



# **ASCENSION**

Lutheran Church

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

**Second Sunday after Pentecost – June 7, 2026**



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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](http://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.**

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**SERVING TODAY:**

**ELDER(S):** Bob Booth & Cooper Blake  
**LAY READER:** Bob Booth  
**USHERS:** Lora Koontz & Ron Curcio  
**ACOLYTE:** Hannah Koontz

**SERVING NEXT WEEK:**

**ELDER(S):** Alan Gard & Mike Fiffik  
**LAY READER:** Darryl Gunther  
**USHERS:** Cristen Fiffik & Ken Lindsey  
**ACOLYTE:** Christian Fleishauer

# Second Sunday after Pentecost

## Pre-Service - My Jesus Be Thou My Vision

*Christian Fleishauer on Saxophone*

### Welcome

### Prelude

*Stand*

### Invocation

*Matthew 28:19b; 18:20*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✝}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

### Opening Hymn - Love of God

#### Verse 1

It's so good I almost can't believe it  
Far beyond what hearts could ever  
dream  
The God who set the galaxies in motion  
Would descend to give His life for me

#### Pre-Chorus 1

For what could make perfection bleed  
for sinners  
What leads a King to pay so great a cost  
All my life my heart will sing the answer  
Only the love of God

#### Chorus 1

Singing oh how great is the love of God  
He paid our debt on that rugged cross  
For all our days we will sing our Savior's  
praise  
How great is the love of God

#### Verse 2

It's so kind it leads us to repentance

It's so bright the darkness has to flee  
Hallelujah it cleared my guilty sentence  
For I was bound but now I stand  
redeemed

#### Pre-Chorus 2

For what could break the chains of any  
prison  
What force could rob the power from the  
grave  
What would trade my rags for heaven's  
riches  
Only the love of God  
(Chorus 1)

#### Verse 3

Though I try my mind can't comprehend  
it  
It's so high too marvelous for words  
I could sing a million songs about it  
And barely scratch the surface of Your  
worth

### Pre-Chorus 3

This all my life the banner I'll be waving  
My anthem cry no matter what may  
come

And when I rise to walk the streets of  
heaven

I'll still be singing this song  
For everything that You've done  
How great the love of God

### Chorus 1

Singing oh how great is the love of God  
He paid our debt on that rugged cross

For all our days we will sing our Savior's  
praise  
How great is the love of God

### Chorus 2

Singing oh how great is the love of God  
He paid our debt on that rugged cross  
For all our days we will sing our Savior's  
praise  
How great is the love of God  
How great is the love of God  
Thank You Jesus

### Exhortation

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

- 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 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

*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 Sinners Doth Receive

*LSB 609 sts. 1–2, 4–6*

*Sit*

## Old Testament

*Hosea 5:15–6:6*

- <sup>15</sup>I will return again to my place,  
until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face,  
and in their distress earnestly seek me.
- <sup>1</sup>“Come, let us return to the LORD;  
for he has torn us, that he may heal us;  
he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.
- <sup>2</sup>After two days he will revive us;  
on the third day he will raise us up,  
that we may live before him.
- <sup>3</sup>Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD;  
his going out is sure as the dawn;  
he will come to us as the showers,  
as the spring rains that water the earth.”
- <sup>4</sup>What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?  
What shall I do with you, O Judah?  
Your love is like a morning cloud,  
like the dew that goes early away.
- <sup>5</sup>Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets;  
I have slain them by the words of my mouth,  
and my judgment goes forth as the light.
- <sup>6</sup>For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,  
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

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

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

## Epistle Reading

*Romans 4:13–25*

<sup>13</sup>The promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is

void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

<sup>16</sup>That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup>In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” <sup>23</sup>But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, <sup>25</sup>who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 9:9–13*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the ninth chapter.

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

<sup>9</sup>As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him.

