



October 1, 2023
18th Sunday after Pentecost



Ascension Lutheran Church

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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.**

Introduction

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy 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.

Greeting

P The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings.

All Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

[You may be Seated](#)

A Reading from Ezekiel, the 18th chapter

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.”

O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

L The word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God!

A Reading from Philippians, the 2nd chapter

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name
that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Philippians 2:1-13

L The word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff continues the melody and lyrics.

Gospel Reading

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we

say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'

²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

Matthew 21:23-32

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.

Sermon

Pr. Gordon Young

Hymn of the Day

Please stand in body or spirit.

Jesus Lover of My Soul

Leader

It's all about You, Jesus,
 And all this is for You, for Your glory and Your fame.
 It's not about me, as if You should do thing my way;
 You alone are God, and I surrender to Your ways...

All

Je - sus, lov-er of my soul, all con-sum - ing fire -
 is in Your gaze. Je - sus,
 I want You to know I will fol - low You all my days.
 For no one else in his - to - ry is like You,

and his - to - ry it - self be - longs to You.

Al - pha and O - me - ga, You have loved me, and

I will share e - ter - ni - ty with You.

It's all a - bout You, Je - sus,

and all this is for You, for Your glo - ry and Your fame.

It's not a - bout me, as if You should do things my

way; You a - lone are God, and I sur - ren -

- der to Your ways. Fine

(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

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

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



All are Welcome!

Communion Songs

Here Is Bread Here Is Wine

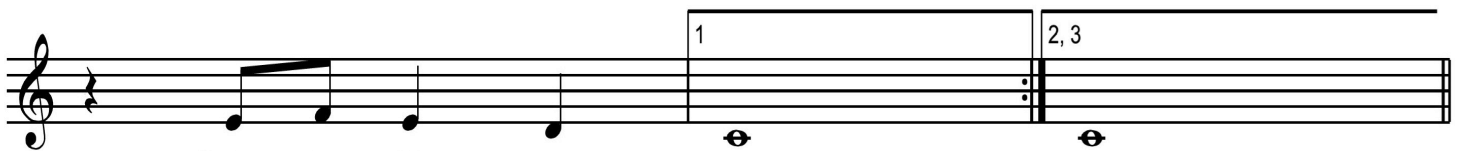
Words and Music by
 Graham Kendrick



1 Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us,
 2 Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us,
 3 Here we are, joined in One, Christ is with us,



He is with us. Break the bread, drink the wine,
 He is with us. Know His grace, find His peace,
 He is with us. We'll pro - claim, 'til He comes,



Christ is with us here. here.
 feast on Je - sus here.
 Je - sus cru - ci - fied.



In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is life for ev - er.



In this mo - ment, by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here.

He Is Lord



He is Lord, he is Lord, he is ris-en from the dead and he is Lord;



ev-'ry knee shall bow, ev-'ry tongue con-fess that Je - sus Christ is Lord.

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 & Sending

Please stand in body or spirit.

(Leaders sing each line, the congregation repeats.)

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make His face to shine on you.
And be gracious to you.

May the Lord lift His countenance on you.
May the Lord lift His countenance on you.
May He keep you in perfect peace.

Dismissal

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

Go in peace. God is at work in us.

All Thanks be to God.

Romans 12:12

I FIND LOOKING
OUT FOR THE
NEEDS OF
OTHERS TO BE
HARD WORK.



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

REALLY?



WHAT DO YOU FIND
THAT'S DIFFICULT
ABOUT IT?



**HOPING THAT
THEY'LL LOOK OUT
FOR MINE!**



PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

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Readings for next Sunday,
October 8th
Pentecost 19

First Reading:

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm:

Psalm 80:7-15

Second Reading:

Philippians 3:4b-14

Gospel:

Matthew 21:33-46

Music licenses covered by these subscriptions

