

Daring to Dance Again



April 28, 2024

From You Come My Praise



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

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

Guide My Steps

Welcome to Worship

P We are a resurrection people! Those who seek new life – new beginnings. And we, the church, must be a place of knowing and growing and accepting love.

We hear today the question asked by the Ethiopian eunuch:

“Here is water. What is to keep me from being baptized?”

As we dance into diversity and acceptance, may the Spirit guide our steps for nothing is keeping us from it!



Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song. Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.



Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long. Dare to dance a-gain.

P Dancing requires that we pay attention to the steps, that we watch for the steps of those who have danced this dance of life before – those whose seeking and questioning and dreaming can lead us to seek and hope and dream.

Imagine now a dreamer in whose steps you would like to follow.

How did they choreograph their dance of life?

Now, imagine yourself following their steps with courage and joy!

**♪ ♪ Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song. ♪ ♪
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long.
Dare to dance again.**

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand in body or spirit.

P Open yourselves to the grace of Jesus Christ that is always and already available here at this table.

Pray for those who have no earthly tables,
or no place at a table, and so little daily bread.

All We confess this day that we have been slow to join the dance that brings life to all, brings love to all, brings sustenance to all. In silence, let us lift up our prayers of confession...

P Hear this good news!

God has loved you from the very beginning.

The invitation of Christ is never-ending
because resurrection can happen at any moment.

The Holy Spirit is transforming you even now!

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**All In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Glory to God! Amen!**

Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart, _____ teach me to move

in the power of your Spir - it, teach me to [move] in the light of your pre -

- sence, teach me to dance to the beat of your heart. _____

Prayer for this Day

P Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation –

All Open us to learn new steps of faithfulness.

Give us courage and patience.

**Come and dance with us, engage with us, as we seek you –
so that we can be risen with Christ and in Christ.**

Be with us now, we pray. Amen.

You may be Seated

A Reading from Acts the 8th chapter

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Acts 8:26-40

L The Word of the Lord,

All Thanks be to God!

A Reading from 1 John the 4th chapter

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

1 John 4:7-21

L The Word of the Lord,
All Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit.

Teach me to love with your heart of com- pas - sion, teach me to trust
 in the word of your pro - mise, teach me to hope in the day of your com -
 - ing, teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.____

Gospel Reading

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.

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

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

John 15:1-8

P The Gospel of our Lord.

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

[You may be Seated](#)

Sermon

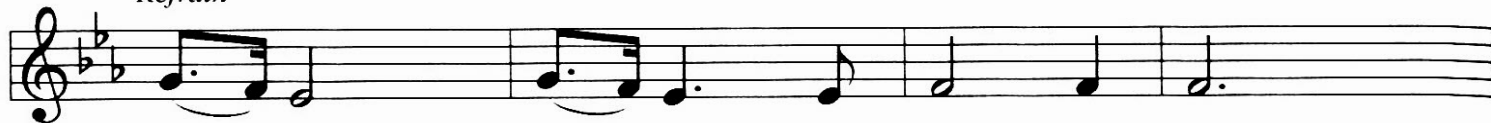
Pr. Gordon Young

Hymn of the Day

Please stand in body or spirit.

Lead Me, Guide Me

Refrain



Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;



for if you lead me, I can - not stray.



Lord, let me walk each day with thee.



Lead me, O Lord, lead me.



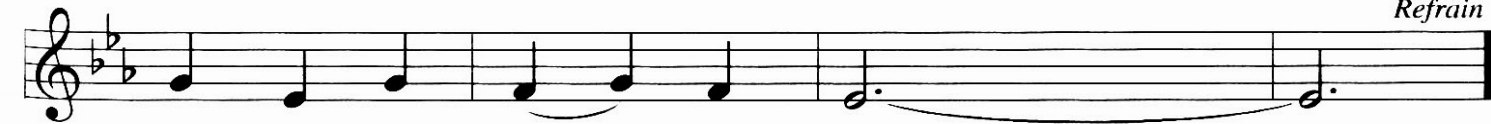
1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,
3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,



to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.
be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.
I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.



Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.
I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.
Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.



Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Refrain

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 The People

You may be Seated

WA Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.



in a life res - ur - rec - ted, teach me to act with com - pas - sion and jus -
 - tice, teach me to dance with the beat of your heart.____

(each prayer petition ends with)

WA: God of grace,

All: You hear our prayer.

Passing of the Peace

Please stand in body or spirit.

P Christ become peace with you.

All And also with you.

Offertory

You may be Seated

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
 give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
 Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
 give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
 And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am

rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. And
 now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
 rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Offertory Prayer

P Jesus called his disciples "witnesses" to the possibility of resurrection.

All The world is in need of continued resurrection to new life.

We are called to be witnesses to this journey to newness by offering our resources and our energy to the work of justice and love through our offering today and every day. Amen.

