



Complete Worship Folder

October 22, 2023 – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

October 25, 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

## Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

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### Welcome and Announcements

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: We stand now to confess all we lack in the presence of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Spirit, whose bounty abolishes need:

P: Oh God, we in fear we grumble in our time of need,

**C: But your abundance and provision are sure.**

P: Holy Spirit, in arrogance we place our hope in status and wealth,

**C: But your abundance is limitless and without end.**

P: Christ Jesus, we are prone to excluding and restraining others from your table,

**C: But your abundance is boundless and freely offered to all.**

P: Holy Spirit, in arrogance we place our hope in status and wealth,

**C: But your abundance is infinite and lavished upon the least of these.**

P: Divine Creator, we are torn by this world and its demands,

**C: But your abundance is eternal and invites us to new ways.**

P: Infinite Love, we are careless toward ourselves and one another,

**C: But your abundance fills us to overflowing.**

P: Reconciling Brother, we are too often selfish and proud,

**C: But your abundance calls us to humility in mutual care.**

P: Eternally Present One, we are wasteful daydreamers with our resources and gifts,

**C: But your abundance instructs us to stand accountable and prepared.**

P: Lavishing Giver, so often we are afraid that we will not have enough,

**C: But your abundance is extravagant and excessive toward us.**

P: Oh Christ, our King, we are stingy and reticent in our care for others,

**C: But your abundance compels us toward unrestrained generosity.**

Hymn: "Lift Every Voice and Sing" (ELW 841)

Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,  
ring with the harmonies of liberty.  
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,  
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,  
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet  
come to the place for which our parents sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;  
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,  
keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;  
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;  
shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand,  
true to our God, true to our native land.

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### 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... **Loving God in whose image we are made, by whose Word we live, and to whose comfort we will return. Make us wise and generous stewards who neither hoard nor squander our earthly gifts, but who share all we have in mutuality with one another. Make us your hands, feet, and face in this world, that we may always remember who and whose we are. In the name of Christ and by the power of His Spirit. Amen.**

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

### First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,  
whose right hand I have grasped  
to subdue nations before him  
and strip kings of their robes,  
to open doors before him—  
and the gates shall not be closed:  
<sup>2</sup>I will go before you  
and level the mountains,  
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze  
and cut through the bars of iron,  
<sup>3</sup>I will give you the treasures of darkness  
and riches hidden in secret places,  
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,  
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.  
<sup>4</sup>For the sake of my servant Jacob,  
and Israel my chosen,  
I call you by your name,  
I surname you, though you do not know me.

<sup>5</sup>I am the LORD, and there is no other;  
besides me there is no god.  
I arm you, though you do not know me,  
<sup>6</sup>so that they may know, from the rising of the sun  
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;  
I am the LORD, and there is no other.  
<sup>7</sup>I form light and create darkness,  
I make weal and create woe;  
I the LORD do all these things.

L: The Word of the Lord.  
**C: Thanks be to God!**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

<sup>1</sup>Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,  
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:  
Grace to you and peace.  
<sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.  
<sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup>And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup>For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. <sup>9</sup>For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

L: The Word of the Lord.  
**C: Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation: “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil” (ELW 512)

Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
open to the seed of your word.  
Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
where love can grow and peace is understood.  
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.  
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.  
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.  
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,  
Lord, let my heart be good soil.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.  
**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. <sup>16</sup>So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. <sup>17</sup>Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” <sup>21</sup>They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” <sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

P: This is the gospel of our Lord.

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “We Give Thee but Thine Own” (ELW 686)

We give thee but thine own,  
whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine alone,  
a trust, O Lord, from thee.

May we thy bounties thus  
as stewards true receive,  
and gladly, as thou blessest us,  
to thee our firstfruits give.

The captive to release,  
to God the lost to bring,  
to teach the way of life and peace—  
it is a Christlike thing.

And we believe thy word,  
though dim our faith may be:  
whate'er we do for thine, O Lord,  
we do it unto thee.

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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...God of grace,

**Congregation responds...hear our prayer.**

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

Offering

Offering Song: "As the Grains of Wheat" (ELW 465, *Refrain & verse 1 only*)

**Refrain** As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill  
were gathered into one to become our bread;  
so may all your people from all the ends of earth  
be gathered into one in you.

As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,  
may we share the presence of your love. **Refrain**

Offering Prayer

A: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**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: Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

Communion Songs: “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” (ELW 623)

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood,  
from thy riven side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure;  
cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands  
can fulfill thy law's demands;  
could my zeal no respite know,  
could my tears forever flow,  
all for sin could not atone;  
thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring;  
simply to thy cross I cling.  
Naked, come to thee for dress;  
helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the fountain fly;  
wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,  
when mine eyelids close in death,  
when I soar to worlds unknown,  
see thee on thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee.

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“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. Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C: Amen**

### Blessing

P: The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Song: "God of Grace and God of Glory" (ELW 705)

God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your pow'r;  
crown your ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flow'r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn the Christ, assail his ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
for the living of these days, for the living of these days,

Cure your children's warring madness; bend our pride to your control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
lest we miss your kingdom's goal, lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;  
let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
serving you whom we adore, serving you whom we adore.

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### Dismissal

A: As an open and progressive congregation,

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

A: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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