

IN THIS HOUSE, WE BELIEVE  
BLACK LIVES MATTER  
WOMENS RIGHTS  
ARE HUMAN RIGHTS  
NO HUMAN IS ILLEGAL  
SCIENCE IS REAL  
LOVE IS LOVE  
KINDNESS  
IS EVERYTHING

*take up your cross  
and follow me.*

*September 3, 2023*

*14th 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 worshipping 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.**

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## Introduction

*The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.*

# Welcome to Worship

## Prayer of Confession

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

*P* Blessed be God,  
the one who forms us,  
✝ Jesus who bears the cross,  
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

**All Amen**

*P* Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

Steadfast and faithful God,

**All you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.  
We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.  
We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.  
For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.  
For the unjust demands we place on others  
and your creation, forgive us.  
For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.  
Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;  
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

**Amen.**

*P* Beloved in Christ,  
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.  
God's compassion is beyond compare.  
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.  
In ✝ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

**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* O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world.

**All** Humble us by his example,  
point us to the path of obedience,  
and give us strength to follow your commands,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

[You may be Seated](#)



## A Reading from Jeremiah, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter

*Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."*

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me,  
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;  
know that on your account I suffer insult.

<sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart;  
for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice;  
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,  
for you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed?  
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD:  
If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me.  
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,  
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them.

<sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze;  
they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you,  
for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD.

<sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,  
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

*Jeremiah 15:15-21*

*L* The word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God!**

## A Reading from Romans, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter

*Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflinching standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.*

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

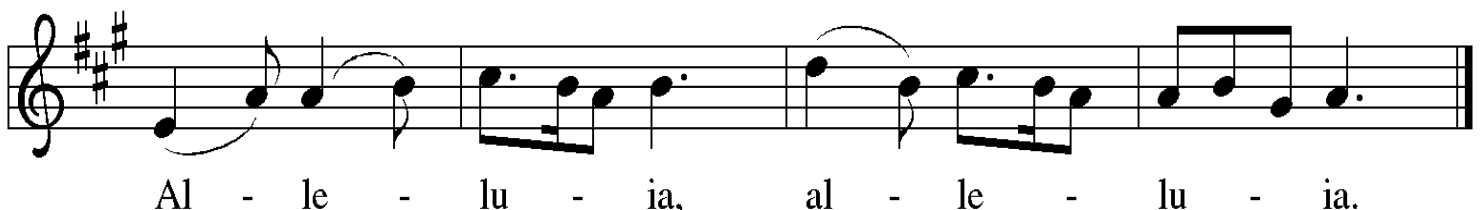
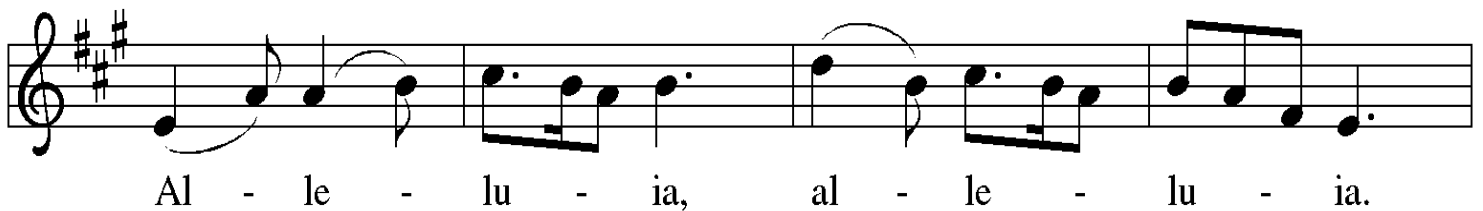
*Romans 12:9-21*

**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 16<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

*After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”*

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.”

<sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

<sup>27</sup>“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

*Matthew 16:21-28*

*P* The Gospel of our Lord.

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

[You may be Seated](#)

*P* Please pray with me...

