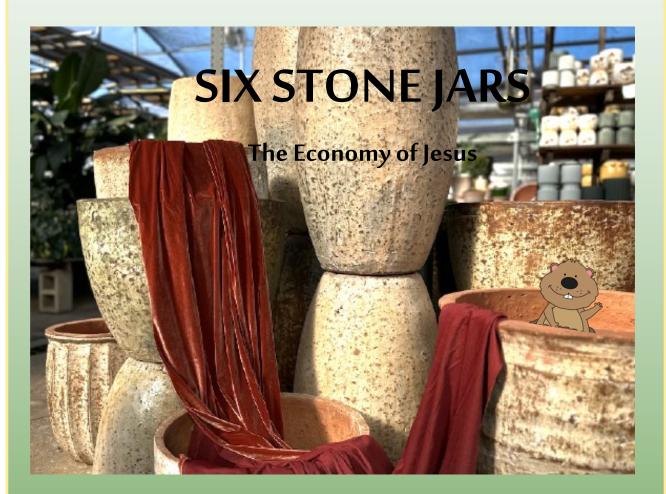
Fill My Wounds with Healing



4th Sunday after the Epiphany February 2, 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 Our call to "plenty" today invites us to imagine plentiful healing.
 Indeed there are plentiful wounds in this world, and plentiful threats of more wounds to come.

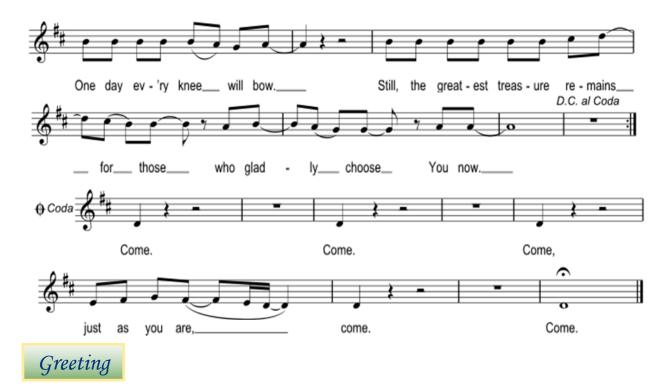
It was as true in Jesus' day as it is in ours.

People came to Jesus carrying wounds of body, mind, and spirit. This week we continue the story of Jesus in his own hometown.

Especially when wounding hits "close to home," we tend to panic. Fear and anger may set in.

The antidote? Join Jesus in his economy of healing for all people.





- *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 <u>Please stand in body or spirit.</u>

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

All Amen.

Ρ

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 All with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.
 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 Restoration,
 we come to you today, bringing a laundry list of things that we wish we could change about the world, ourselves, and each other.

All In the midst of our longing, remind us that your goodness is not earned by our being good, and that we are called to share your mercy with everyone inside and outside of this faithful community. Amen.

A Reading from Jeremiah, the 1st chapter

God calls Jeremiah to be a prophet and consecrates him in the womb. Jeremiah's task is to preach God's word amid the difficult political realities of his time, before the Babylonian exile. He is to make God known not only to Judah, but also to the nations.

⁴ Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,

and before you were born I consecrated you;

I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

⁶ Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." ⁷ But the LORD said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a boy,'

for you shall go to all to whom I send you,

and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them,

for I am with you to deliver you,

says the LORD."

⁹ Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me,

"Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,

to pluck up and to pull down,

to destroy and to overthrow,

to build and to plant."

Jeremiah 1:4-10

WA Word of God, Word of Life.

All Thanks be to God!

A Reading from 1 Corinthians, the 13th chapter

Christians in Corinth prided themselves on their spiritual gifts. Paul reminds them that God gives us many gifts through the Holy Spirit, but the purpose behind all of them is love, the kind of love that God showed us in Jesus Christ.

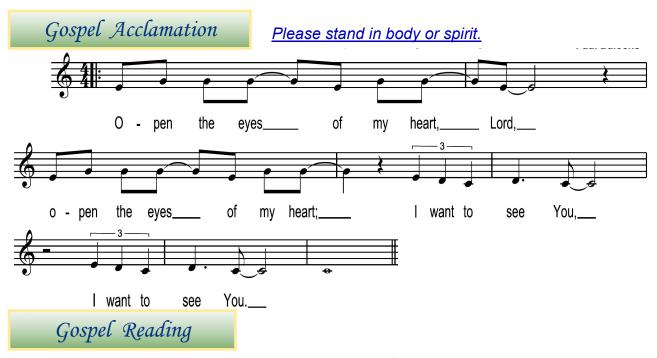
¹ If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

- WA Word of God, Word of Healing.
- All Thanks be to God!



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

People in Jesus' hometown are initially pleased when he says that God will free the oppressed. Their pleasure turns to rage when he reminds them that God's prophetic mission typically pushes beyond human boundaries so that mercy and healing are extended to those regarded as outsiders.