Holy Communion

1. In re - mem - brance of Me, eat this bread. In re -
 mem - brance of Me, drink this wine. In re - mem - brance of Me, pray for the
 time when God's own will is done.

P Holy Living One,
 You transformed a whole lot of nothing into this amazing creation.
 You breathed life all around and called it good.

P You invited us to the wonder of it all
and when we could not face you, you turned us around.

You keep bringing us around and around, time and again,
offering the chance to join the freedom-dance.

Jesus sat at tables with those who had no place
and offered fulfilling food for bodies and souls.
And on the night when he would give all love for us,
he sat at the table with extended family—
just as he hosts this table here and now with this extended family.

He offered the usual prayers of thanks to you, God,
over bread and cup, and then disrupted the gathering with
uncustomary words:

“Take and eat this bread—it is my body given for you.
Whenever you gather around the table together, remember me.”

“Take and drink from this cup, each and every one—
it is the sign of a new covenant,
(for business-as-usual is over and done and the resurrection dance goes on).

This love is poured out for all people.
Whenever you gather around the table together, remember me.”

2. In re - mem - brance of Me, heal the sick. In re -
mem - brance of Me, feed the poor. In re - mem - brance of Me, o - pen the
door and let your broth - er in, let him in.

The Lord's Prayer

Please stand in body or spirit.

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.

Take, eat, and be com - fort - ed, drink and re -
mem - ber, too, that this is My bod - y and pre - cious blood shed for
you, shed for you. 3. In re - mem - brance of Me, search for truth.
In re - mem - brance of Me, al - ways love. In re - mem - brance of Me
don't look a - bove, but in your heart, look in your heart for
God. Do this in re - mem - brance of Me. _____

The Invitation

P Jesus Christ, risen from the dead,
offers everyone a place of welcome at His table of grace.
Come to the feast.

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

Bread of Life from Heaven

Refrain



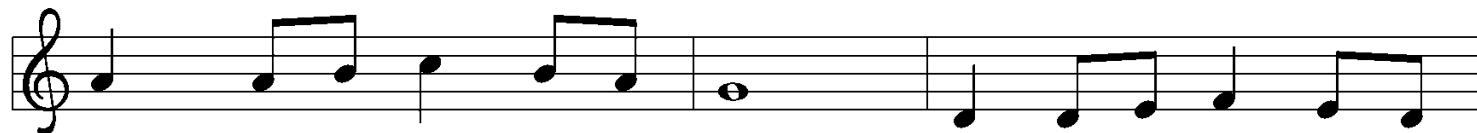
Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we



eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



1 Break now the bread of Christ's sac - ri - fice; giv - ing
3 Love as the one who, in love for you, gave him -
5 Drink of this cup and de - clare his death; eat this



thanks, hun - gry ones, gath - er round. Eat, all of you, and be
self for the life of the world. Come to the one who is
bread and be - lieve Eas - ter morn; trust his re - turn and, with

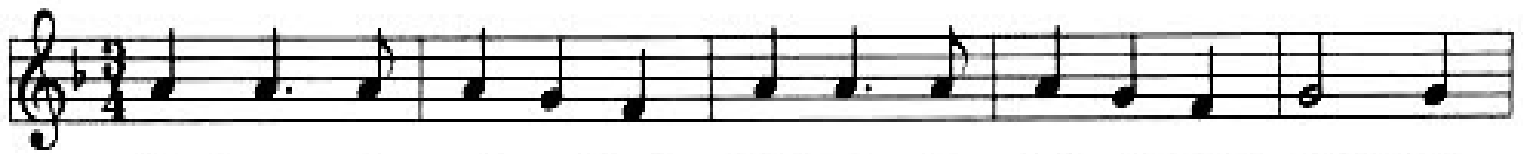
Refrain



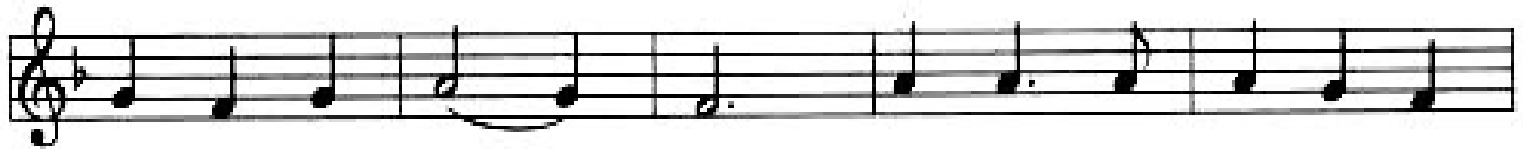
sat - is - fied; in Christ's pres - ence the loaves will a - bound.
food for you, that your hun - ger and thirst be no more.
ev - 'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are re - born.

