



ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

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

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 7, 2025



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Welcome! We're happy you're with us for worship today.

IF YOU ARE VISITING FOR THE FIRST TIME, please take a moment to sign in at the podium at either sanctuary entrance. We pray your time with us strengthens your faith in the Lord. We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS). You can find more information about our beliefs at LCMS.org/about/beliefs.

IF YOU HAVE SMALL CHILDREN, we understand that God made them wiggly and noisy at times, but we also believe they should be with us in worship. If you need a moment, we have a nursery available to you through the hallway to the right of the altar. Children's bags are also available in the Narthex for use during service.

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated at Ascension Lutheran on each Sunday. We receive this Holy Sacrament 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 truly present for the forgiveness of our sins. All baptized believers who hold our confession of faith and have examined themselves according to Scripture's guidance (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), are invited to receive His Sacrament. If you are not yet baptized or are visiting us for the first time, we invite you to come forth during communion and fold your arms over your heart for a blessing. Pastor would be happy to discuss receiving Holy Communion at Ascension with you.

AFTER EACH SERVICE from September to May, please join us for a brief time of **FELLOWSHIP** with coffee and treats downstairs in our Fellowship Hall briefly before we begin our **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** hour for those ages 2 and above.

If you have any questions, seek out Pastor, an usher, or a member with a name tag; they will be happy to help you out.

SERVING TODAY:

ELDER(S): Dave Dille & Mike Fiffik

LAY READER: Trish Young

USHERS: John Russler & Cristen Fiffik

ACOLYTE: Adalyn Russler

SERVING NEXT WEEK

ELDER(S): Bob Booth & Cooper Blake

LAY READER: Bob Booth

USHERS: Matt Gunther & Ken Lindsey

ACOLYTE: Elijah Blake

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Pre-Service - More Like Jesus

Welcome

Prelude

Stand

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 - Lord of All Hopefulness

LSB 738

Exhortation

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

Confession of Sins

P O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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

Following the Absolution, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matthew 5:22–24; Ephesians 4:1–3).

Hymn of Praise - Jesus Paid It All

Verse 1

And I hear the Savior say
Thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness watch and pray
Find in Me thine all in all

Chorus 1

'Cause Jesus paid it all
All to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow

Verse 2

Lord now indeed I find

Thy pow'r and Thine alone
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone

Verse 3

And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete
Jesus died my soul to save
My lips shall still repeat

Chorus 2

Oh praise the One Who paid my debt
And raised this life up from the dead
(Jesus)

Sit

Old Testament

Deuteronomy 30:15–20

¹⁵“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set

before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Philemon 1–21

¹Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our beloved fellow worker ²and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, ⁵because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints, ⁶and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. ⁷For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

⁸Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, ⁹yet for love’s sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— ¹⁰I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. ¹¹(Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) ¹²I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. ¹³I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own free will. ¹⁵For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

²¹Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Luke 14:25–35

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁵Now great crowds accompanied [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

³⁴“Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? ³⁵It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message

Pastor Thompson

Hymn of the Day - Jesus I My Cross Have Taken

Verse 1

Jesus I my cross have taken
All to leave and follow Thee
Destitute, despised forsaken
Thou from hence my all shall be
Perish every fond ambition
All I've sought or hoped or known

Yet how rich is my condition
God and heaven are still my own

Verse 2

Let the world despise and leave me
They have left my Saviour too
Human hearts and looks deceive me

Thou art not, like them, untrue
Oh, while Thou dost smile upon me
God of wisdom love and might
Foes may hate and friends disown me
Show Thy face, and all is bright

Verse 5

Soul, then know thy own salvation
Rise o'er sin and fear and care
Heaven's eternal day's before me
Something still to do or bear
Think what Spirit swells within thee
Think what Father's smiles are thine

Think that Jesus died to win thee
Child of heaven, canst thou repine

Verse 6

Haste thee on from grace to glory
Armed by faith and winged by prayer
Heav'n's eternal days before me
God's own hand will guide me there
Soon shall close my earthly mission
Swift shall pass my pilgrim days
Hope shall change to glad fruition
Faith to sight and prayer to praise

Sermon

Pastor Thompson

Lutheran Catechesis - The Third Petition

C Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

P *What does this mean?*

C The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

P *How is God's will done?*

C God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

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 ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Offering

