

Ascension Lutheran Church

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost **July 5, 2020**

Welcome, All, In the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary", and find rest for our souls.

PRELUDE

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
full of compassion and mercy,
abounding in steadfast love.

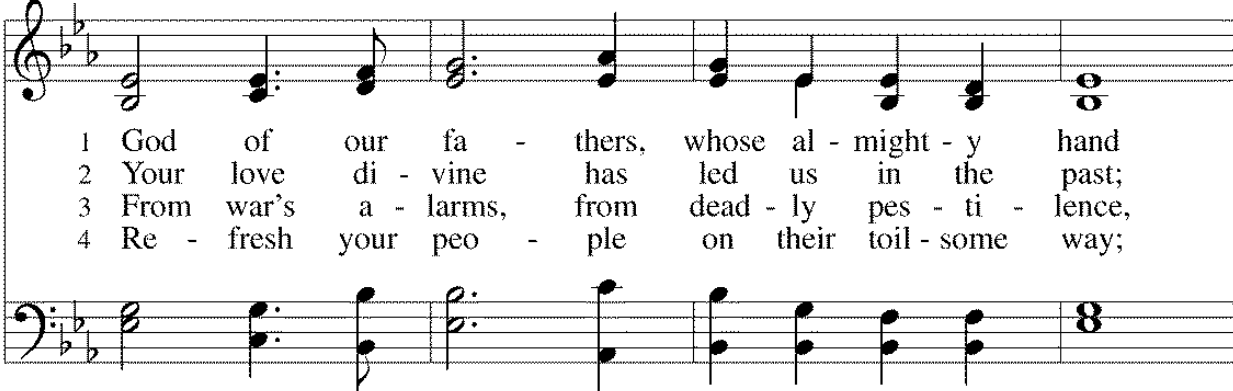
Amen.

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness,
let us confess our sin against God and one another.

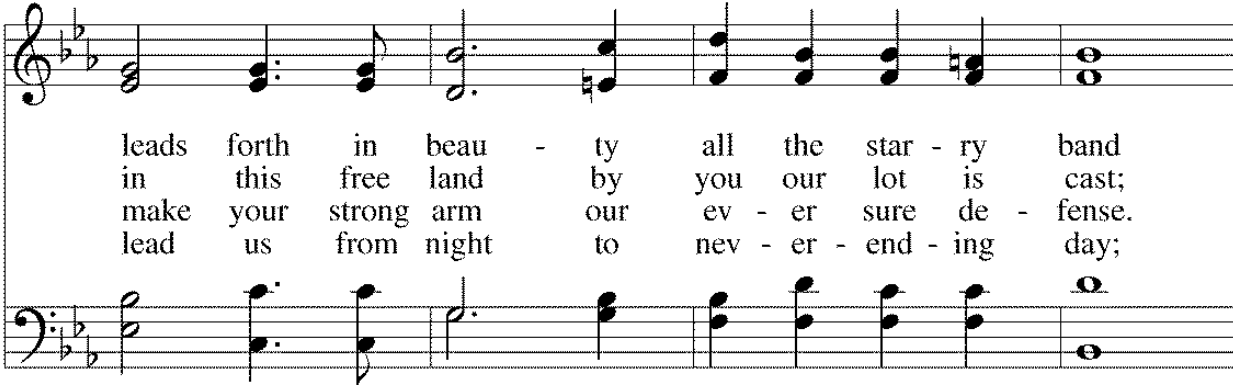
Silence for reflection.

Eternal God our creator,
in you we live and move and have our being.
Look upon us, your children,
the work of your hands.
Forgive us all our offenses,
and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.
By your grace draw us near to you,
our refuge and our strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us.
In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners;
and for his sake, God † forgives you all your sins.
Amen.



1 God of our fa - thers, whose al - might - y hand
 2 Your love di - vine has led us in the past;
 3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti - lence,
 4 Re - fresh your peo - ple on their toil - some way;



leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
 in this free land by you our lot is cast;
 make your strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense.
 lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;



of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies:
 oh, be our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay;
 Your true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease;
 fill all our lives with heav'n - born love and grace



our grate - ful songs be - fore your throne a - rise.
 your word our law, your paths our cho - sen way.
 your boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
 un - til at last we meet be - fore your face.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Psalm 145:8-14

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion. (Ps. 145:8)

**⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

**⁹LORD, you are good to all,
and your compassion is over all your works.**

**¹⁰All your works shall praise you, O LORD,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.**

**¹¹They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**

**¹²that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.**

**¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

**¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.**

READING: Romans 7:15-25a

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my

members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

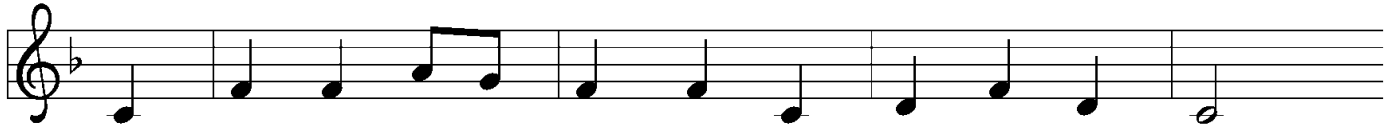
²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON The Rev. Christina Auch

