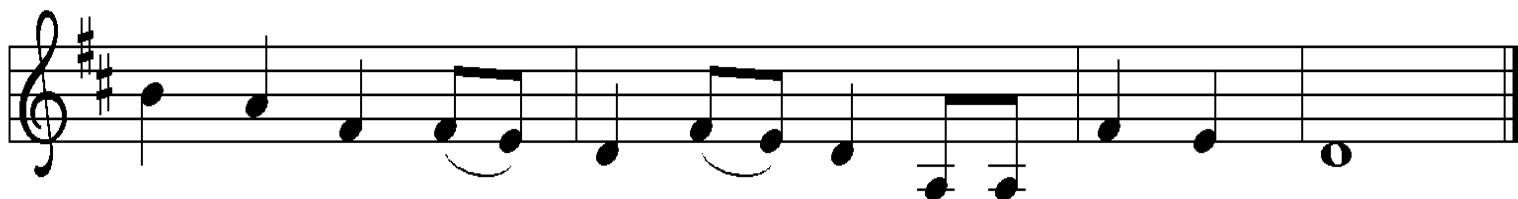
We Come to the Hungry Feast



1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.
2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased
3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,



To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay



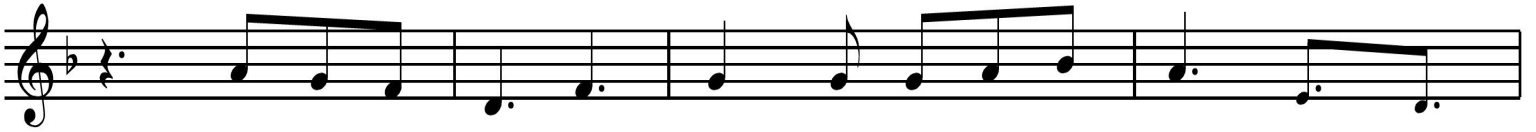
not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

Come And Behold Him

Words and Music by
John Chisum and George T. Searcy



1 Come and be - hold Him, come, see His glo - ry,
2 Come and be - hold Him, come, see His mer - cy,



come with an hon - est heart to see all He is;
come find His ten - der - ness_ reach - ing to you;



We will dis - cov - er all of His beau - ty, His light will
Just as a mir - ror shows a re - flec - tion, His Word and



burn a - way all the dark - ness we've known. _____
Spir - it come, now re - flect - ing His love. _____ Come and be -



hold _____ Him, come and be - hold _____ Him, come with an



hon - est heart to see all He is; Come and be -



hold _____ Him, wait now be - fore _____ Him, come with an



hon - est heart to see all He is. _____

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 un-lived in you blossom into a future graced with love.
In the name of the Father, the Son, ✝ and Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Closing Song

Freely Freely

Words and Music by
Carol Owens



1 God for - gave my sin in Je - sus'
2 All _____ pow'r is giv'n in Je - sus'



name, I've been born a - gain in
name, In _____ earth and heav'n in



Je - sus' name; And in Je - sus' name |
Je - sus' name; And in Je - sus' name |



come to you To share His
come to you to share His



love as He told me to: He said,
pow'r as He told me to: He said,



"Free - ly free - ly, you have re -



ceived. Free - ly, free - ly give; _____



— Go in My name and, be - cause you be -



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 [Alex Turcu](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Readings for next Sunday,
August 6th
Pentecost 10

First Reading:	1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm:	Psalm 119:129-136
Second Reading:	Romans 8:26-39
Gospel:	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Music licenses covered by these subscriptions

