



Complete Worship Folder

November 12, 2023 - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Julie Bailey, Pastor

Sunday Worship 8:00am & 10:30am

Wednesday Worship 7:00pm

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

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: "My Lord, What a Morning" (ELW 438)

Refrain

My Lord, what a morning;
my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning,
when the stars begin to fall.

Verse 2

You will hear the sinner cry,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. ***Refrain***

Verse 1

You will hear the trumpet sound,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. ***Refrain***

Verse 3

You will hear the Christian shout,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. ***Refrain***

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... **God of all times and all seasons, you have called your people to accountability and readiness with our time, talents, and finances. When we are negligent, inspire mindfulness. When we are impulsive, inspire intentionality. When we are stingy, inspire generosity. Keep us aware and accountable, so that in times of both chaos and calm, in plenty and in need, we are fortified and equipped to respond with the grace of Jesus Christ and in the charity of His Spirit, Amen.**

Children's Message & excuse children to children's church (10:30 a.m.)

First Reading: Amos 5:18-24

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died.

¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever.

¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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-fifth chapter.

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

Gospel: Matthew 25: 1-13

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

P: This is the gospel of our Lord.

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “When Peace like a River” (ELW 785)

(Verse 1) When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain It is well (it is well)
with my soul, (with my soul,)
it is well, it is well with my soul.

(Verse 2) Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul. **Refrain**

(Verse 3) He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious
thought;
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! **Refrain**

(Verse 4) Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be
sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul. **Refrain**

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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

“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 all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Song: “Blessed Assurance” (ELW 638)

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior, all the day long:
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. **Refrain**

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. **Refrain**

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Dismissal

A: As an open and progressive congregation,

C: we boldly make Christ’s vision known.

A: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.