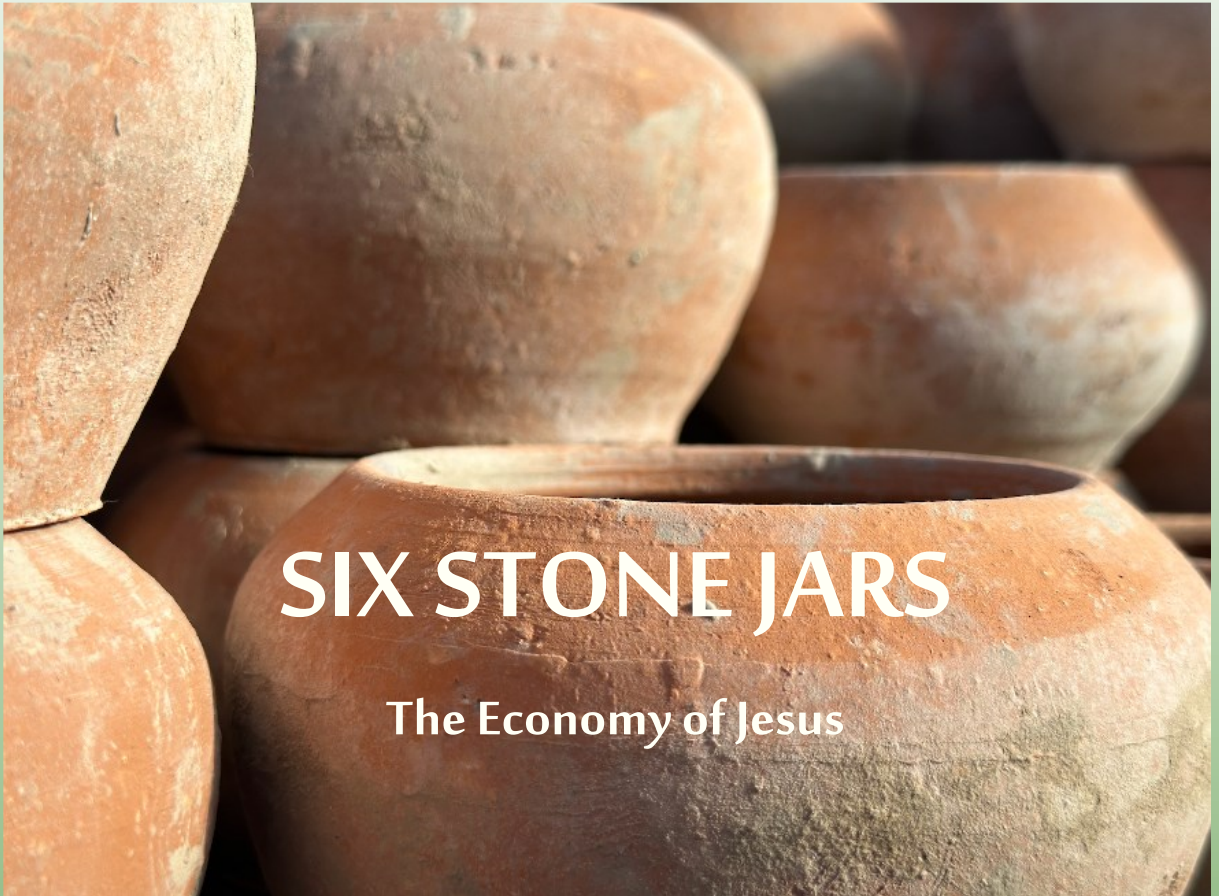


Fill My Plans with Purpose



SIX STONE JARS

The Economy of Jesus

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany
January 26, 2025



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 the cry room at the back of the sanctuary is available
for parents who need to tend to their little ones.

Introduction

We live in a time of anxiety... especially about our wellbeing and sustenance.