<sup>10</sup>And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. <sup>11</sup>And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” <sup>12</sup>But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup>Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

**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 Your Mercy

#### Verse 1

Jesus Your mercy is all my plea  
I have no defense my guilt runs too deep

The best of my works  
Pierced Your hands and Your feet  
Jesus Your mercy is all my plea

#### Verse 2

Jesus Your mercy is all my boast  
The goodness I claim the grounds of my hope  
Whatever I lack it's still what I need most  
Jesus Your mercy is all my boast

#### Chorus

Praise the King who bore my sin  
Took my place when I stood condemned

Oh how good You've always been to me  
I will sing (of Your mercy)

#### Verse 3

Jesus Your mercy is all my rest  
When fears weigh me down and enemies press  
A comfort I cling to in life and in death  
Jesus Your mercy is all my rest  
(Chorus)

#### Verse 4

Jesus Your mercy is all my joy  
Forever I'll lift my heart and my voice  
To sing of a treasure no pow'r can destroy  
Jesus Your mercy is all my joy  
(Chorus x2)

## Sermon

Pastor Thompson

### Lutheran Catechesis - The Sacrament of the Altar 1

**P** *What is the Sacrament of the Altar?*

**C** **It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.**

**P** *Where is this written?*

**C** **The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: 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.”

*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 - Mighty Is the Power of the Cross

*Praise Team*

*Stand*

### Offertory - Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

*LSB 955*

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, And fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were  
sown, That we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the  
hopes and the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we  
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and  
give us A fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-80  
Tune: Richard W. Hillert, 1923-2010  
Text and tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004761

## 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  $\text{✠}$  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."

## Peace of the Lord

*John 20:19*

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

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Holy Communion

### Distribution Hymns - Behold the Lamb

*Lindsay Fleishauer on violin*

#### Verse 1

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins  
away

Slain for us and we remember  
The promise made that all who come in  
faith

Find forgiveness at the cross  
So we share in this Bread of Life  
And we drink of His sacrifice  
As a sign of our bonds of peace  
Around the table of the King

### Verse 2

The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ  
Torn for you eat and remember  
The wounds that heal the death that  
brings us life  
Paid the price to make us one  
So we share in this Bread of Life  
And we drink of His sacrifice  
As a sign of our bonds of love  
Around the table of the King

### Verse 3

The blood that cleanses every stain of  
sin

Shed for you drink and remember  
He drained death's cup that all may  
enter in

To receive the life of God  
So we share in this Bread of Life  
And we drink of His sacrifice  
As a sign of our bonds of grace  
Around the table of the King

### Verse 4

And so with thankfulness and faith we  
rise  
To respond and to remember  
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ  
As His body here on earth  
As we share in His suffering  
We proclaim Christ will come again  
And we'll join in the feast of heaven  
Around the table of the King

## Just As I Am, Without One Plea

LSB 570

### 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 - Chief of Sinners Though I Be

LSB 611 st. 1

I Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His  
blood for me, Died that I might live on high,

Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is  
to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.

Text: William McComb, 1793-1873, alt.  
Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820-1901  
Text and 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 - Your Grace Is Enough

### Verse 1

Great is Your faithfulness O God  
You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart  
You lead us by still waters into mercy  
And nothing can keep us apart

### Pre-Chorus

(So) remember Your people  
Remember Your children  
Remember Your promise O God

### Chorus 1

Your grace is enough

Your grace is enough

Your grace is enough for me

### Verse 2

Great is Your love and justice God of Jacob  
You use the weak to lead the strong  
You lead us in the song of Your salvation  
And all Your people sing along  
(Pre-Chorus)(Chorus 1)

### Chorus 2

Yeah Your grace is enough

Heaven reaches out to us  
Your grace is enough for me  
God I sing Your grace is enough

I'm covered in Your love  
Your grace is enough for me for me

*Sit*

## Announcements

**Memory Verse For The Week:** Matthew 9:13 – “Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

## Dismissal

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

## Acknowledgments

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**Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses:**  
**Ex. 19:2-8; Psalm 100; Rom. 5:6-15; Matt. 9:35-10:8(9-20)**

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### **This week we pray for:**

- **NEW:** Healing and recovery for Lynn Rodina as she battles a respiratory infection.
- Lynn Gunther, for successful knee surgery and a smooth recovery.
- Thanksgiving for Aaron and Catherine Townley and the gift of new life given. Protect Catherine and baby Townley throughout her pregnancy through delivery.
- For pregnant moms Sierra Toto, granddaughter of Eileen Vogel, and Claire Fiffik, daughter of Mike and Cristen Fiffik, that they and their unborn babies remain healthy throughout their pregnancies and result in the safe and joyous delivery of new life.
- For protection for all who serve in our armed forces and especially for Joshua, Lynn Rodina's grandson, who is a marine deployed in the conflict in Iran.

