



The kingdom  
of heaven  
is like yeast

MATTHEW 13:33

Complete Worship Folder  
July 30, 2023 - 9:37 a.m.

## ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Julie Bailey, Pastor

Sunday Worship 8:00am & 10:30am

Wednesday Worship 7:00pm

## **Ninth Week after Pentecost**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

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#### **Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Merciful God,...we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy. Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Righteous God,...we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy. Amen**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen**

Hymn: "Gather Us In" (ELW 532)

Here in this place the new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away;  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,  
we are the old who yearn for your face;  
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water,  
here we will take the bread of new birth,  
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
give us to eat the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away—  
here in this place the new light is shining,  
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever,  
gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

#### Greeting

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

**C: And also with you.**

#### Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray... **Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Children's Message (10:30 a.m.)

#### First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

<sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you."  
<sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"  
<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

#### Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

<sup>26</sup>The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he

foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. <sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!" (ELW 413 Verse 1 Only)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

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

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

Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;<sup>32</sup>it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." <sup>33</sup>He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

<sup>44</sup>"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. <sup>45</sup>"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. <sup>47</sup>"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>51</sup>"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P: This is the gospel of our Lord.

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "Be Thou My Vision" (ELW 793)

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,  
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Light of my soul, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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.**

The Prayers of the Children of God

Each petition ends...Hear us, O God,

**Congregation responds...Your mercy is great.**

Sharing of the Peace

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C:** And also with you.

Offering

Offering Song: "Come to the Table" (ELW 481)

Come to the table of mercy,  
prepared with the wine and the bread.  
All who are hungry and thirsty,  
come, and your souls will be fed.  
Come at the Lord's invitation;  
receive from his nail-scarred hand.  
Eat of the bread of salvation;  
drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Offering Prayer

A: God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**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.**

Invitation to Communion / Distribution of Holy Communion

P: All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

Communion Songs: “I Love To Tell The Story” (ELW 661)

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

**Refrain**      I love to tell the story;  
                 'twill be my theme in glory  
                 to tell the old, old story  
                 of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
the message of salvation from God's own holy word. **Refrain**

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long. **Refrain**

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“Come, Let Us Eat” (ELW 491)

Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,  
come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.  
Our Lord's body let us take together,  
our Lord's body let us take together.

Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,  
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.  
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,  
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.

In Jesus' presence now we meet and rest,  
in Jesus' presence now we meet and rest.  
In the presence of our Lord we gather,  
in the presence of our Lord we gather.

Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word,  
rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word.  
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom,  
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom.

“Let Us Break Bread Together” (ELW 471)

Let us break bread together on our knees;  
let us break bread together on our knees.

***Refrain***      When I fall on my knees,  
                         with my face to the rising sun,  
                         O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
let us drink wine together on our knees. ***Refrain***

Let us praise God together on our knees;  
let us praise God together on our knees. ***Refrain***

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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: Let us pray. We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

Blessing

P: The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed ✠ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Song: “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” (ELW 547)

Sent forth by God's blessing,  
our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended.  
Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of Christ's teaching,  
receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
Your grace shall incite us,  
your love shall unite us  
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

With praise and thanksgiving  
to God ever-living,  
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—  
our faith ever sharing,  
in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children, the whole human race.  
With your feast you feed us,  
with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living  
with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

Dismissal

A: As an open and progressive congregation,

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

A: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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