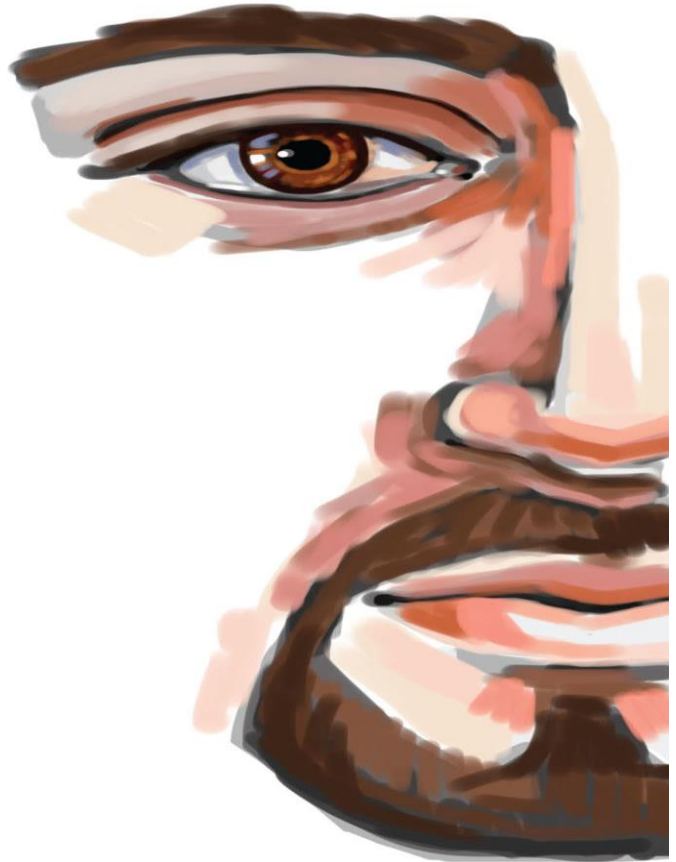


He asked them,
**“But
who
do you
say
that I
am?”**

Mark 8:29, NRSV



Complete Worship Folder

September 15, 2024 – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

September 18, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

8695 Gratiot Road Saginaw, MI 48609 (989)781-2170

Email address: ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net

Julie Bailey, Pastor

Sunday Worship 8:00am & 10:30am

Wednesday Worship 7:00pm

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Call to Worship: "Come, Let Us Worship God" (DATH 2) (*Leader in italics, Congregation in Bold*)

(Come, let us worship God.) **Come, let us worship God.**
(Come, let us worship God.) **Come, let us worship God.**
(Welcome ev'ryone.) **Welcome ev'ryone.**
(To the love of God.) **To the love of God.**

(Rest for the weary.) **Rest for the weary.**
(Rest for the weary.) **Rest for the weary.**
(Welcome ev'ryone.) **Welcome ev'ryone.**
(To the love of God.) **To the love of God.**

(Food for the hungry.) **Food for the hungry.**
(Food for the hungry.) **Food for the hungry.**
(Welcome ev'ryone.) **Welcome ev'ryone.**
(To the love of God.) **To the love of God.**

(Hope for the children.) **Hope for the children.**
(Hope for the children.) **Hope for the children.**
(Welcome ev'ryone.) **Welcome ev'ryone.**
(To the love of God.) **To the love of God.**

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, ...**have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

C: Amen

Hymn: “God, Bless the Hands” (ACS 1022)

God, bless the hands stretched out in love
through floods below and storms above;
they search and rescue, comfort, calm,
give shelter, offer healing balm.
Oh, guard them by your steadfast hand;
reach out in love to help us stand.

Bring comfort to the hearts that mourn,
left broken, emptied by the storm.
Give hope to those in deepest grief;
empower us to bring relief.
To you, O God, we raise our hands.
Save us, we pray, from sinking sands.

O God, our strength and refuge sure,
our hope while storms of life endure:
teach us to live in harmony
with earth and river, sky and sea,
preserving waters, air, and lands
as holy work for human hands.

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... **O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Children’s Message (10:30 a.m.) & Dismiss to Children’s Church

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴ The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵ The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶ I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷ The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸ he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
^{9a} It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

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

Second Reading: James 3:1-12

¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ² For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³ If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴ Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸ but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

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

Gospel Acclamation: “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” (ELW 172)

Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the eighth chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 8:27-38

²⁷ Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸ And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹ He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. ³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” ³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

P: This is the gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “Lift High the Cross” (ELW 660)

Refrain Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. **Refrain**

All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. **Refrain**

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. **Refrain**

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! **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...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: "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful" (ELW 184)

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

A: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, 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 (sung)

*"Our Father, which 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen"*

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Invitation to Communion / Distribution of Holy Communion

P: Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

Communion Songs: “All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly” (ELW 461)

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.

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.

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.

“Now We Join in Celebration” (ELW 462)

Now we join in celebration
at our Savior's invitation,
dressed no more in spirit somber,
clothed instead in joy and wonder;
for the Lord of all existence,
putting off divine transcendence,
stoops again in love to meet us,
with his very life to feed us.

Lord, as round this feast we gather,
fill our hearts with holy rapture!
For this bread and cup of blessing
are for us the sure possessing
of your loving deed on Calv'ry,
of your living self, our vict'ry,
pledge of your unfailing presence,
foretaste here of heav'nly gladness.

Lord, we share in this communion
as one fam'ly of God's children,
reconciled through you, our brother,
one in you with God our Father.
Give us grace to live for others,
serving all, both friends and strangers,
seeking justice, love, and mercy
till you come in final glory.

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. Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

Hymn: "Bennydiction" (*acapella*) (*Leader-italics, Congregation-bold*)

Sending forth Gods' love
Sending forth Gods' love
As we leave this place
As we leave this place
From all comforts here
From all comforts here
We are sent with grace
We are sent with grace

All

May the Lord bless you and keep you
May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you
May God look upon you with favor
and give you peace

So go in peace, to love and serve the Lord
So go in peace, thanks be to God
So go in peace, Alleluia, amen
So go in peace.

Sending Song: “Guide My Feet” (ACS 1022) (*Leader in italics, Congregation in Bold*)

(Guide my feet) **while I run this race.**
(Guide my feet) **while I run this race.**
(Guide my feet) **while I run this race,**
ALL *for I don't want to run this race in vain.*

(Hold my hand) **while I run this race.**
(Hold my hand) **while I run this race.**
(Hold my hand) **while I run this race,**
ALL *for I don't want to run this race in vain.*

(Stand by me) **while I run this race.**
(Stand by me) **while I run this race.**
(Stand by me) **while I run this race,**
ALL *for I don't want to run this race in vain.*

(I'm your child) **while I run this race.**
(I'm your child) **while I run this race.**
(I'm your child) **while I run this race,**
ALL *for I don't want to run this race in vain.*

(Search my heart) **while I run this race.**
(Search my heart) **while I run this race.**
(Search my heart) **while I run this race,**
ALL *for I don't want to run this race in vain.*

Dismissal

A: We work together to spread Christ's love with our community

C: Through an Open Heart, Open Mind, and an Open Table.

A: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.

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