



ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

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

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – June 28, 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.

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: Dave Dille

USHERS: Edie Krom & Matt Gunther

ACOLYTE: Craig Fleishauer

SERVING NEXT WEEK:

ELDER(S): Bob Booth & Kurt Dolph

LAY READER: Bob Booth

USHERS: Lora Koontz & Cristen Fiffik

ACOLYTE: Elijah Blake

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Pre-Service - Still

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 - The Church's One Foundation

LSB 644

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** Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

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 - There Is One Gospel

Verse 1

There is one Gospel on which I stand
For all eternity
It is my story my Father's plan
The Son has rescued me
Oh what a Gospel oh what a peace
My highest joy and my deepest need
Now and forever He is my light
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Verse 2

There is one Gospel to which I cling
All else I count as loss
For there where justice and mercy meet
He saved me on the cross
No more I boast in what I can bring
No more I carry the weight of sin
For He has brought me from death to life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Verse 3

There is one Gospel where hope is found
The empty tomb still speaks

For death could not keep my Saviour down
He lives and I am free
Now on my Saviour I fix my eyes
My life is His and His hope is mine
For he has promised I too will rise
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Verse 4

And in this Gospel the church is one
We do not walk alone
We have His Spirit as we press on
To lead us safely home
And when in glory still I will sing
Of this old story that rescued me
Praise to my Saviour the King of life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Ending

And when in glory still I will sing
Of this old story that rescued me
Praise to my Saviour the King of life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ
Praise to my Saviour the King of life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Old Testament

Jeremiah 28:5–9

⁵Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to Hananiah the prophet in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, ⁶and the prophet Jeremiah said, “Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD make the words that you have prophesied come true, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. ⁷Yet hear now this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes to pass, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Romans 7:1–13

¹Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? ²Thus a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. ³Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

⁴Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. ⁵For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. ⁶But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit.

⁷What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” ⁸But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. Apart from the law, sin lies dead. ⁹I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. ¹⁰The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. ¹¹For sin, seizing an

opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.

¹²So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

¹³Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 10:34–42

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁴[Jesus said:] “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household. ³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

⁴⁰“Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. ⁴¹The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. ⁴²And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message

Pastor Thompson

Hymn of the Day - Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

LSB 685

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 - Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Praise Team

Stand

Offertory - Let All Things Now Living

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God the Creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
who guides us and leads to the end of our days.
His banners are o'er us, his light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
'til shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

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 - I Am the Bread of Life

Verse 1

I am the Bread of Life
You who come to me shall not hunger;
and who believe in me shall not thirst.
No one can come to me
unless the Father beckons.

Refrain

And I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day.

Verse 2

The bread that I will give
is my flesh for the life of the world,
and if you eat of this bread,
you shall live forever,
you shall live forever.
(Refrain)

Verse 3

Unless you eat
of the flesh of the Son of Man
and drink of his blood,
and drink of his blood,
you shall not have life within you.
(Refrain)

Verse 4

I am the Resurrection,
I am the life.
If you believe in me,
even though you die,
you shall live forever.
(Refrain)

Verse 5

Yes, Lord, we believe
that you are the Christ,
the Son of God,

who has come
into the world.
(Refrain)

Refrain

And I will raise you up,

and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day.

Tag

And I will raise you up on the last 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 heav'n are still my own.

Verse 2

Let the world despise and leave me;
they have left my Savior, 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 3

Man may trouble and distress me.
'Twill but drive me to Thy breast
Life with trials hard may press me.
Heav'n will bring me sweeter rest.
O tis not in grief to harm me,
while Thy love is left to me.
O 'twere not in joy to charm me,
were that joy unmixed with Thee.

Verse 4

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure;
come disaster, scorn and pain.
In Thy service, pain is pleasure.
With Thy favor, loss is gain.
I have called Thee Abba Father;
I have stayed my heart on Thee.
Storms may howl, and clouds may
gather.
All must work for good to me.

Verse 5

Soul, then know thy full salvation;
rise o'er sin and fear and care.
Joy to find in every station;
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

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 - Sent Forth By God's Blessing

LSB 643 st. 2



2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing To God ev - er - liv - ing,
The tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face.
Our faith ev - er shar - ing, In love ev - er car - ing,
Em - brac - ing His chil - dren of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;
U - nite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the liv - ing With praise and thanks - giv - ing
Give hon - or to Christ and His name that we bear.

Text: Omer E. Westendorf, 1916-97, alt.

Tune: Welsh

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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 - Onward, Christian Soldiers

LSB 662

Sit

Announcements

Memory Verse For The Week: Romans 7:7 - What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."

Dismissal

P Go in peace and

C serve the Lord!

Acknowledgments

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Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses:

Zech. 9:9-12; Psalm 145:1-14; Rom. 7:14-25a; Matt. 11:25-30

This week we pray for:

- **UPDATED:** Prayer of Thanksgiving for successful birth of Patrick Thomas “Tommy”, grandson of Mike and Cristen Fiffik. Thankful mom and baby are both healthy and well.
- 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 mom Sierra Toto, granddaughter of Eileen Vogel, that she and her unborn baby remain healthy throughout her pregnancy 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.
- Thanksgiving for a successful surgery for Darryl Gunther.
- 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:

Happy Birthday: Melissa Rajendaran June 28th
 Simon Blake June 30th
 Lisa Marcellus July 3rd
 Larry Sauer July 3rd

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.

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.

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.

Church Council Secretary – Trish Young has expressed interest in leading our Board of Stewardship! Church Council is now seeking someone to fill Trish's role as Council Secretary. Responsibilities include managing documentation from our monthly Council meetings and quarterly Congregation meetings; such as taking meeting minutes, maintaining copies of reports, and attendance records. Serving as Council Secretary is a great stepping stone into church leadership and gives you a behind the scenes look at how the church operates. If you would like to learn more about this vital role, please contact Pastor Thompson, pastor@ascensionpgh.com or Beth Gard, president@ascensionpgh.com.

Annual Summer Festival: Mark your calendars for Sunday, July 26th from 12:30 to 5:30 pm for Concordia's 145th Annual Summer Festival at Lund Care Center Backyard, 134 Marwood Road, Cabot, PA 16023 featuring a Summer Picnic Themed Menu. See the flyer under the Connect Board in the Narthex for more information!

Food Train for Lynn & Darryl Gunther: Lynn and Darryl would like to thank everyone for all the delicious meals, gift cards, visits and prayers. We are blessed to have our Ascension Christian family.

Attention youth 7th through 12th grade (starting in the fall)! We are going to be going to the Washington Wild Things game on Friday July 10! The game will be at 7:05 PM. We will need some parents/other church members to help drive and come to the game! If you're interested, please e-mail Chris Schroeder at cschroeder@ascensionpgh.com before Monday July 6. Thanks!

This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:

Sunday 06/28	Divine Service Ascension's Annual Pirate Game	9:30 AM 11:00 AM
Wednesday	Prayer & Praise	10:00 AM
Sunday 07/05	Divine Service	9:30 AM