O - pen our eyes, Lord, we want to see Je -  
 -sus, to reach out and touch Him, and  
 say that we love Him. O - pen our ears, Lord,  
 and help us to lis - ten, o - pen our  
 eyes, Lord, we want to see Je - sus.

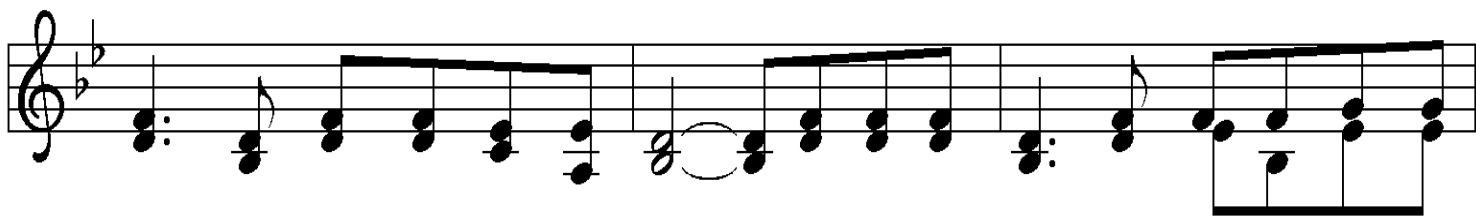
## Hymn of the Day

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

## How Great Thou Art

- 1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er
- 2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
- 3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
- 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me





all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y  
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun-tain  
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly  
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through-out the u - ni - verse dis - played;  
gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;  
bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;  
ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

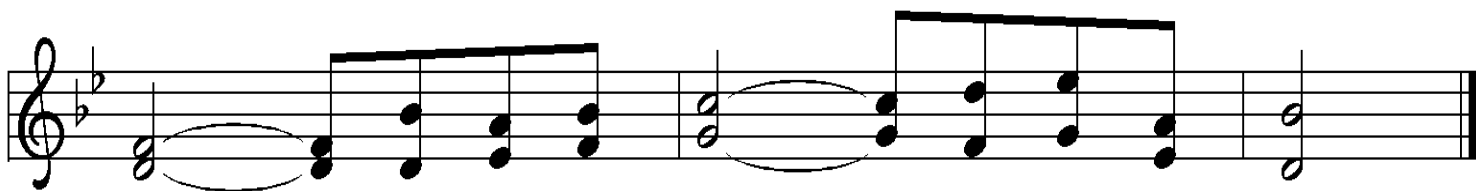
*Refrain*



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989

Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine

Text and arr. © 1953 S.K. Hine, assigned to Manna Music, Inc., 35255 Brooten Road, Pacific City, OR 97135 (ASCAP).

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## 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.**

[\*You may be Seated\*](#)

## Prayers of Intercession

*L* Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.



O Lord, hear our prayer we of-fer up to you; O Lord, hear our prayer.

(each prayer petition ends with)

*L:* Merciful God,     **All:** receive our prayer.

## Passing of the Peace

*P* Christ become peace with you.

**All** And also with you.

## Offering

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* Let us pray:

God of field and forest, sea and sky,  
you are the giver of all good things.

**All** Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,  
and multiply your graciousness in us,  
that we would feed and fill the world with your love,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
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* And with our hearts and voices raised we remember...



**(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* 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 and live..

[You may be Seated](#)

