

Ascension Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod

A Christ-centered community where we *connect, learn, and serve.*

August 14th

**THE GREAT
DIVIDE**

LUKE 12:49-56

Welcome To Our Guests

It is a great joy to have you here today. We pray that your time with us helps deepen your faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ. If we can be of service to you or your family, we invite you to talk to us at your convenience.

You will always be welcome here. Please do us the honor of signing the guest sheet at the podium at the front of the church or at the entrance from the Education Wing.

Thank you for coming!

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TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME

PRELUDE

AS WE GATHER

Today's Epistle continues the list of heroes of faith begun last week. But the other Readings provide the context. At the time of the Old Testament Reading, false prophets were telling people that nothing was wrong, although God had not commanded them to teach about anything. In the Gospel, Jesus points out that acting on one's faith inevitably leads to conflict, even within families. Only by faith are we able to look beyond the current, inevitable conflict to the joy that awaits all who follow Jesus. For the eternal joy before Him, He endured the pain. Now it is our turn to run the endurance race until faith is turned to sight.

Stand

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING HYMN - What God Ordains is Always Good

LW 422

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

CONFESSION OF SINS

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For**

the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

GREETING OF PEACE

At this time, you may turn to those around you and greet each other with the peace of Christ.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 23:16–29

¹⁶Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. ¹⁷They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, ‘It shall be well with you’; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you.’”

¹⁸For who among them has stood in the council of the LORD to see and to hear his word, or who has paid attention to his word and listened?

¹⁹Behold, the storm of the LORD!

Wrath has gone forth,
a whirling tempest;
it will burst upon the head of the wicked.

²⁰The anger of the LORD will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his heart.

In the latter days you will understand it clearly.

²¹“I did not send the prophets,
yet they ran;

I did not speak to them,
yet they prophesied.

²²But if they had stood in my council,
then they would have proclaimed my words to my people,

and they would have turned them from their evil way,
and from the evil of their deeds.

²³“Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God afar off? ²⁴Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’ ²⁶How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, ²⁷who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 11:17—12:3

¹⁷By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, ¹⁸of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” ¹⁹He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. ²⁰By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. ²¹By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. ²²By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

²³By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict. ²⁴By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, ²⁵choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. ²⁷By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. ²⁸By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

²⁹By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as if on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

³²And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated—³⁸of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

³⁹And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

³Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

GOSPEL

Luke 12:49-56

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁴⁹[Jesus said:] “I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. ⁵²For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. ⁵³They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, ‘A shower is coming.’ And so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you

see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Thompson

HYMN OF THE DAY - From All That Dwell Below the Skies

LW 440

THE APPLICATION OF GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY

Pastor Thompson

Stand

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

OFFERING / MEDITATION SONG - Show Us Christ

Praise Team

Stand

OFFERTORY - My Worth is Not in What I Own

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each prayer, the response will be:

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My \dagger body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My \dagger blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PEACE OF THE LORD

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** Amen.

Sit

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is celebrated at Ascension Lutheran in the glad confidence that our Lord Jesus, as His word says, gives not only bread and wine, but also His true Body and Blood for us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of our sins (Matthew 26:26-28). Our Lord invites to His table those who, repenting of their sins, believe His word that His body and blood are really present for the forgiveness of our sins. All baptized believers who hold our confession and have examined themselves according to Scripture's guidance (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), are invited to receive His Sacrament

COMMUNION SONGS - This Is Jesus O' Lord, We Praise You

LW 238

Stand

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE - Thank The Lord

LW pg. 192

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

LW pg. 192

- P** Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

CLOSING SONG - Only King Forever

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace and
C serve the Lord!

**LOOKING AHEAD: The assigned readings for next week are:
Isaiah 66:18-23; Hebrews 12:4-29; Luke 13:22-30**

Acknowledgments

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SERVING TODAY

ALTAR GUILD..... Schroeder Family
LAY READERBob Booth
ELDER(S).....Cooper Blake & Kurt Dolph
USHERS.....Ken Lindsey & Edie Krom
ACOLYTE.....Daisy Lucas



SERVING NEXT WEEK

ALTAR GUILD.....Schroeder Family
ELDER(S).....Bob Booth & Mike Fiffik
USHERS.....Matt Gunther & Cristen Fiffik
ACOLYTE.....Anna Fiffik

SAVE THE DATE

RALLY DAY - Sunday September 11th after church! We will be celebrating the kickoff of Christian Education by having a time of fellowship with our members, families, and neighbors from the community! We will provide ice cream sundaes, hot dogs & drinks. Please let Vicki Wiegand know if you would be willing to help with the grill or would like to donate a side dish!

