



July 21, 2024

9th 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 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

Friends, we are about to embark on a journey in the next four weeks. It is a journey *about* journeying, about traveling as a spiritual act.

Whether you travel far away or simply begin to see our local surroundings as if for the first time, "pilgrimage" has long been a spiritual practice, and "journey" a deeply-felt metaphor for our spiritual lives. "

Quest" comes from the Latin root meaning "ask" and "seek." This four week worship series will encourage us to open ourselves more fully to the curiosity and wonder, reflection and transformation that travelers—not merely tourists—experience when we choose to immerse ourselves in soul-widening adventures.

Leaving Home

Welcome to Worship



Lea - ving home, we set our see - ing,
on a quest for dee - per mea - ning.
What we find can change us for the love of
all the cre - a - tion and its be - ings.

(Repeat as led)

P Today we will hear the scripture from Exodus when the Hebrew people left Egypt on a very long journey.

Leaving Egypt was not a pleasure excursion for them.

But the story of their pilgrimage in the desert in the Book of Exodus reminds us that traveling, moving, leaving home, is part of our Judeo-Christian tradition. Each of us finds ourselves sometime in life needing to leave the familiar in order to grow and to thrive.

Beginning a journey involves leaving “home”—whether that is a physical place in order to explore another part of the world, or changing a mindset that is keeping us from expanding our spiritual capacity. Our question for today is this:

“What must we do to embark into the unknown?”

♪ ♪ *Leaving home, we set our seeing, ♪ ♪
on a quest for deeper meaning.
What we find can change us for the love of all
the creation and its beings.*

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand in body or spirit.

P The water of this blue planet connects us all, no matter where we live on earth. Water is life. All beings need life-giving water. We know this water to also be a sign of our faith. It is the water that the Israelites crossed in order to move toward freedom. It is the water that we encounter in our baptism that moves us forward into discipleship with Christ. Let us pray:

***All* Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole hearts
and have not loved our neighbors as ourselves,
through what we have done and left undone.
Forgive us when we turn away.
Guide us as we seek to turn around toward greater love.
Lead us to travel in your ways. Amen.**

P Know this:
At the moment of despair and unknowing,
Jesus appeared to the disciples on the road.
He is our constant companion
and invites us always to break open our lives and share,
traveling together toward the Kin-dom of Love.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

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

Far from home, we know we're see - ing,
 ev - ery - where is full of mea - ning;
 diff' - rent folx ex - pand our world and awe of
 all the cre - a - tion and its be - ings.

Prayer for This Day

P Sojourning God,
 your Spirit exists everywhere, on every path,
 inviting us to move with curiosity and compassion toward each other.

**All Give us courage to leave the familiar,
 to venture out beyond our walls,
 taking leave so that we will see with wider vision,
 know with deeper appreciation,
 exist with expanded perception.
 Nudge and guide us, we pray. Amen.**

[You may be Seated](#)

A Reading from Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills — from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.

L The Word of the Lord,

All Thanks be to God!

1 Ho - ly words long pre - served for our
walk in this world; They re - sound with God's own
heart, O, let the an - cient words im - part;
Words of life, words of hope, give us strength,
help us cope; In this world wher - e'er we

roam, an - cient words will guide us home. An - cient
 words, ev - er true, chang - ing me, chang - ing
 you; We have come with o - pen hearts, O let the
 an - cient words im - part.
 O let the an - cient words im - part.

A Reading from Exodus the 13th chapter

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was nearer; for God thought, "If the people face war, they may change their minds and return to Egypt." So God led the people by the roundabout way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of the land of Egypt prepared for battle. And Moses took with him the bones of Joseph who had required a solemn oath of the Israelites, saying, "God will surely take notice of you, and then you must carry my bones with you from here." They set out from Succoth, and camped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. The Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night.

Exodus 13: 17-21

L The Word of the Lord,

All Thanks be to God!

Hymn of the Day

Please stand in body or spirit.