- Arlene Rusnica, who sustained a broken arm in a fall, that she recovers quickly and is relieved from pain.
  - John Fagen, for strength and faith as he battles cancer.
  - Kurt Dolph's continued cancer treatment and for a quick recovery and healing.
  - Greg Horne, husband of Rosalie Horne, as he deals with physical and mental distresses. Grant him relief and healing from his afflictions.
  - Darryl Gunther for healing for his eyes.
  - 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.
  - Shirley Waselko's continued cancer treatments to give good results and for continued faith in the midst of her suffering.
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### **Church News & Announcements:**

**Happy Anniversary to:** Bob & Barb Marcellus June 10<sup>th</sup>

**Happy Birthday to:**

Tim Mayes	June 7 <sup>th</sup>
Joseph Palma	June 7 <sup>th</sup>
Jadon Mitchell	June 10 <sup>th</sup>
Nancy Hughey	June 10 <sup>th</sup>
Ella Krieger	June 13 <sup>th</sup>

**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. The link is sent in the Weekly Reminder email. If you have questions or need prayer, please contact Bob Booth at 808-295-1835.

**New Members needed for Praise Team** – With the departure of some of our long-time Praise Team members we need some new people to help serve the worship of the congregation on Sundays. Please prayerfully consider joining our Praise Team! If you have any questions, please contact Lisa or Emily Marcellus.

**Board of Stewardship-** We are currently looking for someone to fill the Head of the Board of Stewardship. The Board of Stewardship's main objective is to initiate programs of good stewardship attitudes amongst the Congregation

members regarding their time, talents, and treasures. This can include, but not limited to recognizing members for their stewardship, annual pledges, training opportunities, and assistance with finding ministry opportunities. If you feel called to serve in this role, please contact Pastor Thompson, [pastor@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:pastor@ascensionpgh.com) or Beth Gard, [president@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:president@ascensionpgh.com)

**Christmas Pageant Team Needed:** Will Ascension continue to have a children's Christmas pageant? If yes, a team of members is needed. Costumes, scripts, and operations instructions are available and organized, as is help from the Music Director. If you are interested, please let Janeen Daftary know. A team of 2-3 members must be in place by Sept 20 for a 2026 pageant to take place.

**Outdoor Sign Ideas:** Have a funny saying idea for our church sign? We'd love to hear it! There is a jar in the Narthex under "Connect", please submit your ideas for consideration! We always need 1-2 sentence ideas for: church holidays, seasonal holidays, etc!

**Bridal Shower:** Women and girls of Ascension, help us celebrate the upcoming nuptials of Emily Marcellus and Michael Shildt with a bridal shower on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP by text to Janine Nicolette at 412-965-0428. Emily and Mike's registry can be found through [theknot.com](http://theknot.com). Please contact Janine Nicolette if you'd like to help with food and set up at 412-965-0428.

**Church Picnic:** The end of the year picnic is **today** after service.

**PALM Bible Study –** There will be no bible study for the month of June.

**PALM Bowling –** PALM's is hosting monthly bowling on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. If interested, please be sure to RSVP by **this** Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Attention youth 7th through 12th grade!** We are going kayaking on Saturday June 20 at 3PM! Plan to meet at the North Park Boathouse for an hour of paddling around the quiet waters of North Park lake! Please RSVP to Chris Schroeder at [youth@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:youth@ascensionpgh.com) ASAP so we know how many kayaks to rent!

**Chosen Season 2 Summer Study** - join us this summer as we continue to study and discuss the hit show The Chosen. The first bible study will take place on July 12th and will cover Episodes 1-4 and the second bible study will be on August 9th and will cover Episodes 5-8. The link for the episodes is in the weekly reminder email.

**Health Insurance Committee Forming**- We are forming a Health Insurance Committee that will act as insurance consultants to Pastor and his family as well as Church Council. Working alongside Pastor, the committee will investigate health insurance plan options and rates. We are looking for 4- 5 members. If you are interested, please reach out to Beth Gard, [bgard@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:bgard@ascensionpgh.com) by **June 15th**.

<b>This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:</b>		
<b>Sunday 06/07</b>	<b>Divine Service Church Picnic</b>	<b>9:30 AM 11:00 AM</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Church Council</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Prayer &amp; Praise</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
<b>Sunday 06/14</b>	<b>Divine Service</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>