shed for you and  
for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin



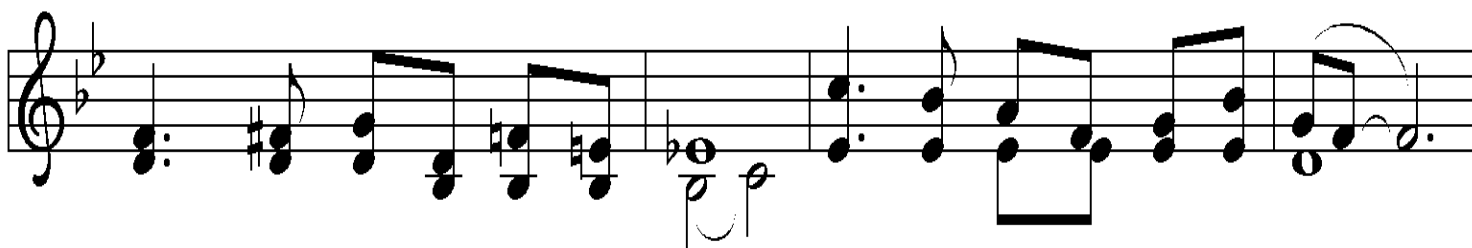
**All are Welcome!**

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

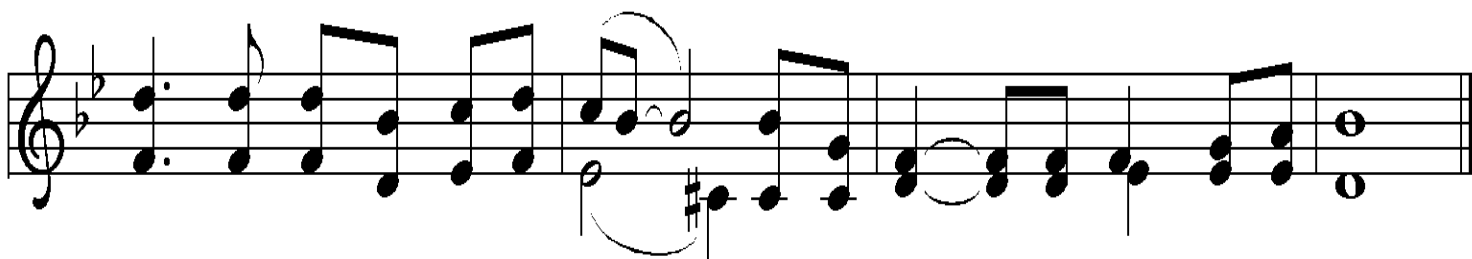
*Gluten Free wafers available –ask the communion attendant*

## Communion Songs

### Just a Closer Walk with Thee



*Refrain* Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it, Je - sus, is my plea;  
1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;  
2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?  
3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



dai - ly walk - ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.  
I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Ref.*  
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Ref.*  
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore. *Ref.*

Text: North American traditional

Music: CLOSER WALK, North American traditional

# God Is So Good

1 God is so good, God is so good.

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

God is so good, he's so good to me.

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It ends with a double bar line.

2. He cares for me...

3. He loves me so...

4. I'll praise his name...

## 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* The God of glory, ✝ Jesus Christ, name above all names,  
and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

**All** Amen.

# Closing Song

## They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

Words and Music by  
Peter Scholtes



1 We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord; We are  
2 We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand; We will  
3 We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side; We will  
4 All \_\_\_ praise to the Fa - ther, from \_\_\_ whom all things come; And all



one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord. And we  
walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand. And to -  
work with each oth - er, we will work side by side. And we'll  
praise to Christ Je - sus, His \_\_\_ on - ly \_\_\_ Son. And all



pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored. And they'll  
geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land. And they'll  
guard each man's dig - ni - ty and save \_\_\_ each man's pride. And they'll  
praise to the Spir - it, who \_\_\_ makes \_\_\_ us \_\_\_ one. And they'll



know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love, yes they'll



know \_\_\_ we are Chris - tians by our love. \_\_\_\_\_

# Dismissal

*P* Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

*Romans 12:12*

Go in peace. God is at work in us.

**All Thanks be to God.**



Readings for next Sunday,  
September 10<sup>th</sup>  
Pentecost 15  
God's Work Our Hands

First Reading:	Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalm:	Psalm 119:33-40
Second Reading:	Romans 13:8-14
Gospel:	Matthew 18:15-20

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**Front Cover:**

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