



Complete Worship Folder

October 29, 2023 – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

November 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

## Reformation Sunday

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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: "Great God, Your Love Has Called Us" (ELW 358)

Great God, your love has called us here  
as we, by love, for love were made.  
Your living likeness still we bear,  
though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.  
We come, with all our heart and mind  
your call to hear, your love to find.

We come with self-inflicted pains  
of broken trust and chosen wrong,  
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,  
by social forces swept along,  
by powers and systems close confined  
yet seeking hope for humankind.

Great God, in Christ you call our name  
and then receive us as your own  
not through some merit, right, or claim,  
but by your gracious love alone.  
We strain to glimpse your mercy seat  
and find you kneeling at our feet.

Then take the towel, and break the bread,  
and humble us, and call us friends.  
Suffer and serve till all are fed,  
and show how grandly love intends  
to work till all creation sings,  
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

Great God, in Christ you set us free  
your life to live, your joy to share.  
Give us your Spirit's liberty  
to turn from guilt and dull despair,  
and offer all that faith can do  
while love is making all things new.

#### 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... **Gracious God by whose Unconditional Love we are made and in whose Limitless Grace we remain: Empower us to Love you by Loving ourselves and our neighbors heartily and with abandon. Help us throw off the restraints that keep us from creating a culture of mutuality and collective care: Our careless hearts; selfish egos; bridled imaginations; unpracticed bodies. Liberate us to Love according to your greatest commandment, that we may pour out all you have poured into us through your Son and by your Spirit. Amen.**

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

#### First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

<sup>1</sup>The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: <sup>2</sup>Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

<sup>15</sup>You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. <sup>16</sup>You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD. <sup>17</sup>You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. <sup>18</sup>You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

#### Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

<sup>1</sup>You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, <sup>2</sup>but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. <sup>3</sup>For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, <sup>4</sup>but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel,

even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. <sup>5</sup>As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; <sup>6</sup>nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, <sup>7</sup>though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. <sup>8</sup>So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

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 22:34-46

<sup>34</sup>When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, <sup>35</sup>and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup>“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” <sup>37</sup>He said to him, ““You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup>This is the greatest and first commandment. <sup>39</sup>And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” <sup>41</sup>Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: <sup>42</sup>“What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” <sup>43</sup>He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, <sup>44</sup>‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet”’? <sup>45</sup>If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” <sup>46</sup>No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

P: This is the gospel of our Lord.

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "When the Poor Ones" (ELW 725)

When the poor ones, who have nothing, still are giving;  
when the thirsty pass the cup, water to share;  
when the wounded offer others strength and healing:

**Refrain** We see God, here by our side, walking our way;  
we see God, here by our side, walking our way.

When compassion gives the suffering consolation;  
when expecting brings to birth hope that was lost;  
when we choose love, not the hatred  
all around us: **Refrain**

When our spirits, like a chalice, brim with gladness;  
when our voices, full and clear, sing out the truth;  
when our longings, free from envy, seek the humble: **Refrain**

When the goodness poured from heaven  
fills our dwellings;  
when the nations work to change war into peace;  
when the stranger is accepted as our neighbor: **Refrain**

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: “We Give Thee but Thine Own” (ELW 686 versus 1 & 2)

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.

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### 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: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” (ELW 631)

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit  
into ev'ry troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit;  
let us find thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver;  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee!  
Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heav'n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

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“Here Is Bread” (ELW 483)

Here is bread here is wine  
Christ is with us He is with us  
Break the bread drink the wine  
Christ is with us here

**Refrain**      In this bread there is healing  
                  In this cup there's life forever  
                  In this moment by the Spirit  
                  Christ is with us here

Here is grace here is peace  
Christ is with us He is with us  
Know His grace find His peace  
Feast on Jesus here **Refrain**

Here we are joined in one  
Christ is with us He is with us  
We'll proclaim 'til He comes  
Jesus crucified **Refrain**

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: "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" (ELW 836)

Joyful, joyful we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,  
praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,  
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee,  
center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird, and flowing fountain  
call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,  
all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine!

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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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