

# Daring to Dance Again



*April 14, 2024*

*While in Their Joy*



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Welcome to Worship...

Welcome to all God's guests, including those who call themselves "members" of this church named Ascension Lutheran Church more than 50 years ago.

A special welcome to guests who are here for the first time or who call yourselves "visitors" among the people of this community. It is at God's invitation, through worship, the Holy Spirit calls each of us to come to a place of **community, communion** and **commitment**. Each of us brings a different lens to worship, and yet, in a worshiping community, these differences become celebrations of diversity.

**Children are always welcome in worship services;  
however please know a nursery space is available for  
parents who need to tend to their little ones**

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### Introduction

*The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.*

# Dancing Sure

## Welcome to Worship

*P* This is the Easter Season! The season of new life – and a breath of the Spirit. As we enter this time of worship together, may we open our hearts to the renewal of our minds and our spirits. May we dare to let go and dance with renewed vigor as we allow resurrection hope to fill our bodies and souls!



Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song. Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.  
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long. Dare to dance a-gain.

*P* This Sunday acknowledges that sometimes we are unsure about our steps in this world. For the disciples, even “while in their joy” at seeing Jesus after the resurrection, they were still “disbelieving and wondering.” We are reminded that even though we may not know our next steps, we can be sure they will come because we are God’s beloved children, and so we have steps to follow – those of the resurrected Jesus.

**♪ ♪ Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song. ♪ ♪  
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.  
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long.  
Dare to dance again.**

# Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand in body or spirit.

*P* Open yourselves to the grace of Jesus Christ that is always and already available here at this table.

Pray for those who have no earthly tables,  
or no place at a table, and so little daily bread.

**All We confess this day that we have been slow to join the dance that brings life to all, brings love to all, brings sustenance to all. In silence, let us lift up our prayers of confession...**

*P* Hear this good news!

God has loved you from the very beginning.

The invitation of Christ is never-ending  
because resurrection can happen at any moment.

The Holy Spirit is transforming you even now!

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**All In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
Glory to God! Amen!**

Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart, \_\_\_\_\_ teach me to move

in the power of your Spir - it, teach me to [move] in the light of your pre -

- sence, teach me to dance to the beat of your heart. \_\_\_\_\_

## Prayer for this Day

*P* Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation –

**All** You set this world in motion and gave it life.  
Turn us to you when our steps are not sure.

Come and dance with us, engage with us, as we seek you –  
so that we can be risen with Christ and in Christ.  
Be with us now, we pray. Amen.

[You may be Seated](#)

## A Reading from Acts the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter

*After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.*

<sup>12</sup>[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"<sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him.<sup>14</sup>But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you,<sup>15</sup> and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.<sup>16</sup>And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

<sup>17</sup>"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers.<sup>18</sup>In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer.<sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

*Acts 3:12-19*

*L* The Word of the Lord,

**All** Thanks be to God!

# A Reading from 1 John the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter

*God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.*

<sup>1</sup>See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

<sup>4</sup>Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

<sup>5</sup>You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

<sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

1 John 3:1-7

L The Word of the Lord,

All Thanks be to God!

## Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit.

Teach me to love with your heart of com-pas - sion, teach me to trust  
in the word of your pro - mise, teach me to hope in the day of your com -  
- ing, teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.

## Gospel Reading

*P* The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**All** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.*

<sup>36b</sup> Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them,  
*“Peace be with you.”*

<sup>37</sup> They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost.

<sup>38</sup> He said to them,

*“Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?*

<sup>39</sup> *Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”*

<sup>40</sup> And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

<sup>41</sup> While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” <sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate in their presence.

<sup>44</sup> Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them,

*“Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.*

<sup>48</sup> *You are witnesses of these things.”*

*Luke 24:36b-48*

*P* The Gospel of our Lord.

**All** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

[You may be Seated](#)

Sermon

Pr. Debra Jimenez

## Hymn of the Day

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

## Stay with Us



1 Stay with us, till night has come: our praise to  
2 Walk with us, our spir - its sigh: hear when our  
3 Walk with us, the road will bend: make all our  
4 Talk with us, till we be - hold a joy - ful  
5 Stay with us, till day is done: no tears nor



you this day be sung. Bless our bread, o - pen our  
wear - y spir - its cry, feel a - gain our loss, our  
weep - ing, wail - ing end. Wipe our tears, for - give our  
life you will un - fold: heal our eyes to see the  
dark shall dim the sun. Cheer the heart, your grace im -



eyes: Je - sus, be our great sur - prise.  
pain: Je - sus, take us to your side.  
fears: Je - sus, lift the heav - y cross.  
prize: Je - sus, take us to the light.  
part: Je - sus, bring e - ter - nal life.

## Apostles' Creed

*P* Let us join together with the saints across the ages confessing our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

was crucified, died, and was buried;  
 he descended to the dead.  
 On the third day he rose again;  
 he ascended into heaven,  
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 and he will come 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.

**Prayers of The People**

*You may be Seated*

WA Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

Teach me to pray in the pow - er of Eas - ter, fol - low - ing Christ  
 in a life res - ur - rec - ted, teach me to act with com - pas - sion and jus -  
 - tice, teach me to dance with the beat of your heart.\_\_\_\_

*(each prayer petition ends with)*

WA: God of grace,

All: You hear our prayer.

# Passing of the Peace

Please stand in body or spirit.

*P* Christ become peace with you.

**All** And also with you.

## Offertory

You may be Seated



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,



give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,



give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.



And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am



rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And



now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am



rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

## Offertory Prayer

*P* Jesus called his disciples "witnesses" to the possibility of resurrection.

**All** The world is in need of continued resurrection to new life.

We are called to be witnesses to this journey to newness by offering our resources and our energy to the work of justice and love through our offering today and every day. Amen.

