

Daring to Dance Again



May 12, 2024

Gone Up with a Shout



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

In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples are told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

Clap Your Hands

Welcome to Worship

P As Jesus prepares to leave the disciples, he opens their minds and blesses them.

The result after he ascends is their return to Jerusalem with great joy and a desire for continually worshiping and blessing God in the temple.

What happens when the “eyes of OUR hearts are enlightened?”

We know the hope that we have been called to.

As we wait for the Spirit with hope, we celebrate with abandon because we have no other ruler than the One who reigns with love and justice.



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 changes us: it transforms us and brings us to life, awakens our senses. Imagine the dreams and the heartbeat and the life stirring in Jesus and his disciples as he readied them for this next chapter of ministry.

**♪ ♪ 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 Help us to put on our dancing shoes

so that we can be the hands and feet of Jesus.

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 1st chapter

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world, and that the disciples will be accompanied and empowered by the Holy Spirit. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

[Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing

up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Acts 1:1-11

L The Word of the Lord,

All Thanks be to God!

A Reading from Ephesians the 1st chapter

The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 1:15-23

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. Luke, the 24th chapter.

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

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

⁴⁴[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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.

Exalted

Words and Music by
Chris Tomlin and Jesse Reeves

Ex - alt - ed, He is ex - alt - ed. On high, He is ex - alt - ed. For great is the Lord; Let all the na - tions say, ex - alt - ed, He is ex - alt - ed. Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and pow - er; Un - to the Lord, be praise. Sing with the cho - rus re - sound - ing be - fore us, ho -

ly is___ His name!___ His name!___ Ex-alt -

ly is___ His name!___ ex-alt - ed, He is ex - alt - ed. ___

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.**

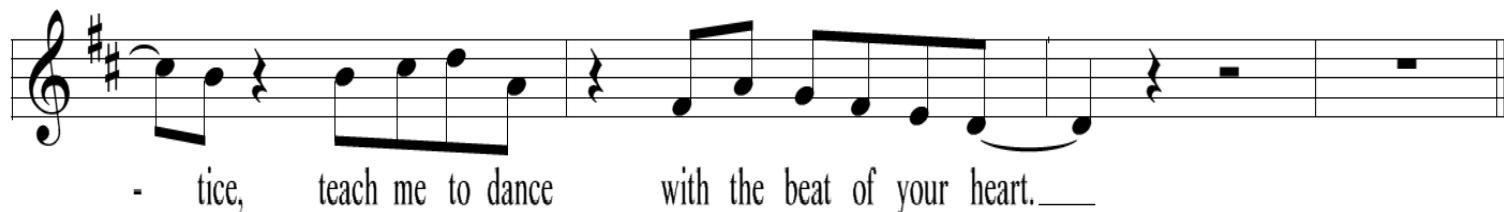
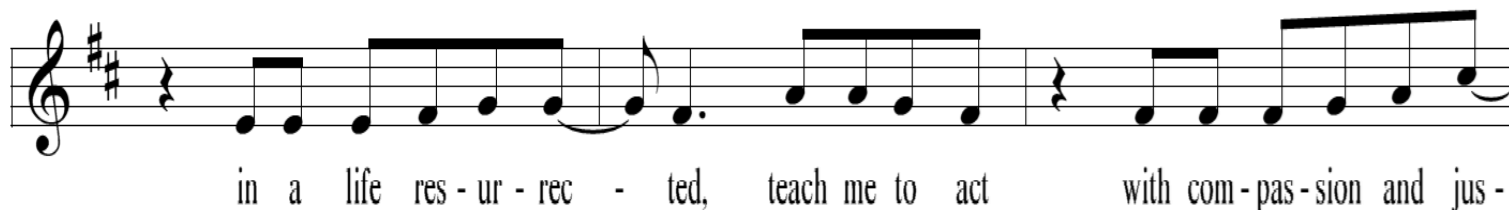
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of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

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.



(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.



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.

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.”

P

“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.

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

Beautiful Savior

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in the flow'rs of spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing joy, my crown.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Blessing, honor, and glory



Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry to the Lamb.



Ho - ly, righ - teous, wor - thy is the Lamb.



Death could not hold him down, for he is ris - en!



Seat-ed up - on the throne, he is the Lamb of God!



God! Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry to the Lamb.



Ho - ly, righ - teous, wor - thy is the Lamb of God.

I Love You Lord

Words and Music by
Laurie Klein



I love You, Lord, _____ and I lift my voice _____ to



wor - ship You, O my soul, re - joice! Take



joy, my King, _____ in _____ what You hear: _____ May it be a



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 The poet Rumi invites us with these words...

“Dance, when you're broken open.
Dance, if you've torn the bandage off.
Dance in the middle of the fighting.
Dance in your blood.
Dance, when you're perfectly free.”

May it be so as we go in peace.

And may the Loving God, Risen Christ, ✝ and Dancing Spirit
fill you with all you need for the days ahead.

All Amen.

Sending Song

Great is the Lord



Great is the Lord, he is ho - ly and just, by his



pow - er we trust in his love. Great is the Lord, he is



faith - ful and true, by his mer - cy he proves he is



love. Great is the Lord, and wor - thy of glo - ry.



Great is the Lord, and wor - thy of praise. Great is the Lord, now



lift up your voice, now lift up your voice: Great is the



Lord! Great is the Lord!

Dismissal

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

WA Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



Readings for next Sunday,
May 19th
Day of Pentecost

First Reading:

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm:

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Second Reading:

Romans 8:22-27

Gospel:

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Front Cover:

Ascension at Malahide

By Robert Shaw

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