Bring Forth the Kingdom



1 You are salt for the earth, O peo - ple: salt for the king - dom of God!
 2 You are a light on the hill, O peo - ple: light for the cit - y of God!
 3 You are a seed of the word, O peo - ple: bring forth the king - dom of God!
 4 We are a blest and a pil - grim peo - ple: bound for the king - dom of God!



Share the fla - vor of life, O peo - ple: life in the king - dom of God!
 Shine so ho - ly and bright, O peo - ple: shine for the king - dom of God!
 Seeds of mer - cy and seeds of jus - tice, grow in the king - dom of God!
 Love our jour - ney and love our home - land: love is the king - dom of God!



Bring forth the king - dom of mer - cy, bring forth the



king - dom of peace; bring forth the king - dom of jus - tice,



bring forth the cit - y of God!

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 One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.



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)

WA: Lord, In your mercy,

All: You hear our prayer.

Passing of the Peace

P Jesus Christ become peace with you.

All And also with you.

Offertory



Com - ing home, we set our see - ing



to hold on - to dee - per mea - ning;



lov - ing life and mak - ing home a place for

all the cre - a - tion and its be - ings.

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.

Holy Communion

I want Je - sus to walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me;

all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

P The Holy Living God 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.

♪ ♪ When I'm singin', Lord walk with me ♪ ♪
When I'm singin', Lord walk with me
When I'm praisin' all of God's goodness
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

P God of Grace,
It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you.
Your delight filled the skies and land
with colors beyond the spectrum of our knowing.
Your playful creating offered up humankind
with such diversity that we cannot comprehend it.
Your breath left waters frothy and lungs exploding
with the power of life and prophetic utterances.

All And yet we back away from such promise,
unable to claim your love as ours.
But here you are to meet us—speak to us—once again,

P always faithful, always present
in this Body [\[the table\]](#)... in this Body [\[the people\]](#).

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.

And so...

We remember...

We offer ourselves...

We claim a new freedom in this truth.

I invite you to raise your hands in the ancient Christian posture of prayer...

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the vision of your Reign realized,
so that we may be for the world your dream come true.

By your Spirit open us to each other and to the world,
making us one in You, through Christ,
in the power of Your redeeming Grace!

♪ ♪ When I'm lovin', Lord walk with me ♪ ♪
When I'm lovin', Lord walk with me
When I'm caring for all God's children
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

The Lord's Prayer

Please stand in body or spirit.

P God in Community, Holy and One,
we lift our prayers to you, saying ...

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 Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come!

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

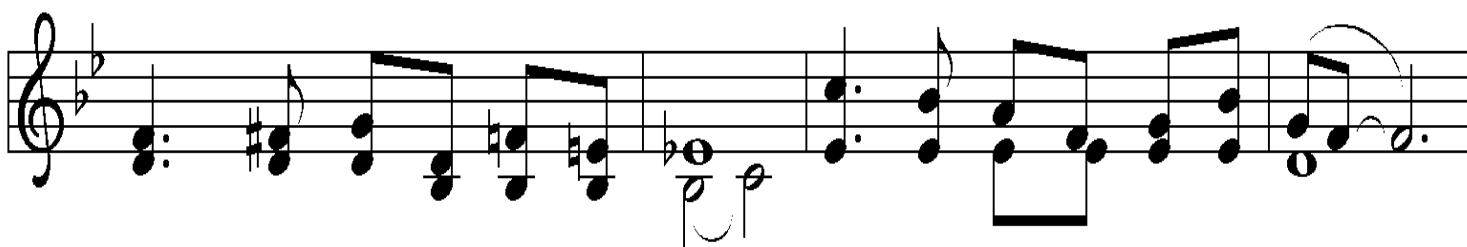
shed for you and
for all people
for the forgiveness of sin