The rhetoric of late has highlighted that fear reigns and many are living in an attitude of "taking care of our own."

But time and again we are reminded that in the Kin-dom of God, who we should consider "our own" crosses many perceived boundaries.

We are called by Jesus to take care of ***all in need, especially those most vulnerable.***

The Gospel readings for this season after the Epiphany point to the topsy-turvy way that Jesus proclaims an "economy" in which wealth is redistributed for the good of all.

Welcome to Worship

P We continue our focus on the economy of Jesus.

Six stone jars in which water was turned to wine at the beginning of his ministry was a sign and symbol of the transformation of the community into abundant life.

But this takes understanding our purpose—not as those who simply take care of “our own,” but those who especially are called to alleviate suffering in this world, bringing the kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Today we hear Jesus lay out his purposeful plans clearly—the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy of freedom for the oppressed.

Opening Song

Here I Am To Worship

Words and Music by
Tim Hughes

1 Light of the world, You stepped down in - to dark - ness,
2 King of all days, oh so high - ly ex - alt - ed,

o - pened my eyes, let me see.
glo - rious in heav - en a - bove.

Beau - ty that made this heart a - dore You,
Hum - bly You came to the earth You cre - a - ted,

hope of a life spent with You. So, here I am to
all for love's sake be - came poor. So, here I am to

§
wor - ship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that You're my God.

_____ And You're al - to - geth - er love - ly, al - to - geth - er wor - thy, al - to - geth - er
 won - der - ful to me. _____ And I'll nev -
 - er know _____ how much _____ it _____ cost _____ to see _____ my sin _____ up - on _____
 _____ that _____ cross. _____ And I'll nev - _____ that _____ cross. _____ So here I am to

D.S. al Coda

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All And also with you.

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand in body or spirit.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
 our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life

All Amen.

P Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts,
 let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection

Merciful God,

All you speak blessing and compassion into the world.
 Forgive us for the ways we act
 with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.

All We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another

Cleanse us from our faults
and release us from their grasp.

Show us your lovingkindness.

Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

P God proclaims these words of assurance:
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine."

In ✝ Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.

All Amen.

Prayer for This Day

You may be Seated

P God of Purpose and Prophetic Hope,
we come to you today, having made space on our calendars
to seek your wisdom and clarity for our lives.

All In the midst of our discernment, remind us of your plans for us:
plans for goodness and not harm,
plans overflowing with hope for the future.
Show us the actions we can take to ensure this hopeful future for all people.
Amen.

A Reading from Nehemiah, the 8th chapter

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that “the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

¹ All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people, and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD, and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

WA Word of God, Word of Life.

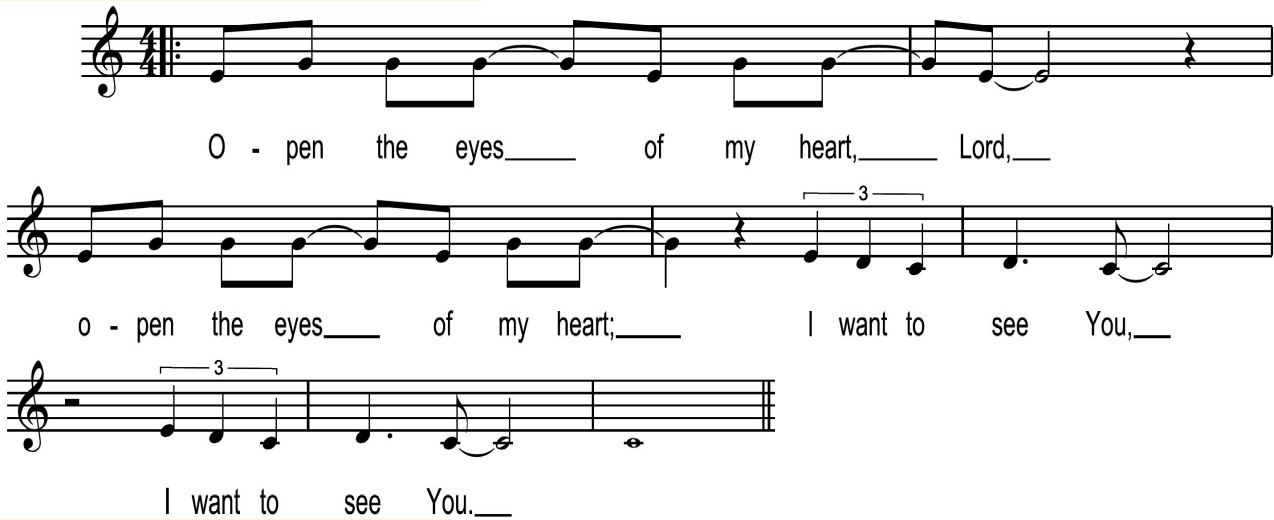
All Thanks be to God!

