



Complete Worship Folder  
March 22, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

## ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Julie Bailey, Pastor

Sunday Worship 8:00am & 10:30am

Wednesday Worship 7:00pm

## Excuses and Invitations: Empty Chairs at the Empty Table

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### 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: "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly" (ELW 461) (*video*)

*Verse 1*

All who hunger gather gladly;  
holy manna is our bread.  
Come from wilderness and wand'ring.  
Here in truth we will be fed.  
You that yearn for days of fullness,  
all around us is our food.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.

*Verse 2*

All who hunger, never strangers;  
seeker, be a welcome guest.  
Come from restlessness and roaming.  
Here in joy we keep the feast.  
We that once were lost and scattered  
in communion's love have stood.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.

*Verse 3*

All who hunger, sing together,  
Jesus Christ is living bread.  
Come from loneliness and longing.  
Here in peace we have been fed.  
Blest are those who from this table  
live their days in gratitude.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.

First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-5

<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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Second Reading: Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
<sup>3</sup>he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff —  
they comfort me.  
<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the fourteenth chapter.

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

Gospel: Luke 14:15-24

<sup>15</sup>One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" <sup>16</sup>Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. <sup>17</sup>At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' <sup>18</sup>But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' <sup>19</sup>Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' <sup>20</sup>Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' <sup>21</sup>So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' <sup>22</sup>And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' <sup>23</sup>Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. <sup>24</sup>For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.'"

P: This is the gospel of our Lord.

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "O Living Bread from Heaven" (ELW 542) (*video*)

*Verse 1*

O living Bread from heaven,  
how well you feed your guest!  
The gifts that you have given  
have filled my heart with rest.  
O wondrous food of blessing!  
O cup that heals our woes!  
My heart, this gift possessing,  
in thankful song o'er flows.

*Verse 3*

You gave me all I wanted;  
this food can death destroy.  
And you have freely granted  
the cup of endless joy.  
My Lord, I do not merit  
the favor you have shown;  
and all my soul and spirit  
bow down before your throne.

*Verse 2*

My Savior, you have led me  
within your holiest place,  
and here yourself have fed me  
with treasures of your grace;  
for you have freely given  
what earth could never buy,  
the bread of life from heaven,  
that now I shall not die.

*Verse 4*

Oh, grant me then, well-strengthened  
with heav'nly food, while here  
my course on earth is lengthened,  
to serve you, free from fear;  
and bring me home to praise you  
where none can peace destroy,  
where I will ever raise you  
glad songs in endless joy.

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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.

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### 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.**

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