## Holy Communion



1. In re - mem - brance of Me, eat this bread. In re -  
mem - brance of Me, drink this wine. In re - mem - brance of Me, pray for the  
time when God's own will is done.

*P* Holy Living One,

You transformed a whole lot of nothing into this amazing creation.

You breathed life all around and called it good.

You invited us to the wonder of it all

and when we could not face you, you turned us around.

You keep bringing us around and around, time and again,  
offering the chance to join the freedom-dance.

Jesus sat at tables with those who had no place  
 and offered fulfilling food for bodies and souls.  
 And on the night when he would give all love for us,  
 he sat at the table with extended family—  
 just as he hosts this table here and now with this extended family.

He offered the usual prayers of thanks to you, God,  
 over bread and cup, and then disrupted the gathering with  
 uncustomary words:

“Take and eat this bread—it is my body given for you.  
 Whenever you gather around the table together, remember me.”

“Take and drink from this cup, each and every one—  
 it is the sign of a new covenant,  
 (for business-as-usual is over and done and the resurrection dance goes on).

This love is poured out for all people.  
 Whenever you gather around the table together, remember me.”

2. In re - mem - brance of Me, heal the sick. In re -  
 mem - brance of Me, feed the poor. In re - mem - brance of Me, o - pen the  
 door and let your broth - er in, let him in.

## The Lord's Prayer

*[Please stand in body or spirit.](#)*

**P** Make us bold, O merciful God, to address you as our Abba as we pray:

**All** **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
 thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**All** 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.

Take, eat, and be com - fort - ed, drink and re -  
mem - ber, too, that this is My bod - y and pre - cious blood shed for  
you, shed for you. 3. In re - mem - brance of Me, search for truth.  
In re - mem - brance of Me, al - ways love. In re - mem - brance of Me  
don't look a - bove, but in your heart, look in your heart for  
God. Do this in re - mem - brance of Me. \_\_\_\_\_

## The Invitation

*P* Jesus Christ, risen from the dead,  
offers everyone a place of welcome at His table of grace.  
Come to the feast.

[You may be Seated](#)

Note: the communion cups on the periphery of the tray contain red wine while the cups in the center contain white grape juice.

*Gluten Free wafers available –ask the communion attendant*

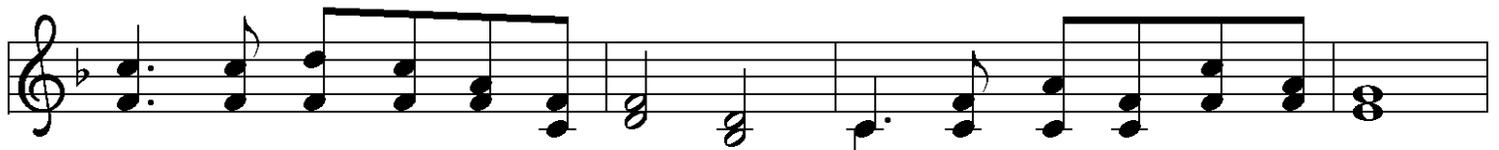
shed for you and  
for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin



**All are Welcome!**

## Communion Songs

### What a Friend We Have in Jesus



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?  
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

# You Are My All In All

Words and Music by  
Dennis Jernigan



1 You are my strength when I am weak. You are the treas - ure that I  
2 Tak - ing my sin, my cross, my shame, Ris - ing a - gain I bless Your



seek. You are my all in all. \_\_\_\_\_ Seek - ing You as a pre - cious  
name; You are my all in all. \_\_\_\_\_ When I fall down, You pick me



jew'l, Lord, to give up I'd be a fool. You are my all in all.  
up; When I am dry, You fill my cup; You are my all in all.



Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is Your name! \_\_\_\_\_



Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is Your name!

## Behold, What Manner of Love

Words and Music by  
Patricia Van Tine



Be - hold, what man-ner of love the Fa-ther has giv - en un - to us. \_\_\_\_\_ Be -



-hold, what man-ner of love the Fa-ther has giv - en un - to us, that



we \_\_\_\_\_ should be called the chil - dren of God, \_\_\_\_\_



that we \_\_\_\_\_ should be called the children of God. \_\_\_\_\_

## Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

*P* The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**All Amen**

*P* Let us pray,  
Generous God,

**All The table extends beyond this physical space  
and into the space of the Spirit that unites us.  
May the meal we have received ready us to  
love, trust, hope, and dance  
to the beat of God's heart. Amen**

*You may be Seated*

## Stewardship of Life & Ministry Announcements

### Benediction

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

*P* We have heard the risen Jesus speak peace  
and offer us hope through his very body.  
We have danced with dreamers past and present.  
Send us forth now, O God, ✝  
to live in the freedom of the peace that you still speak to us,  
making our steps more sure each and every day.

**All Amen.**

# Sending Song

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our

hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your

prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness. *End*

1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,  
2. Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,

I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger.  
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos - pel.

# Dismissal

*P* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**All** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

*WA* Go in peace. Live in love, as Christ loved us.

**All** Thanks be to God.

Readings for next Sunday,  
April 21<sup>st</sup>

**First Reading:**

**Acts 4:5-12**

**Psalm:**

**Psalm 23**

**Second Reading:**

**1 John 3:16-24**

**Gospel:**

**John 10:11-18**

Front Cover:

Photo by [Clarisse Meyer](#) on [Unsplash](#)

JESUS SHOWS  
UP AND IT'S  
TIME TO EAT.



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IT SURE IS.



WOULDN'T IT BE  
**GREAT** IF HE  
STILL DID **THAT**?



YES,



IT SURE IS!



LUKE 24:36B-48

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