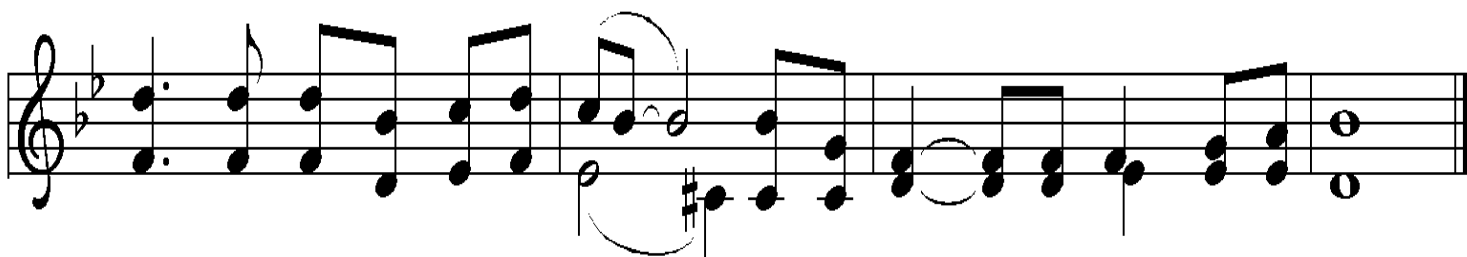
All are Welcome!

Communion Songs

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

I Lift My Eyes Up Words and Music by
Brian Doerksen



I lift my eyes up to the moun-tains. Where does my help come from?



My help comes from You, mak-er of heav - en, cre - a - tor of the earth.



Oh, how I need You, Lord. You are my on - ly hope. You're my on - ly



pray'r. So I will wait for You to come and res - cue me.



1. Come and give me life. 2. life. Oh, how I need You, Lord.
So I will wait for You



You are my on - ly hope. You're my on - ly pray'r.
to come and res - cue me. Come and give me life.

Glorify Thy Name Words and Music by
Donna Adkins



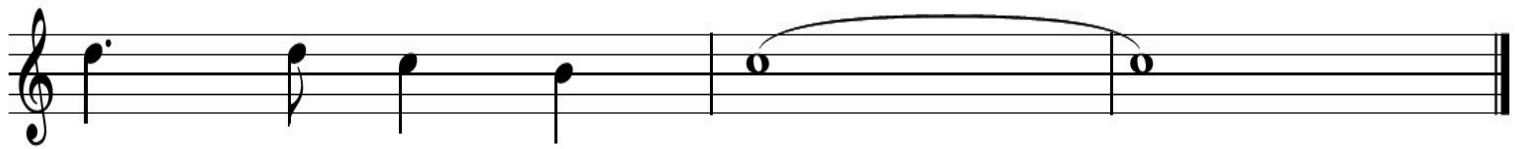
1. Fa - ther, we love You, we wor - ship and a - dore You, glo - ri - fy Thy
2. Je - sus, we love You, we wor - ship and a - dore You,
3. Spir - it, we love You, we wor - ship and a - dore You,



name in all the earth. _____ Glo - ri - fy Thy name,



glo - ri - fy Thy name, glo - ri - fy Thy



name in all the earth. _____

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 Jesus, Bread of life,

**All we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.**

As you have nourished us in this meal,

now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.

In your name we pray.

Amen.

You may be Seated

Stewardship of Life & Ministry

Announcements

Benediction

P As you step out of this door, and any other door, this week,
may you be aware of your very movement as a spiritual act
of expanding your horizon,
traveling beyond your preconceptions,
and embracing the infinite delight of this earth and its beings.

And may the Creator continue your unfolding,
the Christ accompany your deeper knowing,
the ✚ Spirit enliven your growing,
until one day we all gather in the Kin-dom of Love.

All Amen.

Sending Song

AS YOU GO ON YOUR WAY
John Ylvisaker



As you go on your way may Christ go with you. May he go be-



fore you to show you the way; May he go be- hind you to en-

cour- age you; Be- side you to be- friend you; A- bove you to watch
o- ver; With- in you to give you peace.

Dismissal

WA In all your travels,...remember...
We are the walking feet of Jesus.

All Thanks be to God!

Front Cover:

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Readings for next Sunday,
July 28th
Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading:

Psalm 146

Second Reading:

John 4: 7-40

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for widening our perspectives and
loving our neighbors

QUEST



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