A Responsive Reading from Psalm 19

- ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.
- ² **One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**
- ³ Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,
- ⁴ **their sound has gone out into all lands,
and their message to the ends of the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**
- ⁵ It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- ⁶ **It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about
to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**
- ⁷ The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.
- ⁸ **The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**
- ⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
- ¹⁰ **More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**
- ¹¹ By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- ¹² **Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**
- ¹³ Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.
- ¹⁴ **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit.



O - pen the eyes of my heart, Lord,
o - pen the eyes of my heart; I want to see You,
I want to see You.

Gospel Reading

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 4th chapter.

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

Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

¹⁴ Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. 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 set free those who are oppressed,
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](#)

Children's Sermon & Noisy Offering

*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; 2 hens; 12 chicks; 2 piglets; mosquito netting;
honeybees and a vegetable garden.*

*You've provided a Farmer's Field School, 3 fruit tree seedlings, seeds,
and gardening tools.*

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

Message

Pr. Gordon Young

Hymn of the Day

Please stand in body or spirit.

Enough

Words and Music by
Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio

All of You is more than e - nough for all of me, for ev - 'ry thirst
and ev - 'ry need. You sat - is - fy me with Your love, and all I have in You
is more than e - nough.

1. You're my sup - ply, my breath of life; Still more awe - some than I know.
2. You're my sac - ri - fice of great - est price; Still more awe - some than I know.

You're my re - ward, worth liv - ing for; Still more awe -
You're my com - ing King, You ev - 'ry - thing; Still more awe -

some than I know. And all of You is more than e - nough for all of me,
some than I know.

for ev - 'ry thirst and ev - 'ry need. You sat - is - fy me with Your love,
and all I have in You is more than e - nough.

is more than e - nough.

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 In the economy of Jesus, we are purposeful with our investments.
Rather than maximizing returns,
we focus on maximizing goodness in the world.
We share from our abundance with those in need,
seeking out the people and places in this community in need of support
that we can gratefully provide.



Free - ly, free - ly give; _____

Go in My name and, be - cause you be -

lieve, Oth - ers will know that I live." _____

WA In this pause, O God, we ponder the many gifts you have given us.
 Our gratitude seems never enough for the plenty you provide.
 We call to mind the gifts of creation, of relationships, of sustenance.

Silence for reflection

In this pause, Christ Jesus,
 we ponder the ways your love is still at work in the world.
 Our awe and wonder at the goodness of others is profound.
 We call to mind acts of kindness, generosity, and selflessness.

Silence for reflection

In this pause, Holy Spirit, we come asking you for strength.
 The temptation to live by the economics of not-enough is so strong in us.
 We ask for revelation in our thinking and doing,
 so that we might live with purpose in our plans.

Silence for reflection

Loving God, Christ Jesus, Holy Spirit, we are yours.
 We bring to you now the concerns of our day, of our communities,
 knowing that already you are present,
 already you are working to bring about comfort and healing.

