



Complete Worship Folder  
March 1, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

## ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

8695 Gratiot Road Saginaw, MI 48609 (989)781-2170

Email address: [ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net)

Julie Bailey, Pastor

Sunday Worship 8:00am & 10:30am

Wednesday Worship 7:00pm

## The Welcome Table: He Eats with Tax Collectors and Sinners

---

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Dialogue (*spoken*)

P: Behold, now is the acceptable time;

**C: now is the day of salvation.**

P: Turn us again, O God of our salvation,

**C: that the light of your face may shine on us.**

P: May your justice shine like the sun;

**C: and may the poor be lifted up.**

#### Hymn of Light (*spoken*)

P: Joyous light of glory:

**C: of the immortal Father;**

**heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ.**

**We have come to the setting of the sun,**

**and we look to the evening light.**

**We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:**

**You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever.**

**O Son of God, O giver of life:**

**The universe proclaims your glory.**

#### Thanksgiving for Light (*spoken*)

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: We give you thanks, O God,

for in the beginning you called light into being,

and you set light in the sky

to govern night and day.

In a pillar of cloud by day

and a pillar of fire by night

you led your people into freedom.

Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ:

may your Word be a lamp to our feet

and a light to our path;

for you are merciful,

and you love your whole creation,

and with all your creatures we give you glory,

through your Son Jesus Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

Psalmody

All **Let my prayer rise before you as incense;  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Group One **O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly;  
hear my voice when I cry to you.**

All **Let my prayer rise before you as incense;  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Group Two **Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,  
and guard the door of my lips.**

Group One **Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;  
let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.**

Group Two **But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God;  
in you I take refuge. Strip me not of my life.**

All **Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be forever. Amen.  
Let my prayer rise before you as incense;  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Hymn: "God Welcomes All" (ACS 978) (*video*)

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;  
God's love is strong and it never ends.

Reading: Isaiah 25:1-7

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, you are my God;  
I will exalt you, I will praise your name;  
for you have done wonderful things,  
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.  
<sup>2</sup>For you have made the city a heap,  
the fortified city a ruin;  
the palace of aliens is a city no more,  
it will never be rebuilt.  
<sup>3</sup>Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;  
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.  
<sup>4</sup>For you have been a refuge to the poor,  
a refuge to the needy in their distress,  
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.  
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,  
<sup>5</sup>the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,  
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;  
the song of the ruthless was stilled.  
<sup>6</sup>On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.  
<sup>7</sup>And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the ninth chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13

<sup>9</sup>As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. <sup>10</sup>And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. <sup>11</sup>When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>12</sup>But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup>Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

P: This is the gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "All Are Welcome" (ELW 641) (*video*)

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

**Refrain** All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: **Refrain**

Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat:  
a banquet hall on holy ground  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: **Refrain**

Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger: **Refrain**

Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: **Refrain**

### The Prayers of the Children of God

Each petition ends...Merciful God,

**Congregation responds...receive our prayer.**

Offering

#### Offering Prayer

A: God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

**C: Amen.**

#### Thanksgiving

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.

#### Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C: 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.**

#### Post-Communion Blessing

P: And now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

#### Post Communion Prayer

A: Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

**C: Amen**

#### Blessing

P: God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Song: “All Praise to Thee, May God, This Night” (ELW 565) (*video*)

All praise to thee, my God, this night  
for all the blessings of the light.  
Keep me, oh, keep me, King of kings,  
beneath thine own almighty wings.

Forgive me, Lord, for thy dear Son,  
the ill that I this day have done;  
that with the world, myself, and thee,  
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.

Teach me to live, that I may dread  
the grave as little as my bed.  
Teach me to die, that so I may  
rise glorious at the awesome day.

Oh, may my soul in thee repose,  
and may sweet sleep mine eyelids close,  
sleep that shall me more vig'rous make  
to serve my God when I awake!

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Public Domain.

### Dismissal

A: As an open and progressive congregation,

**C: we boldly make Christ's vision known.**

A: Go in peace. Serve in love.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

God Welcomes All, Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949 Text © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., [giamusic.com](http://giamusic.com). All rights reserved. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-715124. All rights reserved. Music accompaniments used with permission from Mary Munson © YouTube @MaryRuth72

All Are Welcome, Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Text © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-715124. All rights reserved. Music accompaniments used with permission from Mary Munson © YouTube @MaryRuth72

All Praise to Thee, May God, This Night, Public Domain. Music accompaniments used with permission from [singhymns.net](http://singhymns.net)

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com). Copyright ©2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006501. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.