



ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

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

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost – July 19, 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): Alan Gard & Kurt Dolph

LAY READER: N/A

USHERS: Matt Gunther & Shane Mitchell

ACOLYTE: Dalaney Gard

SERVING NEXT WEEK:

ELDER(S): Bob Booth & Mike Fiffik

LAY READER: Darryl Gunther

USHERS: Lynn Gunther & Edie Krom

ACOLYTE: Hannah Koontz

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Pre-Service - O Church Arise

Welcome

Prelude

Our service today follows Divine Service Setting Three in the Lutheran Service Book starting on page 184.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation - Come Ye Thankful People Come

LSB 892

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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 O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely

repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

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).

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalms 86:11–15; antiphon: v. 6

P Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;
listen to my plea for grace.

C Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth;
unite my heart to fear your name.

P I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name forever.

C For great is your steadfast love toward me;
you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

P O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men seek my life,
and they do not set you before them.

C But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;
listen to my plea for grace.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47

C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

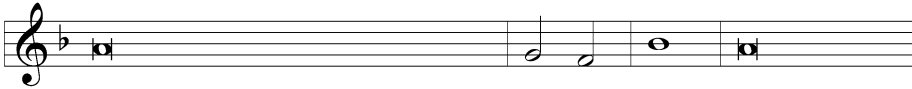
Hymn of Praise - Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



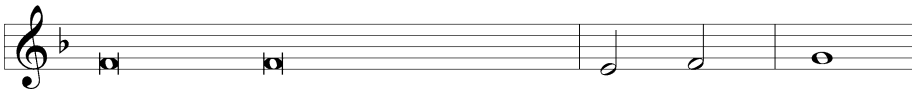
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



G And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



G A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 44:6–8

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
“I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
⁷Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.
Let him declare and set it before me,
since I appointed an ancient people.
Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.
⁸Fear not, nor be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
And you are my witnesses!
Is there a God besides me?
There is no Rock; I know not any.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalms

Psalms 119:57–64



HETH

L The LORD is my | portion;*,
I promise to | keep your words.
C I entreat your favor with | all my heart;*,
be gracious to me according to your | promise.
L When I think | on my ways,*,
I turn my feet to your testi- | monies;
C I hasten and do | not delay*,
to keep your com- | mandments.
L Though the cords of the wicked en- | snare me,*,
I do not for- | get your law.
C At midnight I rise to | praise you,*,
because of your just and righ- | teous decrees.
L I am a companion of all who | fear you,*,
of those who keep your | precepts.
C The earth, O LORD, is full of your | steadfast love;*,
teach me your | statutes!

Epistle

Romans 8:18–27

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

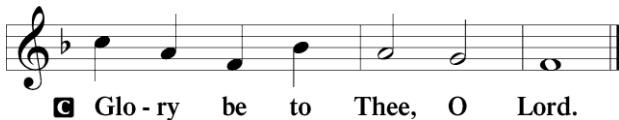
Alleluia



Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

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



²⁴[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to

him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' ²⁸He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" . . .

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

C 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

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day - Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word

LSB 655

Sermon

Offering

Meditation Song - Wonderful Merciful Savior *Adalyn Russler & Hannah Koontz on clarinet*

Stand

Offertory - Create In Me

Psalms 51:10-12



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Prayer of the Church

After each prayer, the response will be:

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
C Hear our prayer.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

- P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Full)

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 Our Lord *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.”

Pax Domini

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



G A - men.

Agnus Dei

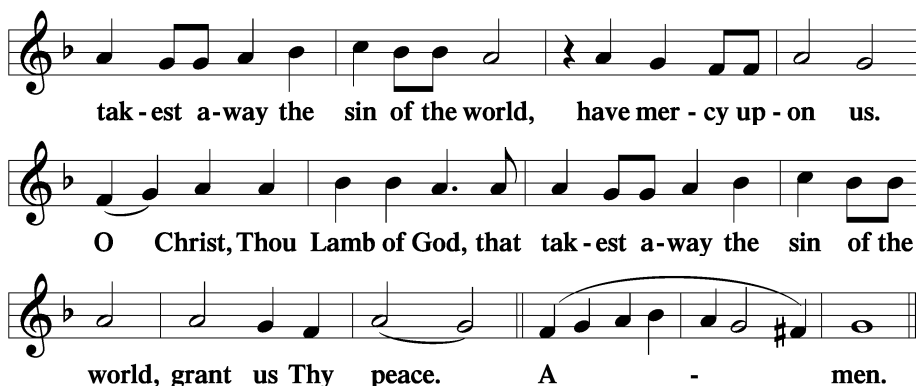
John 1:29



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



Sit

Holy Communion

Distribution Hymns - Take, Eat, This Is My Body

Chorus

Take eat this is My body broken for you
 For I am come that you might have life
 Eat of My flesh and live
 Eat of My flesh and live

Verse 1

My blood was shed for many
 Taking away your sin
 And if I shall make you free
 Then you shall be free indeed
 You shall be free indeed
 (Chorus)

Verse 2

Though your sins be as scarlet
 They shall be white as snow
 Though they be red like crimson
 They shall be as wool
 They shall be as wool
 (Chorus)

Verse 3

For God so loved the world
 He gave His only Son
 That whosoever believeth on Him
 Might have everlasting life
 Might have everlasting life
 (Chorus)

Children of the Heavenly Father

LSB 725

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.**

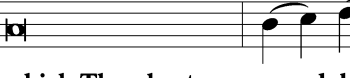
Stand

Post Communion Canticle - Nunc Dimittis

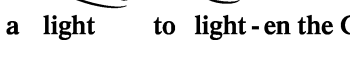
Luke 2:29–32


Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-


cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,


which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,


a light to light - en the Gen - tles and the glo - ry of Thy


peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

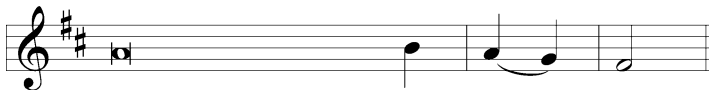

to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,


is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

A 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 A - men.

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

A Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



Closing Hymn - How Firm a Foundation

LSB 728

Announcements

Memory Verse For The Week: Matthew 13:30 - Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.

Dismissal

P Go in peace and
C serve the Lord!

Acknowledgments

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Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses:
Deut. 7:6-9; Psalm 125; Rom. 8:28-39; Matt. 13:44-52

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.
- Thanksgiving for Aaron and Catherine Townley and the gift of new life given. Protect Catherine and baby Townley throughout her pregnancy through delivery.
- **UPDATED:** Prayer of Thanksgiving for healthy baby Deacon and healthy mom, Sierra Toto, granddaughter of Eileen Vogel

- 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.
 - 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 Birthday:</u>	Amy Diak	July 22 nd
	Mary Ellen Lindsey	July 24 th
	Patti Lopresto	July 24 th

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 - join us this summer as we continue to study and discuss the hit show The Chosen. The next 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!

This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:

Sunday 07/19	Divine Service	9:30 AM
Tuesday	Elder's Meeting	6:30 PM
Wednesday	Prayer & Praise	10:00 AM
Thursday	PRC Meeting	6:30 PM
Sunday 07/26	Divine Service	9:30 AM