²¹ Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is this not Joseph's son?" ²³ He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" ²⁴ And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land, ²⁶ yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷ There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ When they heard this, all in the

synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Luke 4:21-30

- *P* The Gospel of our Lord.
- All Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be Seated

Children's Sermon & Noisy Offering

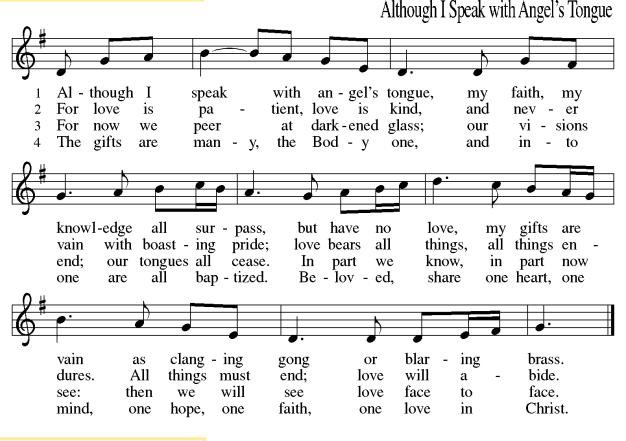
Each week our congregation is **led by children** to collect pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters. Through this offering, we are reminded that together, the smallest of offerings can change lives and make "hope" tangible. In recent years, our Noisy Offering has fed 10 children for an entire year through 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. Debra Jimenez

Hymn of the Day

Please stand in body or spirit.





P Let us join together with the saints across the ages confessing our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

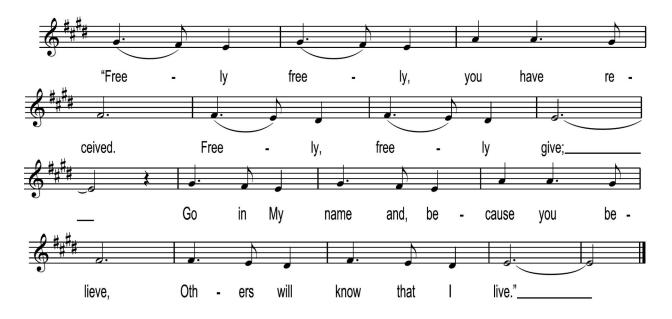
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose 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 not running a for-profit industry.
 God's love cannot be earned, and no one gets special treatment, even the people who follow all the rules.

We welcome all people into the healing experience of witness and connection that we find in this community.



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 healing in the house.

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

We lift before you all those on our prayer list; we pray for physical, emotional, and spiritual healing and strength.

We pray for places and people on this earth ravaged by war.

We pray for those affected by the wildfires and landslides 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 first responders,

and all those who work to bring healing to the injured. We pray for refugees, for those who are without a safe place to call home. Give us courage to live out your Gospel so that we may seek justice and mercy for all people.

Silence for reflection

- WA We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.
- All Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Please stand in body or spirit.

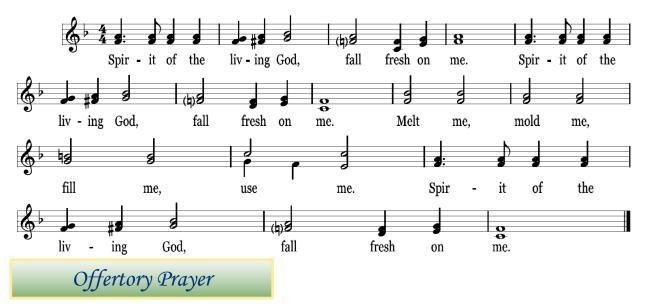
In our continued physical distancing out of love for the health of one another, we will share the Peace of our risen Lord by "speaking" that Peace through sign language.

- *P* Jesus Christ become Peace with you.
- All And also with you.



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.



- *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. Please stand in body or spirit.

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

The Lord's Prayer

 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.



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





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 house is full of the healing we need and the healing we are called to give away.

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.

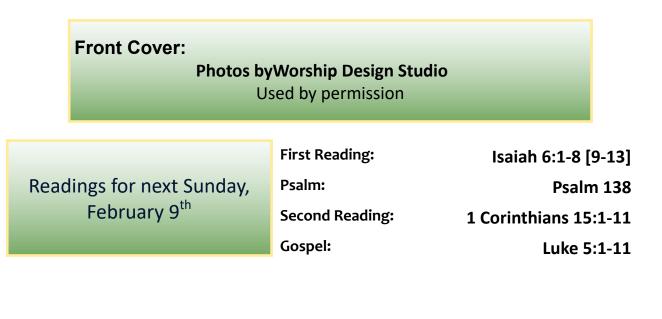
All Amen



Dismissal

WA Go in peace. Live in your healing.

All Thanks be to God.





Ascension Lutheran Annual Report

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