HYMN #508 **“As Rain from the Clouds”**
Verses 1-2



1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
2 As grain that is scat - tered your word has been sown
3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,



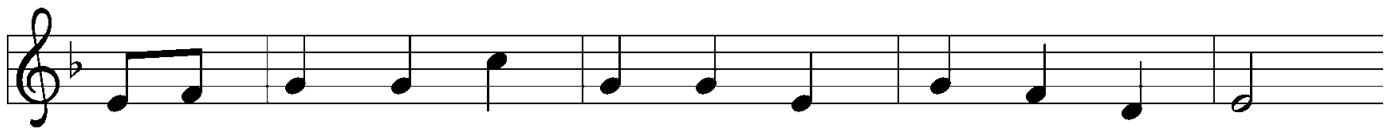
as snow from the heav - ens re - fresh - ing the land.
on rocks and on road - ways, in good earth and sand.
a - wak - ing and warm - ing and heal - ing our land.



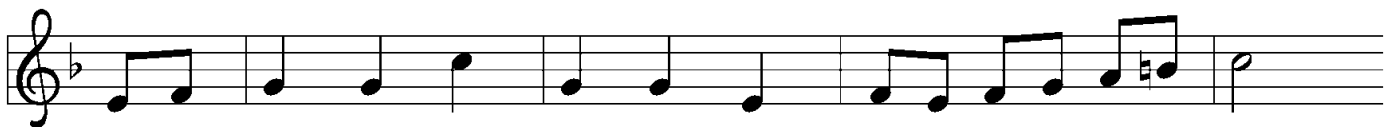
Then soft - en our soil that the good seed may grow
Make fer - tile our soil that the good seed may grow
Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow



and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.



We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;
We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;
We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;



we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.



We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,



for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939

Music: AFTON WATER, Jonathan E. Spilman, 1812–1896

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APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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 into hell.**

**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 INTERCESSION

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

A brief silence before the petitions are prayed.

We pray for the church. Sustain us as we share your word. Embrace us as we struggle to find our common ground. Lift up leaders with powerful and prophetic voices. Free us from stagnant faith. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the well-being of creation. Protect the air, water, and land from abuse and pollution. Free us from apathy in our care of creation and direct us toward sustainable living. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the nations, especially the United States celebrating its nationhood. Guide leaders in developing just policies and guide difficult conversations. Free us from nationalism that hinders relationship-building. Lead us to expansive love for our neighbor. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all in need. For all who are tired, feeling despair, sick, or oppressed. Take their yoke upon you and ease their burdens. Give your consolation and free us from all that keeps us bound. We pray especially for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts...

Betty Jean Adams (Judy Bridges' friend), **Grant** Adcock (Bob and Vicki Jones' grandson), **Kathy** Backof (Donna Lilly's friend), **Dan** Birch (Carol Berger's brother-in-law), **Carolyn** Blitz (Bill Bridges' friend), **Kathy** Bradley (friend of Bill Bridges), **Chris** Carman (Judy Bridges' friend), **Martha** Cash (Bill Bridges' friend), **Betty** Connor (Karen Hubbard's friend), **Edna** Cooper (Bill Bridges Aunt), **Joan** Craig (Clarann Schiavo's friend), **The Davenport Family** (Dave and Priscilla Williams friends), **Charles and Mary** Degree (Karen Long's friends), **Gloria** Dellinger (Greg Blalock's aunt), **Ann** Fitzsimmons (Steve and Jenny White's friend), **Mike** Greene (Gail Sherman's friend), **Markye and Carl** Greenwald (DeBell's friends), **Chris** Huffstetler (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Michael** Huntsinger (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Patti** Jenkins (Priscilla Williams' friend), **Steve** Jolly (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Mark** Kent (Majorie Olsen's son), **Becky and George** Kraft (Karen Hubbard's friend), **Jim** Lilly (Dick and Donna Lilly's son), **Kevin** Lilly (Vicky Galloway's 2nd cousin), **Anne** Lyerly (Rose Cook's sister-in-law), **Eva** McCombs (Sandra Waldrop's mother), **Bernice** McDaniels (Dean Davis' daughter), **Jamison** McGill (Pastor Christina's friends' son), **Janice** McGoven (Eleanor Hendricks' sister), **Charlotte** Morin (Priscilla Williams' friend), **Teresa** Olsen (Marjorie Olsen's daughter-in-law), **Bob** Patzer (Carol Berger's brother-in-law), **Margaret** Peruzzi (Carol Berger's mother), **Tommy** Price (Edith Kelly's nephew), **Beth** Rhyne (Ladley and Jane Burn's friend), **Harold** Rhyne (Ladley and Jane Burn's friend), **Lori** Rosamond (Pastor Christina's stepsister), **Pastor Eric** Sellers (Priscilla Williams' friend), **Jan** Tucker (Ozark bank