Refrain

Bind us together



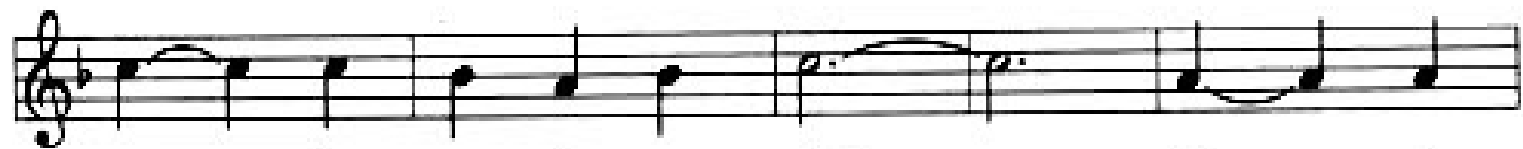
Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that



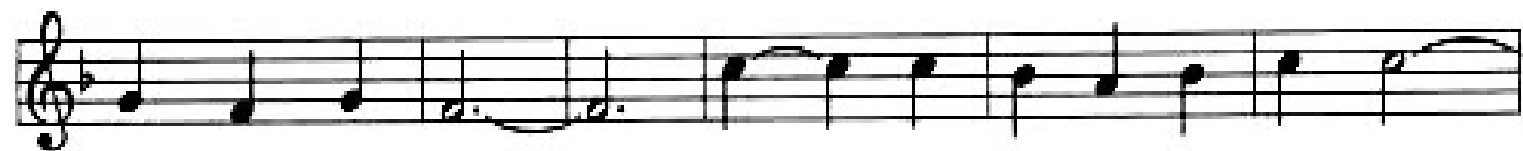
can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,



bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er in love.

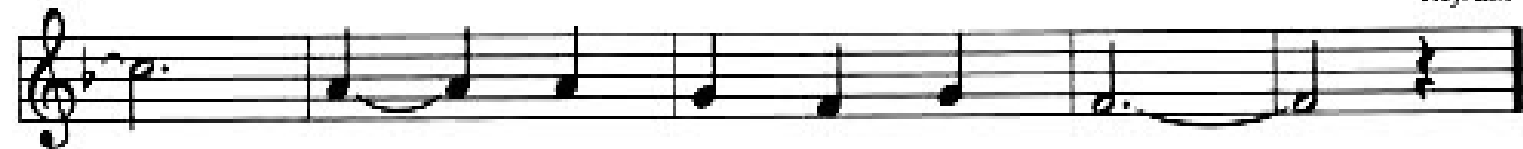


1 There is on - ly one God. There is
2 You are the fam - 'ly of God. You are the



on - ly one King. There is on - ly one Bod - y;
prom - ise di - vine. You are God's cho - sen de - sire, . . .

Refrain



that is why we can sing:
you are the glo - rious new wine.

Text and music: Bob Gillman

Text and music © 1977 Kingsway's Thankyou Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

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 Let us pray,
Generous God,

**All The table extends beyond this physical space
and into the space of the Spirit that unites us.
May the meal we have received ready us to
love, trust, hope, and dance
to the beat of God's heart. Amen**

You may be Seated

Stewardship of Life & Ministry Announcements

Benediction

Please stand in body or spirit.

P We have heard the risen Jesus speak peace
and offer us hope through his very body.
We have danced with dreamers past and present.
Send us forth now, O God, ✝
to live in the freedom of the peace that you still speak to us,
making our steps more sure each and every day.

All Amen.

Sending Song

God Is Good All The Time Words and Music by Don Moen & Paul Overstreet

CHORUS



God is good all the time, — He put a song — of praise — in this



heart of mine; — God is good all the time, — through the dark - est night — His

Last time to Coda \oplus



light will shine. — God is good, God is good all the time. —

VERSE

1, 2.



1. If you're walk - in' — through the val - ley, — and there are
2. We were sin - ners, — so un - wor - thy, — still for



shad - ows all a - round; — Do not fear, He will guide you, — He will
us He chose to die, — filled us with His Ho - ly Spir - it, — now we can



keep you safe and sound. 'Cause He — has prom - ised to nev - er leave -
stand and tes - ti - fy that — His love — is ev - er - last -

— you — not for - sake you, — and His Word is true. God is — Though I
 - ing — and His mer - cies — they will nev - er end.

BRIDGE

may not un - der-stand — all the plans You have for — me; My

D.S. al Coda

life is in Your hands, and, through the eyes of faith I can clear - ly see. — God is

ENDING Coda \oplus

good, He's so good, God is good, He's — so good God — is

good, He's so good all the time. —

Dismissal

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

WA Go in peace. Live in love, as Christ loved us.

All Thanks be to God.



Readings for next Sunday,
May 5th

First Reading:	Acts 10:44-48
Psalm:	Psalm 98
Second Reading:	1 John 5:1-6
Gospel:	John 15:9-17

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