Meditation Song - Here I Am to Worship

Praise Team

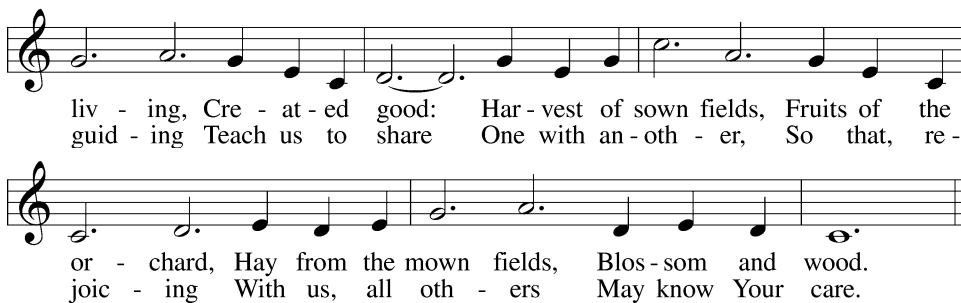
Stand

Offertory - Praise and Thanksgiving

LSB 789 sts. 1, 3



1 Praise and thanks - giv - ing, Fa - ther, we of - fer For all things
 3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing Food for Your chil - dren, By Your wise



Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-84

Tune: Gaelic, 19th cent.

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Installation: Teachers of the Faith

Blessing of milestone books

Prayer of the Church

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

After each prayer, the response will be:

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

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 ✠ 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 ✠ 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

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Sit

Holy Communion

Distribution Hymns - You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

LSB 641

Take, Eat, This is My Body

Chorus

Take eat this is My body
Broken for you
For I am come that you
Might have life
Eat of My flesh and live
Eat of My flesh and live

Verse 1

My blood was shed for many
Taking away your sin
And if I shall make you free
Then you shall be free indeed
You shall be free indeed

Verse 2

Though your sins be as scarlet
They shall be white as snow
Though they be red like crimson
They shall be as wool
They shall be as wool

Verse 3

For God so loved the world
He gave His only Son
That whosoever believeth on Him
Might have everlasting life
Might have everlasting life

Communion Dismissal

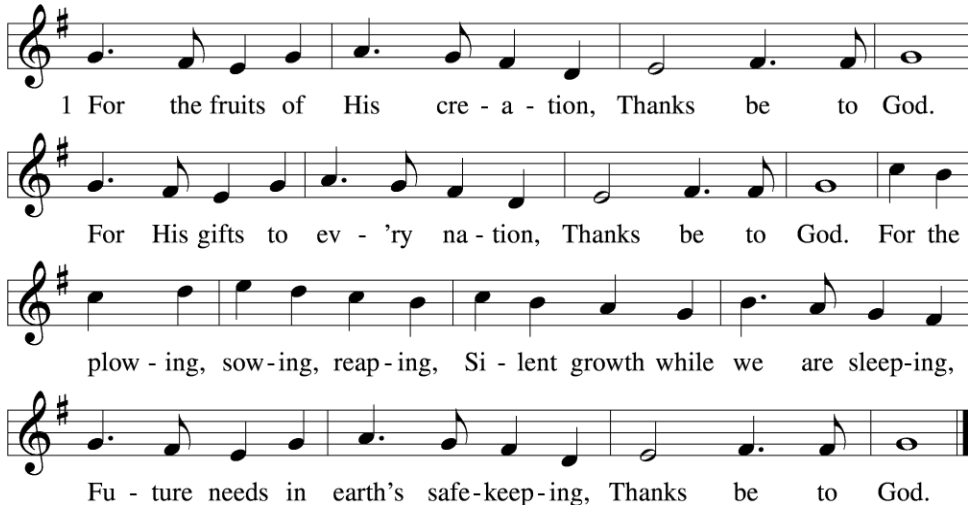
P Now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen and preserve you, in body and soul, unto life everlasting. Depart in His peace ☩ and with joy.

C Amen.

Stand

Post-Communion Canticle - For the Fruits of His Creation

LSB 894



1 For the fruits of His cre - a - tion, Thanks be to God.

For His gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, Thanks be to God. For the

plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, Si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,

Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, Thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Tune: Welsh, 18th cent.

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Tune: Public domain

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.

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 ☩ give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Song - Take My Life and Let It Be

LSB 783, sts. 1-5

Sit

Announcements

Memory Verse For The Week: Philemon 18 – “If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account.”

Dismissal

P Go in peace and
G serve the Lord!