employee), **Pam** Unger (Willi and Ray Lacy's friend), **The Vonbehren Family** (Barbara Davis' cousins), **Molly and Darryl** Waterstraat (Karen Hubbard's friends), **Alfie** Welch (Renee Buchanan's brother), **Eric** West (Bob and Vickie Jones' son-in-law), **Christopher** Willever (David Williams' grandson), **Mary Ann** Woolley (Sandra Waldrop's aunt), **John Paul** Wolff (Willi and Ray Lacy's friend), **Denise and Savannah** Yount (Sandra Waldrop's friends)

Members: **Dean** Davis, **Lin** Washburn, **Dot** Paul, **Bob** Bryant, **William** Coyne, **Jim** Wilson, **Steve** Eckard, **Sandy** Harman, **Bobbie** Johnson, **Bobby** Jones, **Gerald** Washburn, **Donna** Lilly

In Undergraduate College: **Emma** Auch, **Brooke** Buchanan, **Samantha** Hoffman, **Jacob** Stone, **Catherine** Mae Lilly

Those Awaiting Arrival of Children: Kristen and Becca Gillespie (daughter and daughter-in-law of Joanna Gillespie)

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this congregation. Bless our pastor, musicians and congregational leaders. Energize ministry volunteers, our church secretary, and those who maintain our building and grounds. Shine in this place that we and others might notice the ways your love transforms our lives. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for those who have died in faith. Welcome them into your eternal rest and comfort us in our grief until we are joined with them in new life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace on video or say: "Peace be with you" from wherever you are or type it in the chat or comments.

OFFERING

*Make a one time or recurring gift using **the website** or **the GivePlus app** on iPhone or Android. You can give using ACH (bank account), Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.*

Or text 844-906-2283 and enter the amount you wish to donate. Then click the registration link and enter your payment information. You will receive a verification text as well as an email receipt. For future giving, simply send a text to the same number with the amount you wish to give, and your donation will process automatically.

Or mail your regular tithe or offering to PO Box 266, Shelby, NC 28151.

OFFERTORY "Doxology"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

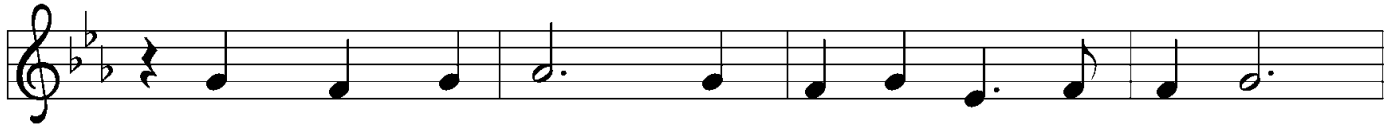
O God of justice and love,
we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son.
Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others,
and at the end bring all the world to your feast;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
**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.**

BLESSING

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.
Amen.



1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
 3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king - doms,



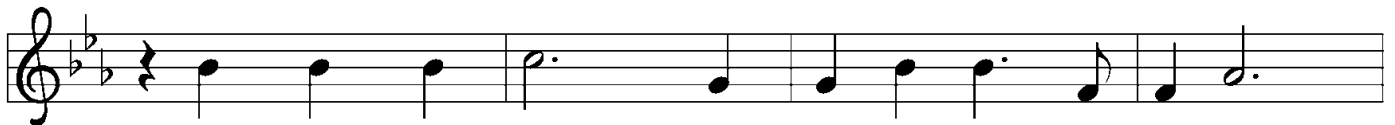
a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
 and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
 your king - dom come; on earth your will be done.



This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
 But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
 O God, be lift - ed up till all shall serve you,



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
 and skies are ev - 'ry - where as blue as mine.
 and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.



but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
 So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions;



with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
 a song of peace for their land and for mine.
 my - self I give you; let your will be done.

Text: Lloyd Stone, 1912–1993, sts. 1–2; Georgia Harkness, 1891–1974, st. 3

Music: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius, 1865–1957

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coronavirus Response: All face to face, in person gatherings at Ascension are canceled at this time.

Prayer Concerns: Please call or email the office or text Pastor Christina at 704-472-7783 to update prayer requests. You may leave a voicemail but please provide the spelling of any names, and your relationship to the person being prayed for.

Please continue your tithes and offerings. Make a one time or recurring gift using **the website** or **the GivePlus app** on iPhone or Android. You can give using ACH (bank account), Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.

Or **text 844-906-2283** and enter the amount you wish to donate. Then click the registration link and enter your payment information. You will receive a verification text as well as an email receipt. For future giving, simply send a text to the same number with the amount you wish to give, and your donation will process automatically.

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