Silence for reflection

WA We lift before you all those on our prayer list. We pray for places and peoples on this earth ravaged by war.

We pray for those affected by the wildfires in California.

We pray for those who've lost all their worldly goods; for those who've died and those who mourn. We pray for the firefighters, and all those who work to bring healing to the injured.

Silence for reflection

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray trusting in your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All Amen

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Please stand in body or spirit.

In our continued physical distancing out of love for the health of one another, we will share the Peace of our risen Lord by "speaking" that Peace through sign language.

P Jesus Christ become Peace with you.

All And also with you.

Offering

You may be Seated

While we still will not physically pass the offering plates we will continue to have the plates available at the entrance to receive your offerings and will lift them up in thanksgiving before the throne of grace.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Spir - it of the
liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Melt me, mold me,
fill me, use me. Spir - it of the
liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.

Offertory Prayer

P God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

**All Bless what we offer to your service:
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
now and always. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

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 When we grow afraid and weary and cannot fathom your care,
hoarding resources for ourselves and “our kind,”
your love remains steadfast.

You deliver us from captivity to worldly illusions of security,
make covenant again and again to be our Sustenance,
and you continue to speak to us through your prophets
who proclaim abundance for all people.

All Come, Holy Spirit, come to us again.

WA Come, Holy Spirit,
renew the hearts of all gathered for praise and prayer.
Create in us a desire for justice, peace, and liberation for all 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.

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Please stand in body or spirit.

P Let us together approach the throne of grace
as we pray as Jesus taught us:

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 The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of abundance.

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

You may be Seated

Come to the Table



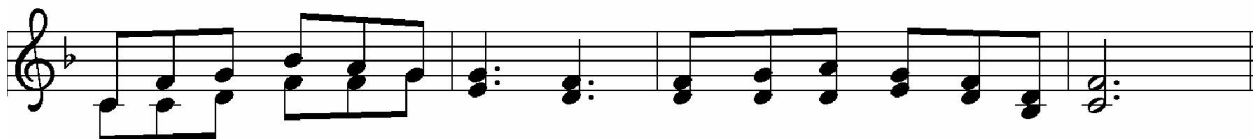
Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Psalm 19 *Words and Music by Terry Butler*



May the words of my mouth and the med - i - ta - tions of my heart



be pleas - ing to You, pleas - ing to You. May the



words of my mouth and the med - i - ta - tions of my heart be



pleas - ing to You, my God. May the You're my



Rock and my Re - deem - er. You're the rea - son that I sing. I de - sire to be a bless -



ing in Your eyes. Ev - 'ry hour, ev - 'ry mo - ment, Lord, I



want to be Your ser - vant. I de - sire to be a bless - ing in Your eyes.



In Your eyes. May the



In Your eyes. May the

Oh How He Loves You And Me Words and Music by Kurt Kaiser



Oh, how He loves you and me, _____ Oh, how He



loves you and me. _____ He gave His life, what _____



more could He give? Oh, how He loves you; Oh, how He



loves me; Oh, how He loves you and me. _____

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,
Nourishing God,
at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.

All **Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody your good news
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.**

You may be Seated

Stewardship of Life and Ministry Announcements

Benediction

Please stand in body or spirit.

P The jars are full in the Kingdom of God.
The plans are full of the purpose we need
and the purpose we are called to embody in the world.

Transformed by the economy of Jesus,
to bear witness to God's grace,
may we go out to invest in the transformation of our communities
with the help of God, ✚
the guidance of Jesus,
and the power of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen**

Sending

I Love to Tell the Story



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Dismissal

WA Go in peace. Live with purpose.

All Thanks be to God.

Front Cover:

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Readings for next Sunday,
February 2nd

First Reading:

Malachi 3:1-4

Psalms:

Psalm 84

Second Reading:

Hebrews 2:14-18

Gospel:

Luke 2:22-40



Ascension Lutheran
Annual Report

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