



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 worshiping community, these differences become celebrations of diversity. **Children are always welcome in worship services; however please know a nursery space and cry room are available for parents who need to tend to their little ones.**

Introduction

Our world seems to be consumed with division—often typified in the colors red and blue. Rather than stay in

our monochromatic silos, the Golden Rule in scripture challenges us to engage in conversation and seek to create whatever common good we can with our relatives, friends, and neighbors who we might consider to be on the "other side" politically and ideologically.

As we attempt to come together, the idea is not that we are obliterating either one or trying to change each other, but rather we discover the beauty that can be created when we work together to make the world a better place.

The "purple space" is where we cultivate kindness, compassion, humility, respect, and love for one another and for the good of all the world, no matter what.

Living Together on Uncommon Ground: Respect

P This week, we consider what it means to respect each other, irrespective of our differences.

"R.E.S.P.E.C.T., find out what it means to me," so sang Aretha Franklin. And she convinced us that it means a lot. Sometimes we think having respect means to agree or be the same.

But that is not actually the depth of what respect is about. It comes from the Latin *respectus* which means "the act of looking at one often, to consider, to observe."

We are called to respect by tending to one another–regarding each other, considering each other–early and often. The reality is that common ground is sometimes not possible.

As so as we live on uncommon ground, what can we do to keep tending to one another as "kin" worthy of respect despite our differences?



P The act of simply coming together is "revolutionary," which in its earliest form meant "finding a course around a central point." We gather around the Light of Christ as the center and guiding light of our lives. This becomes our point of reference for our relationships and our love in the world. This is our "respect revolution." J We're accepted as we are, J
 We're accepted as we are.
 Through God's love all is reconciled, We're accepted as we are.

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand in body or spirit.

- P For all the ways we colonize each other—
 with expectations, beliefs, judgments, and our own fear...
- All God, in your mercy, forgive and transform.
- WA For all the ways we squander right relationshipchoosing being "right" over "relationship"...
- All God, in your mercy, forgive and transform.
- P For all the ways we deny equality and the belovedness of alldeeming some "in" and others "out..."
- All God, in your mercy, forgive and transform.
- WA Jesus said, "I have come to set the prisoner free."
 No matter what binds you this day, freedom is yours through new life in Christ.
 - In the name of him who came to loose the chains, we are forgiven.
- All In the name + of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, set free. Glory to God! Amen!
 - Cast aside your doubts and fears. Cast aside your doubts and fears. Peace and love freely offered here; Cast aside your doubts and fears.



P God of All of Us,

we ask you to hover close,

for we are a divided world,

and we are not sure how to regard one another in this moment.

All Bind us as your beloveds, and invite us to "do unto others" in ways that build up your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Center That Holds, and in the power of the Spirit That Transforms. Amen. You may be Seated



In studying scripture each week, we consider the ways that our spiritual ancestors dealt with their own time of division. Together, we find ways to tell deeply good news for all people in our day by filtering our interactions through the lens of respect. Today's scripture describes how dependent we are on one another, that we all have a part to play, and the reality is that humanity was created to help one another. What we put into the world is part of the ongoing creation of the world. Will we respect our dependence upon one another, especially the kind that we are to know as Christians connected as the Body of Christ?

¹Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another

gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

1 Corinthians 12:1-26

P The word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.



- *P* The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 4th chapter.
- All Glory to you, O Lord.

Today we travel to the opening scene in the ministry of Jesus. It is Jesus' manifesto for the work ahead. Our passage opens with Jesus returning in the power of the Spirit to Galilee from the wilderness (Luke 4:1-13) where he had overcome temptation. When he returns, a report is heard about him throughout the region, and he travels around teaching in the synagogues.

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Luke 4:14-21

P The Gospel of our Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be Seated

Each week our congregation is led by children to collect pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters. Through this offering, we are reminded that together, the smallest of offerings can change lives and make "hope" tangible.
In recent years, our Noisy Offering has fed 10 children for an entire year through Food for the Poor. The Noisy Offering has helped families by providing: 4 goats; two hens; 12 chicks; 2 piglets; mosquito netting; honeybees and a vegetable garden. You've provided a Farmer's Field School, three fruit tree seedlings, seeds, and gardening tools.

We can't wait to see how the children will choose to share next!



Please stand in body or spirit.





Let us join together with the saints across the ages confessing our faith Ρ 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, 9

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

WA We come to prayer today as those who lament that common ground is not easily found.

We come together in this moment to honor each person's attempt at making sense of sometimes senseless circumstances.

And so we pray together the prayers of the people,

for when there is suffering or joy,

we all are part of the Body that experiences it.

"The hurt of one is the hurt of all. The honor of one is the honor of all."

Swil Kanim



(each prayer petition ends with) WA: God of respect All: You hear our prayer. Where true char - i - tvand love bide, a dwell - ing God is dwell-ing God there; is there. Passing of the Peace Jesus Christ become peace with you. Ρ

All And also with you.





- P Let us pray: Blessed are you, O God,
- All source of every gift of your creation.
 By these gifts we bring and with our lives,
 help us to serve one another and all in need,
 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 Holy are you and blessed is your son, Jesus.
 To those who were imprisoned by status, law, illness, poverty, gender, age, and disease, he said, "your belief has set you free. You are a child of God." He invited disciples, friends, and strangers alike to his tables.
 - 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.

Holy Spirit, transform this meal and transform this body so that we might be free to love without condition, invite without hesitation,

invite without resonation,

go without reservation,

and proclaim your Kindness to all the world!

All Amen



- 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.



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



Text and music: Bob Gillman

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He Is Lord



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

Text: Philippians 2:10–11, adapt. Music: HE IS LORD, traditional



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 Holy God,
- 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





P May you recognize in your life the presence, power, and light of your soul.

May you realize that you are never alone, that your soul in its brightness and belonging connects you intimately with the rhythm of the universe.

May you have respect for your individuality and difference.

May you realize that the shape of your soul is unique, that you have a special destiny here, that behind the façade of your life there is something beautiful and eternal happening.

May you learn to see your *self* with the same delight, pride, and expectation with which God **↓** *sees* you in every moment.

Blessing for Solitude John O'Donohue

All Amen. Let it be so.







- WA Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:23
 Go in peace. Live in love as Christ loved us.
- All Thanks be to God!



Reading:

Gospel:

1 Corinthians 13 Matthew 22:34-40





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