

# Ascension Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod

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

September 18th



## 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!

**Pastor:** Rev. Adam Thompson  
[pastor@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:pastor@ascensionpgh.com)

**Secretary:** Allyson Hosilyk  
[secretary@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:secretary@ascensionpgh.com)

8225 Peebles Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
Phone: 412-364-4463  
Fax: 412-369-0599

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# FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

## AS WE GATHER

How do God's people respond to His grace-filled kindness to them? After listing the many blessings that God freely gives His people, Martin Luther writes in his response to the First Article of the Apostles' Creed, "For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him." Praising God is a sacred duty for His people. It is also a joyous duty. The Psalms are filled with exhortations to join in extensive and exuberant praise. Psalm 150 begins, "Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary." That is what we do individually and together as both a duty and as a delight!

*Stand*

## DIVINE SERVICE II (SECOND SETTING)

*LW pg. 178*

## INVOCATION

*Matthew 28:19b; 18:20*

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

## OPENING HYMN - Dearest Jesus at Your Word

*LW 202*

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

## EXHORTATION

*1 John 1:8-9*

- 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 SIN

- 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

*[John 20:19–23]*

**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.*

## PSALM

*Psalms 113*

- P** <sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!  
Praise, O servants of the LORD,  
praise the name of the LORD!
- C** <sup>2</sup>**Blessèd be the name of the LORD  
from this time forth and forevermore!**
- P** <sup>3</sup>From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
the name of the LORD is to be praised!
- C** <sup>4</sup>**The LORD is high above all nations,  
and his glory above the heavens!**
- P** <sup>5</sup>Who is like the LORD our God,  
who is seated on high,
- C** <sup>6</sup>**who looks far down  
on the heavens and the earth?**
- P** <sup>7</sup>He raises the poor from the dust  
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

**C** <sup>8</sup>to make them sit with princes,  
with the princes of his people.

**P** <sup>9</sup>He gives the barren woman a home,  
making her the joyous mother  
of children. Praise the LORD!

## KYRIE

*Mark 10:47*

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and  
for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us  
pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



**C** A - men.

# HYMN OF PRAISE

Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9

**P** This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.



**C** Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,  
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O Lord, keep Your Church in Your perpetual mercy; and because without You we cannot but fall, preserve us from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; 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*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Amos 8:4-7*

<sup>4</sup>Hear this, you who trample on the needy  
 and bring the poor of the land to an end,  
<sup>5</sup>saying, "When will the new moon be over,  
 that we may sell grain?  
 And the Sabbath,  
 that we may offer wheat for sale,  
 that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great

and deal deceitfully with false balances,  
<sup>6</sup>that we may buy the poor for silver  
and the needy for a pair of sandals  
and sell the chaff of the wheat?"

<sup>7</sup>The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:  
"Surely I will never forget any of their deeds."

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## GRADUAL

*Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.*

**P** Fear the LORD, you his saints,  
for those who fear him lack nothing!  
Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

## EPISTLE READING

*1 Timothy 2:1–15*

<sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. <sup>3</sup>This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. <sup>7</sup>For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

<sup>8</sup>I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; <sup>9</sup>likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, <sup>10</sup>but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. <sup>11</sup>Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. <sup>12</sup>I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. <sup>13</sup>For Adam was formed first, then Eve; <sup>14</sup>and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. <sup>15</sup>Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

## ALLELUIA AND VERSE

*John 6:68*

**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
 You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 16:1–15*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixteenth chapter.

**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus] also said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. <sup>2</sup>And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’ <sup>3</sup>And the manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup>I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.’ <sup>5</sup>So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup>He said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ <sup>7</sup>Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ <sup>8</sup>The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light.

<sup>9</sup>And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

<sup>10</sup>“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. <sup>11</sup>If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup>And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? <sup>13</sup>No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

<sup>14</sup>The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



*Sit*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*Pastor Thompson*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY - What Is the World to Me**

*LW 418*

## **THE APPLICATION OF GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY**

*Pastor Thompson*

*Stand*

## **NICENE CREED**

**C** 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  $\text{✠}$  of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*[1Timothy 2:1-4]*

*After each prayer, the response will be:*

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

*Sit*

## OFFERING

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

*Praise Team*

*Stand*

**OFFERTORY - We Praise You and Acknowledge You**

## PREFACE

*2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]*

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al-so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

## PROPER PREFACE

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

## SANCTUS

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is He who comes in the name  
 of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P** Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us children of men and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the redemption you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts that he may establish in us a living faith and prepare us joyfully to remember our Redeemer and receive him who comes to us in his body and blood.
- C** Amen

### LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9-13*

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- C** **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.**

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

- 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  $\text{†}$  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  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## PAX DOMINI

*John 20:19*

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

## AGNUS DEI

*John 1:29*



**C** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

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 - Eat This Bread Behold the Lamb

Stand

### POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE - Thank the Lord

*[Psalm 105:1-3, 42-43]; [1 Chronicles 16:8-10]*

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what  
He has done. Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-  
joice and proud-ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-  
es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks-  
giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**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

*Numbers 6:24–26*

- 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  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.



