# Fill My Days with Meaning

# SIX STONE JARS

The Economy of Jesus

5th Sunday after the Epiphany February 9, 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.

# Fill My Days with Meaning

P As we continue to examine how we might be transformed into devotees of the economy of Jesus, we remember this week that abundant lives are ones filled with meaning.

Work and play are important parts of life but in the economy of Jesus,

we are also called to fill our jars with meaning.

What does this "mean," so to speak?

Amassing more resources than we need is a game that can leave us empty and can make us feel frightened even though we have enough.

But when our lives are spent playing a different game of communal cooperation and transformation, we find a richness of soul and more than enough even in hard times.





- 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>
Ρ	Blessed be the holy Trinity, 🕂 one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life
All	Amen.
Ρ	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. 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.
Ρ	God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine."

P 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 Transformation,
  we come to you today, weary from fishing on the same old side of the boat,
  frustrated that the tools we have often fail to yield the results we desire.
- All In the midst of our striving, remind us that we can choose new ways of doing things, to shift our perspective so that we may see the rich blessings you have in store, if only we know where to look. Amen.

A Reading from Isaiah, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter

Through a vision in the temple, the eighth-century prophet Isaiah is called by God to announce judgment against Israel. Aware of his sinfulness and shortcomings, Isaiah is initially hesitant. But when God calls, Isaiah responds, "Here am I; send me!"

<sup>1</sup> In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty, and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said,

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;

the whole earth is full of his glory."

<sup>4</sup> The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> And I said, "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup> The seraph touched my mouth with it and

said, "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." <sup>8</sup> Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" <sup>9</sup> And he said, "Go and say to this people:

'Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand.'

<sup>10</sup> Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes and listen with their ears and comprehend with their minds and turn and be healed."

<sup>11</sup> Then I said, "How long, O Lord?" And he said,

"Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is utterly desolate; <sup>12</sup> until the LORD sends everyone far away, and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land.

<sup>13</sup> Even if a tenth part remain in it, it will be burned again,

like a terebinth or an oak whose stump remains standing when it is felled." (The holy seed is its stump.)

Isaiah 6:1-13

WA The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God!

A Reading from 1 Corinthians, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter

Paul delivers in a nutshell the story of the gospel that was given to him. In the lineage of the Christian faith, we have received the good news of God's love from generations of believers before us, and we continue to tell this story to the world.

<sup>1</sup> Now I want you to understand, brothers and sisters, the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup> through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

<sup>3</sup> For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures <sup>4</sup> and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup> Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you believed.

WA The Word of the Lord.



All Thanks be to God!

*P* The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

## All Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus' teaching of God's word has begun to draw great crowds. For Simon, James, and John, Jesus' teaching inspires hospitality, then obedience, and then risk. After Jesus' creative power is revealed, fear and amazement leads these three fishermen to leave everything behind to become apostles.

<sup>1</sup> Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, <sup>2</sup> he saw two boats there at the shore

<sup>1</sup> Corinthians 15:1-11

of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. <sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." <sup>5</sup> Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." <sup>6</sup> When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. <sup>7</sup> So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup> But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" <sup>9</sup> For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, <sup>10</sup> and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." <sup>11</sup> When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Luke 5:1-11

*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

Hymn of the Day Will You Come and Follow Me The Summons Please stand in body or spirit. "Will fol if call and low Ι but you come \_ me if be - hind "Will leave your self I but call you if "Will the hide I call you love you you but 6 Will name? go where you don't your you Will your name? you care for cruel and name? Will your you quell the fear in -0. know the same? and be nev er kind and nev be the same? er side and be the same? nev er Will you will let love shown, you let be my my Will you risk hos - tile life the stare, should your at -Will you the faith you've found use shape the to re -0 will life be known, you let my be name scare? Will let you tract or me an swer through my world round, sight and touch and а 0. me?" in in and grown you you me?" pray'r in and you in you me?" sound in you and you in

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## 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 find abundance in the most unlikely places.
 We ask for God's guidance to discern when we need to change direction or try things differently.
 We find abundant meaning in the midst of life's uncertainties when we look to Jesus.



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 meaning in the house.

Silence for reflection

WA 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 wildfires and landslides.

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

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.

# 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.



# 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.
- 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



# Here I Am, Lord



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 meaning we need and the meaning we are called to offer others.
   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 your life with meaning.
- All Thanks be to God.







Ascension Lutheran Annual Report

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