FLEA MARKET & PUMPKIN FEST – Saturday October 8th, from 8am – 1pm. Tables for the flea market are being reserved now. Contact Vicki Wiegand at 724-816-0413 or email her at vickig@zoominternet.net. More details to come.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPEAKER EVENT – We are pleased to have Detective Sergeant Eric Egli , Supervisor of Investigations of the McCandless Police Dept. here to present: “Crimes Targeting Senior Citizens”. Sergeant Egli will help you to protect yourself from online scams, phone scams & distraction crimes. The event will be held Wednesday, September 7th at 2 pm in our Fellowship Hall. We hope you will be able to make it, and please invite a friend. More details to come as the event nears.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE - Learning is a big part of what we do here as Jesus’ disciples at Ascension Lutheran. How is your summer reading going? We hope you are learning and growing in your faith. We will be gathering on Sunday, August 28th after church in discussion groups to talk about each book. Each book will have its own group: Bible Stories will be led by Emily Marcellus in the 3-6th Grade Room in the Education Wing, Mere Christianity will be led by Janine Nicolette in the Fireside Room, and Joining Jesus on His Mission will be led by Pastor Thompson in the Fellowship Hall. We are looking forward to discussing these books with you!

DAVE RAMSEY FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY - The Stewardship Committee invites you to attend a Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University event this fall. Please see insert for more information, or contact Amy Diak at abdiak@comcast.net or cell # 412-538-7735 or see Pastor with any questions.

FACILITATORS NEEDED - The Stewardship Committee needs 3 or 4 facilitators for DAVE RAMSEY FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY. If you have previously taken the course and would be willing to facilitate for 2 or 3 of our 9-sessions, we would appreciate your assistance. Please contact Amy Diak if you can help at abdiak@comcast.net or 412-538-7735 (cell).

REDEEMER LUTHERAN’S ANNUAL GOLF OUTING – Redeemer Lutheran School is hosting its 28th annual “Golf Scramble” at Rolling Fields Golf Course, in Murrysville. The outing will be held on Saturday, August 27th, with a 1 PM shot-gun start. You can sign up individually or bring your own foursome. All proceeds benefit Redeemer Lutheran School. If you’re unable to participate, you may also sponsor a hole to contribute to this worthwhile cause. Additional details and sign-up sheets are available in the narthex, or you may contact Charlie Buttgerit at 412-477-4010. Please visit their website for more information. <https://rlspittsburgh.org/>

ASCENSION'S PRAYERS



- ✦ We pray for God's healing for Janet Seitz who is recovering from surgery.
- ✦ Please pray for relief from suffering and a diagnosis for Harper, cousin of the Mayes family.
- ✦ We pray for the residents of the US Virgin Islands. There is a major water shortage & severe supply line problems for other necessities.
- ✦ We give thanks to God for a successful knee surgery for Dennis Meier and ask God to bless him with a swift recovery.
- ✦ We give thanks to God for a successful knee surgery for Zach Foust and ask God to bless his recovery.
- ✦ We pray for God's continued strength & healing for Barb Marcellus's cousin Dale. He has Hodgkin's Lymphoma and is undergoing chemotherapy.
- ✦ We give thanks for the gift of Holy Baptism given to Emma Thompson, Pastor and Marissa's niece. We pray that God would bless and nurture her faith in the promises of God's love that are now hers in Jesus.
- ✦ We give thanks for the healthy birth of Caleb Rajendaran, Melissa's son, and for watching over the health of mom and baby. We pray for a speedy recovery for Melissa and healthy growth for Caleb.
- ✦ We pray for God's healing strength for Sandy Malarkey's daughter, Katie Milo, who is struggling with her recovery from recent hip surgery and feeling discouraged.
- ✦ We pray for God to provide a person to serve as Ascension Lutheran's Music Director.

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

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| SUNDAY | WORSHIP SERVICE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING | 9:30 AM 10:30 AM |
| TUESDAY | ELDERS MEETING | 6:30 PM |
| WEDNESDAY | PRAYER & PRAISE | 10:00 AM |
| SUNDAY 08/21/2022 | WORSHIP SERVICE | 9:30 AM |