Acknowledgments

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Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses:

Ezek. 34:11-24, Psalm 119:169-176, 1 Tim. 1:(5-11) 12-17; Luke 15:1-10

This week we pray for:

- Please continue to pray for Kim Detore, daughter of Cheryl Saffa, for relief of pain and her symptoms of numbness and tingling. Prayers for finding a surgeon quickly and the next surgery to completely fix her.
 - Eileen Vogel in thanksgiving for her safe return home and for continued swift recovery.
 - We give thanks for the progress Jim Obringer Sr. has made recovering from his stroke. We pray you continue to grant him a return to even more mobility.
 - **UPDATED:** Shirley Waselko, thanksgiving for successful operation and for a blessed and smooth recovery.
-

Church News & Announcements:

<u>Happy Birthday to:</u>	Kurt Dolph	September 8 th
	Michael Fantin	September 8 th
	Mark Straszheim	September 12 th
	Grace Russler	September 13 th

Happy Anniversary to: Mark & Katie Straszheim September 13th

Prayer and Praise: We are meeting this Wednesday at 10am for Prayer & Praise! We meet in the Fireside Room at church or we have an online option via Zoom. If you have questions or need prayer, please contact Bob Booth at 808-295-1835.

A/V Booth Helpers Needed: We are looking for volunteers to help in the A/V Booth. If interested, please reach out to me at pastor@ascensionpgh.com.

Regional LCMS Young Adults Bible Study - PALM is planning to sponsor and facilitate a multi-parish Bible Study for young adults. If you are interested in participating in this please fill out the form by clicking the link that was sent out in the weekly reminder email.

PALM Sports Club Interest Survey: PALM is considering organizing a group for people who are interested in playing a sport together (e.g. a pickle ball group). If you're interested in this, please fill out this survey so we can gauge interest and beginning planning: <https://forms.gle/96gSuiwN2nA7DLoi9>

Men's Retreat - Time to Recharge! Just wanted to remind you about an upcoming men's retreat Friday September 26th to Saturday 27th! We're planning an overnight getaway for the fellas of the church, a chance to relax, connect, and recharge. We'll have some great activities planned, good food, and plenty of opportunities to just hang out and chat. It's a fantastic way to strengthen our bonds as a group and get away from the daily grind for a bit. The retreat will be held at Deep Creek Lake, MD. We'll be kicking things off on Friday at 3PM and wrapping up on Saturday around 4PM. We've arranged preferential pricing at the WISP Resort nearby. You can make reservations by calling them at 855-656-4632 b/t 8am and 6pm and ask for Group Booking ID 8423. You can still attempt

to call and reserve a room if you still wish to attend the retreat. Hope to see you there!

Women's Event: Fall Ladies Night- Join us for a fall party at Vicki's house on Thursday, Sept 18th from 6-8. She will be teaching us an optional easy craft while we mingle and eat/drink fall treats. More info and sign up in the Narthex. Questions? See Vicki W

Women's Event Winter: Ornament Painting - We would like to schedule a little painting party at Dots & Doodles on Sunday, November 2 from 1-3pm. We do need to know in advance how many might be interested in coming. Please view more info and sign up in the Narthex. Questions? See Elizabeth Russler

Speaker Program - The Outreach Committee is sponsoring an educational presentation on nutrition for heart health and diabetic issues. This will be held in Fellowship Hall on Thursday, September 25, from 10 to 11 AM. The speaker is Shoshana Genack, MS, RD, CDN, CDCES, who is a Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist at UPMC Passavant. Please invite friends and family. Light refreshments will be served. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Ladies' Bible Study- Ladies of Ascension, come join us for some fellowship, conversation and study of the faith this Saturday, September 13th at 10 am in the Fireside Room.

A note from Mark and Katie- We have been immensely blessed by our time together with the believers at Ascension – “connecting, learning and serving” with you! You have witnessed your love for the Word and for others. And we have become “black and gold” fans!

So, it is with many emotions that we share with you that we are migrating back to northern Michigan in October and planning retirement around the end of the year. We trust our Lord will lead us every step of the way.

May God continue to bless each one of you and the ministries at Ascension. Thanks for building us up during our time here!

This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:

Sunday 09/07	Divine Service Sunday School Classroom Visit & Picnic	9:30 AM 11:00 AM
Tuesday	Church Council Meeting	6:30 PM
Wednesday	Prayer & Praise Confirmation Class	10:00 AM 7:00 PM
Saturday	Ladies Bible Study	10:00 AM
Sunday 09/14	Divine Service Christian Education Hour	9:30 AM 11:00 AM