

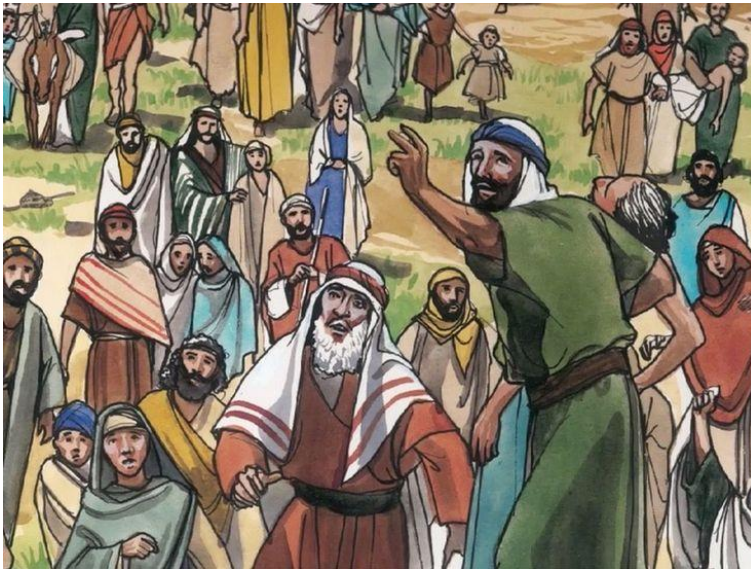


ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

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

Third Sunday after Pentecost – June 14, 2026



Rev. Adam Thompson, Pastor, pastor@ascensionpgh.com
Lisa & Emily Marcellus Music Director, music@ascensionpgh.com
Alicia Weisser, Secretary secretary@ascensionpgh.com

8225 Peebles Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237
www.ascensionpgh.com 412-364-4463

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): Alan Gard & Mike Fiffik

LAY READER: Darryl Gunther

USHERS: Cristen Fiffik & Ken Lindsey

ACOLYTE: Christian Fleishauer

SERVING NEXT WEEK:

ELDER(S): Cooper Blake & Kurt Dolph

LAY READER: Trish Young

USHERS: Matt Gunther & John Russler

ACOLYTE: Gabriel Blake

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Pre-Service - God So Loved

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 -Oh For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Verse 1

Oh for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise
The glories of my God and King
The triumphs of His grace

Verse 2

My gracious Master and my God
Assist me to proclaim
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name

Chorus 1

So come on and sing out
Let our anthem grow loud
There is one great love Jesus

Verse 3

Jesus the name that charms our fears
That bids our sorrows cease
'Tis music in the sinner's ears
'Tis life and health and peace

Verse 4

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin
He sets the pris'ner free
His blood can make the foulest clean
His blood availed for me

Chorus 2

So come on and sing out
Let our anthem grow loud
There is one great love
There is one great love Jesus (Jesus)

Verse 5

He speaks and list'ning to His voice
New life the dead receive
The mournful broken hearts rejoice
The humble poor believe

Verse 6

Glory to God and praise
And love be ever ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above
The church in earth and heav'n
(Chorus 2)

Bridge

There are so few words
That never grow old
There are so few words
That never grow old
Jesus Jesus Jesus

Chorus 4

So come on and sing out
Let our anthem grow loud
There is one great love
There is one great love
Jesus

Exhortation

Psalm 124:8; Psalm 130:3–4; Luke 18:13

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

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

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

Confession of Sins

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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 - O Christ, Who Called the Twelve

LSB 856

Sit

Old Testament

Exodus 19:2–8

²[The people of Israel] set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, ³while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ⁴You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

⁷So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. ⁸All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Romans 5:6–15

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— ¹³for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning

was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 9:35—10:20

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

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

³⁵Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

¹And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.

²The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' ⁸Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. ⁹Acquire no gold nor silver nor copper for your belts, ¹⁰no bag for your journey, nor two tunics nor sandals nor a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. ¹¹And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. ¹²As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or

town. ¹⁵Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

¹⁶“Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, ¹⁸and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message

Pastor Thompson

Hymn of the Day -Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling

LSB 827

Sermon

Pastor Thompson

Lutheran Catechesis - The Sacrament of the Altar 2

P *What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?*

C These words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

P *How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?*

C Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: “forgiveness of sins.”

Stand

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

Sit

Offering

Meditation Song - O Church Arise

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 † 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 - In Remembrance

Verse 1

In remembrance of Me eat this bread
In remembrance of Me drink this wine
In remembrance of Me pray for the time
When God's own will is done

Drink and remember too
That this is My body
And precious blood shed for you shed
for you

Verse 2

In remembrance of Me heal the sick
In remembrance of Me feed the poor
In remembrance of Me open the door
And let your brother in let Him in

Verse 3

In remembrance of Me share my truth
In remembrance of Me show my love
In remembrance of Me don't look around
But in my Word, in my Word
Look in my Word...for God
Do this in remembrance of Me
Do this in remembrance of Me
In remembrance of Me

Bridge

Take eat and be comforted

Yet Not I, But Through Christ In Me

Verse 1

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give

He is my joy my righteousness and
freedom

My steadfast love my deep and
boundless peace
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all
is mine
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 2

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour he will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need his power is displayed
To this I hold my Shepherd will defend
me
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall
overcome
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 3

No fate I dread I know I am forgiven
The future sure the price it has been
paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my
pardon

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 - God Loved the World So That He Gave

LSB 571 st. 4

4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all

And he was raised to overthrow the
grave
To this I hold my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released I can sing I
am free
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 4

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me
home
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to him
When the race is complete still my lips
shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Ending

When the race is complete still my lips
shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me
Yet not I but through Christ in me

sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by

Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.
 Tune: George J. Eivey, 1816-93
 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 - Lift High the Cross

LSB 837

Sit

Announcements

Memory Verse For The Week: Matthew 9:37-38 - Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Dismissal

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

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.

Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses:

Jer. 20:7-13; Psalm 91:1-10(11-16); Rom. 6:12-23; Matt. 10:5a, 21-33

This week we pray for:

- 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.
-

Church News & Announcements:

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 or Beth Gard, 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 September 20 in order 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 11th 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. Please contact Janine Nicolette if you'd like to help with food and set up at 412-965-0428.

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 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 by **this Monday, June 15th**.

This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:

Sunday 06/14	Divine Service	9:30 AM
Wednesday	Prayer & Praise	10:00 AM
Saturday	PALM Bowling Kayaking at North Park	Noon 3:00 PM
Sunday 06/21	Divine Service	9:30 AM