



ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

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

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost – July 5, 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): Bob Booth & Kurt Dolph

LAY READER: Bob Booth

USHERS: Lora Koontz & Cristen Fiffik

ACOLYTE: Elijah Blake

SERVING NEXT WEEK:

ELDER(S): Dave Dille & Mike Fiffik

LAY READER: Dave Dille

USHERS: Ken Lindsey & John Russler

ACOLYTE: Juliette Schroeder

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Pre-Service - God Bless Our Native Land

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 - Come Unto Me, Ye Weary

LSB 684

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 - Be Still My Soul (In You I Rest)

Verse 1

Be still my soul the Lord is on thy side
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain
Leave to thy God to order and provide
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain
Be still my soul thy best thy heav'nly
friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful
end

Verse 2

Be still my soul thy God doth undertake
To guide the future as He has the past
Thy hope thy confidence let nothing
shake
All now mysterious shall be bright at last
Be still my soul the waves and winds still
know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt
below

Chorus

Sit

Old Testament

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

In You I rest in You I found my hope

In You I trust

You never let me go

I place my life within Your hands alone

Be still my soul

Verse 3

Be still my soul the hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever with the Lord
When disappointment grief and fear are
gone

Sorrow forgot Love's purest joys
restored

Be still my soul when change and tears
are past

All safe and blessed we shall meet at
last

(Chorus x2)

Ending

Be still my soul

Be still my soul

Zechariah 9:9–12

¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall speak peace to the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Romans 7:14–25a

¹⁴We know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:25–30

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁵At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things

have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

- 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 3

- P** *Who receives this Sacrament worthily?*

- C** Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.

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 - Peace

Praise Team

Stand

Offertory - Give Thanks

Chorus

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son

And now let the weak say I am strong
Let the poor say I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for
us

Ending

Give thanks, Give thanks

Verse

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 Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

LSB 618

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Verse 1

I heard the voice of Jesus say
Come unto Me and rest
Lay down thou weary one
Lay down thy head upon My chest
I came to Jesus as I was
Weary and worn and sad
I found in Him a resting place
And He has made me glad

Verse 2

I heard the voice of Jesus say
Behold I freely give
The living water thirsty one
Stoop down and drink and live

I came to Jesus and I drank
Of that life giving stream
My thirst was quenched my soul revived
And now I live in Him

Verse 3

I heard the voice of Jesus say
I am this dark world's light
Look unto Me thy morn shall rise
And all thy day be bright
I looked to Jesus and I found
In Him my Star my Sun
And in that light of life I'll walk
Till travelling days are done

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 - O Day of Rest and Gladness

LSB 906 st. 3

3 This day, God's peo - ple meet - ing, His Ho - ly Scrip - ture hear;
His liv - ing pres - ence greet - ing, Through bread and wine made near.
We jour - ney on, be - liev - ing, Re - newed with heav'n - ly might,
From grace more grace re - ceiv - ing, On this blest day of light.

Text: Charles P. Price, 1920–99

Tune: Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Hofkapelle, 1784, Württemberg

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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 - 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Verse 1

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus
Just to take Him at His word
Just to rest upon His promise
Just to know thus saith the Lord

Chorus

Jesus Jesus how I trust Him
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er
Jesus Jesus precious Jesus
O for grace to trust Him more

Verse 2

O how sweet to trust in Jesus
Just to trust His cleansing blood
Just in simple faith to plunge me
'Neath the healing cleansing flood
(Chorus)

Sit

Announcements

Memory Verse For The Week: Romans 7:24-25 - Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Dismissal

P Go in peace and
C serve the Lord!

Acknowledgments

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Verse 3

Yes 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus
Just from sin and self to cease
Just from Jesus simply taking
Life and rest and joy and peace
(Chorus)

Verse 4

I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee
Precious Jesus Savior Friend
And I know that Thou art with me
Wilt be with me to the end
(Chorus)

Tag

O for grace to trust Him more!

Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses:
Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:(1-8) 9-13; Rom. 8:12-17; Matt. 13:1-9,18-23

This week we pray for:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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:

<u>Happy Anniversary:</u>	Shane & Amber Mitchell	July 6, 2014
	Cooper & Ronette Blake	July 7, 2007
	John & Elizabeth Russler	July 8, 2006

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 (UPDATED DATE) - 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 2nd** 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!

Attention youth 7th through 12th grade (starting in the fall)! We are going to be going to the Washington Wild Things game **this** 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!

Church Office: The church office will closed this Monday, July 6th.

PALM Bowling – PALM's is hosting monthly bowling on Saturday, July 18th. If interested, please be sure to RSVP by Wednesday, July 8th.

Pleasant Valley Shelter Meal: We are now looking for volunteers for our next Pleasant Valley Shelter meal on Tuesday, August 18th. If you are interested, please email Lisa or use the sign up sheet link that was sent out in the weekly reminder email.

Baby Bottle Campaign: Thank you for all of your generous donations for the baby bottle campaign. We collected \$762.10.

This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:

Sunday 07/05	Divine Service	9:30 AM
Monday	Church Office Closed	
Tuesday	Outreach Committee Meeting Christian Education Meeting	5:00 PM 5:30 PM
Wednesday	Prayer & Praise	10:00 AM
Friday	Washington Wild Things Game	7:00 PM
Saturday	Emily Marcellus' Bridal Shower	11:00 AM
Sunday 07/12	Divine Service Summer Bible Study-The Chosen Season 2	9:30 AM 11:00 AM