## CLOSING SONG - Doxology (God Be Praised)

## DISMISSAL

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

### Acknowledgments

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**LOOKING AHEAD: The assigned readings for next week are:  
Amos 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Luke 16:19-31**

**SERVING TODAY**

ELDER(S).....Darryl Gunther & Dave Dille  
ALTAR GUILD.....Russ Lucas  
USHERS.....Lynn Gunther & Lora Koontz  
ACOLYTE.....Daisy Lucas

**SERVING NEXT WEEK**

ELDER(S).....Cooper Blake  
LAY READER.....Darryl Gunther  
USHERS.....Matt Gunther & Ron Curcio  
ACOLYTE.....Elijah Blake

**WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FAMILY SMALL GROUP** - Ascension’s Family Small Group is resuming our get-togethers! We will be meeting for dinner and a bible study once a month. Baby-sitting is provided during the Bible Study time. Our first meeting is Sunday, September 18th 5-6:30pm at church in the Fireside Room. In addition to our monthly get together we are looking to plan two social events and one service event between now and the end of the year; so stay tuned to hear about what we come up with! If you are interested in joining us, we would love to have you! Contact Pastor Thompson with any questions at [pastor@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:pastor@ascensionpgh.com).

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEACHERS NEEDED** – We are looking forward to the start of our Christian Education beginning September 18th. We are offering Topical & Book of the Bible Adult bible studies, Men’s & Women’s Bible groups as well as our Sunday School groups. We are in need of some folks to assist with the programs. If you are interested & can help, please contact Janine Nicolette for more details. [janine.wordsmith@gmail.com](mailto:janine.wordsmith@gmail.com)

**DAVE RAMSEY FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY** - There are 3 spots left that the church has already purchased and we'd love to fill them. If you know of anyone in or outside of ALC who may be interested, please let them know to check out our Facebook page post from September 12. The cost is a discounted \$50. Classes will be held on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 pm & begin on September 21<sup>st</sup>, and end November 16<sup>th</sup>. Questions or concerns can be directed to Amy Diak at [abdiak@comcast.net](mailto:abdiak@comcast.net) or cell 412-538-7735. Thank you!

**WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY** - The women will be doing an 8 week co-led bible study called " Chosen: A Study of Esther" by Donna Snow this Fall. Thursdays from 7-8:30pm from September 29 - November 17. The deadline to sign up has passed, so if you haven’t signed up & are still interested, please contact Marissa Thompson as soon as possible.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** – Our Men's Bible study starts back up on Saturday, September 24th. We will meet at 8:30am in the Fireside Room, and will meet the 4th Saturday of each month.

**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP EVENT** – Our next men's fellowship event will be held on Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at the Grist House, Millvale - 10 Sherman St Pittsburgh, PA 15209. You may contact Pastor with any questions or concerns.

**PUMPKINFEST HELP WANTED!** – We need volunteers to help set up tables for the Pumpkinfest on Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. If you are available **during the day**, please let Vicki know and she will arrange her schedule around yours. You can text or call her 724-816-0413, or email is [vickig@zoominternet.net](mailto:vickig@zoominternet.net).

**ASCENSION BELL CHOIR** - Last call for bell ringers! We are looking to do a piece for All Saints day, then we will start to look at things for Christmas! Please RSVP if you are interested in ringing with us to Chris Schroeder at [chrisschroeder2003@gmail.com](mailto:chrisschroeder2003@gmail.com) or 412-759-8068!

**10K LUTHERAN LIFE BIKE RIDE** - Multi-church 10k Life Bike Ride on the 3 River's Heritage Trail from the Hot Metal Bridge to Station Square on Oct. 15th at 9:30m (rain date Oct. 22 nd at 9:30am). Ascension, First Trinity, Peace, Redeemer & Zion Lutheran churches are raising funds for Mary's Place of the South Hills and all funds raised will be matched by the Synod's Million Dollar Life Grant program. Registration cost \$5/Ind. \$10 Fam. Signup sheet located in Narthex. Contact Pastor or Karen Booth for more information to sponsor riders: [KarenBooth808@gmail.com](mailto:KarenBooth808@gmail.com) or (cell: 808-354-9561) Donations can also be received to Peace Lutheran Church, 107 Carol Dr., McMurray, PA. 15317. Checks made to: Peace Service Team, memo line: 10k Ride.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** – Our Adult Bible Studies will begin again on Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup>. Classes will be held immediately following Sunday Divine Service. We are offering two Adult classes: Topical study & Book of the Bible:

- ❖ **Topical Study**: Nurturing Your Faith series, facilitated by Mike Fiffik & Dave Dille, in our Fellowship Hall. Dr. Dale Meyer examines the believer's life in four sessions. Using 1 Peter's instructions on Christ-centered conduct and service, Meyer's study stresses the need to live like Jesus for others yet resist the world around us. Reflection questions prompt users to respond in their own words.
- ❖ **Book Study**: Isaiah's Ancient Songs for Today, facilitated by Cooper Blake in the Fireside Room. The series is offered by Concordia, St. Louis and presented by Reverend Dr. Jeff Gibbs (Greek Scholar, author of CPH's Matthew Commentary) and Reverend Dr. Reed Lessing (Hebrew scholar, author of multiple Old Testament commentaries). This five-part study considers the fourth Servant Song's context within Isaiah 40–55 and how it impacted New Testament authors like Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Paul.



### **ASCENSION'S PRAYERS**

- ✦ We pray for God's strength and healing for Melissa Wolfslayer's sister Rebecca Calderwood, she is having some health issues from Shingles and Lyme Disease
- ✦ Prayers for healing for Barb Marcellus's three cousins – Lynda who is receiving PT/OT at Concordia after hospitalization with hydrocephalus, Dale who is hospitalized with an infection, meningitis, and lymphoma, and Elaine who has vertigo.
- ✦ We pray for God to provide a person to serve as Ascension Lutheran's Music Director.

## THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> <b>CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</b> <b>FAMILY SMALL GROUP</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> <b>5:00 PM</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>ELDER'S MEETING</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>PRAYER &amp; PRAISE</b> <b>DAVE RAMSEY FINANCIAL CLASS</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>MEN'S BIBLE STUDY</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>9/25/2022</b>	<b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> <b>CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b> <b>11:00 AM</b>