



# **ASCENSION**

Lutheran Church

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

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost – July 12, 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):** Dave Dille & Mike Fiffik

**LAY READER:** Dave Dille

**USHERS:** Ken Lindsey & John Russler

**ACOLYTE:** Juliette Schroeder

**SERVING NEXT WEEK:**

**ELDER(S):** Alan Gard & Kurt Dolph

**LAY READER:** N/A

**USHERS:** Matt Gunther & Shane Mitchell

**ACOLYTE:** Dalaney Gard

# Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

## Pre-Service - Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing

### 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 - 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

### 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 – Cornerstone

### Verse 1

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name  
(REPEAT)

### Chorus

Christ alone cornerstone  
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love  
Through the storm He is Lord  
Lord of all

### Verse 2

When darkness seems to hide His face  
I rest on His unchanging grace  
In every high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil  
(Chorus x2)

### Verse 3

When He shall come with trumpet sound  
Oh may I then in Him be found  
Dressed in His righteousness alone  
Faultless stand before the throne  
(Chorus x2)

*Sit*

### Old Testament

*Isaiah 55:10–13*

<sup>10</sup>“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there but water the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
<sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.  
<sup>12</sup>“For you shall go out in joy  
and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall break forth into singing,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
<sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall make a name for the LORD,  
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

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

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

## Epistle Reading

*Romans 8:12–17*

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

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

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

*Stand*

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, <sup>6</sup>but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>He who has ears, let him hear. . . .

<sup>18</sup>“Hear then the parable of the sower: <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup>yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. <sup>23</sup>As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

## Children's Message

*Pastor Thompson*

## Hymn of the Day - Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

*LSB 577*

## 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*

## 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

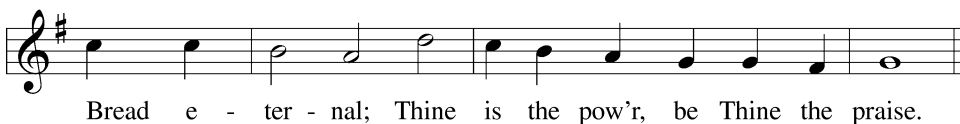
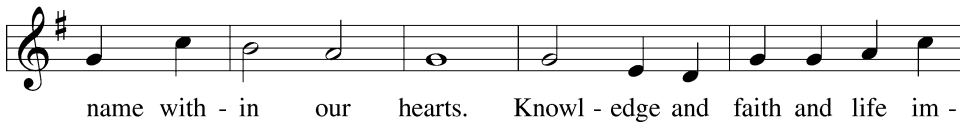
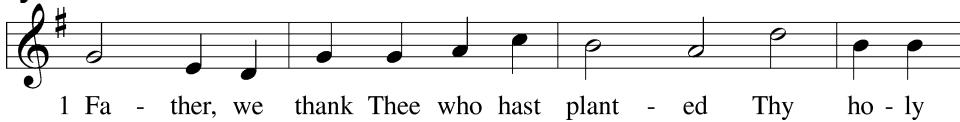
### Meditation Song - For Your Splendor

*Praise Team*

*Stand*

### Offertory - Father We Thank Thee Who Hast Planted

*LSB 652 st. 1*



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Tune: attr. Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-61

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## 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 - Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread

LSB 625

#### Before the Throne of God Above

##### Verse 1

Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea  
A great High Priest whose name is Love  
Who ever lives and pleads for me  
My name is graven on His hands  
My name is written on His heart  
I know that while in heav'n He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart  
No tongue can bid me thence depart

##### Verse 2

When Satan tempts me to despair  
And tells me of the guilt within  
Upward I look and see Him there  
Who made an end to all my sin  
Because the sinless Saviour died  
My sinful soul is counted free  
For God the Just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me  
To look on Him and pardon me

##### Verse 3

Behold Him there the risen Lamb  
My perfect spotless righteousness  
The great unchangeable I Am  
The King of glory and of grace  
One with Himself I cannot die  
My soul is purchased with His blood  
My life is hid with Christ on high  
With Christ my Saviour and my God  
With Christ my Saviour and my God

##### Verse 4

I bow before the cross of Christ  
And marvel at this love divine  
God's perfect Son was sacrificed  
To make me righteous in God's eyes  
This river's depths I cannot know  
But I can glory in its flood  
The Lord Most High has bowed down  
low  
And poured on me His glorious love  
And poured on me His glorious love

#### Communion Dismissal

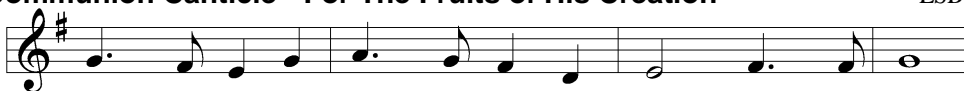
**P** Now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen and preserve you, in body and soul, unto life everlasting. Depart in His peace ☩ and with joy.

**C** Amen.

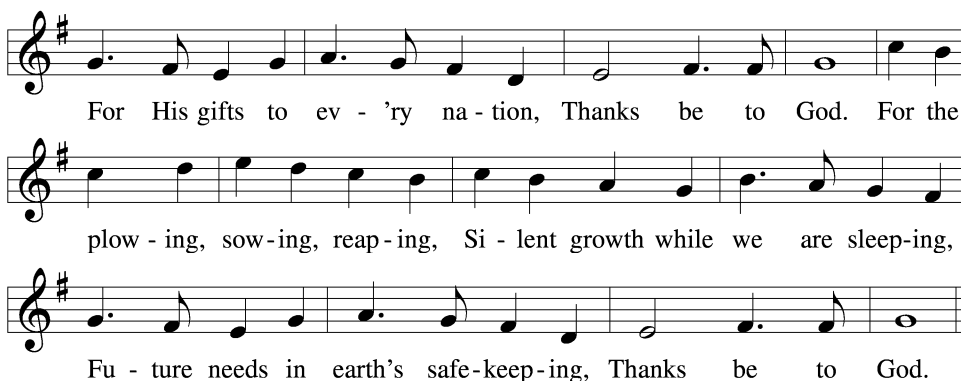
*Stand*

#### Post-Communion Canticle - For The Fruits of His Creation

LSB 894 st. 1



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



For His gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, Thanks be to God. For the  
 plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, Si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
 Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, Thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000  
 Tune: Welsh, 18th cent.  
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## 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 - On What Has Now Been Sown

*LSB 921*

*Sit*

## Announcements

**Memory Verse For The Week:** Matthew 13:22 - As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

## Dismissal

- P** Go in peace and

## **C serve the Lord!**

### **Acknowledgments**

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### **Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses:**

**Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 119:57-64; Rom. 8:18-27; Matt. 13:24-30,36-43**

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### **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.

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## Church News & Announcements:

**Happy Anniversary:** Kurt & Jackie Dolph July 15<sup>th</sup>  
Tom & Nancy Farris July 15<sup>th</sup>

**Happy Birthday:** Lucas Palma July 16<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.

**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!

**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 2<sup>nd</sup>** 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](mailto:pastor@ascensionpgh.com) or Beth Gard, [president@ascensionpgh.com](mailto:president@ascensionpgh.com).

**Annual Summer Festival:** Mark your calendars for Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 to 5:30 pm for Concordia's 145<sup>th</sup> 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!

<b>This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:</b>		
<b>Sunday 07/12</b>	<b>Divine Service Summer Bible Study-The Chosen Season 2</b>	<b>9:30 AM 11:00 AM</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Prayer &amp; Praise</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
<b>Sunday 07/19</b>	<b>Divine Service</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>