



ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

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

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost – August 2, 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): Kurt Dolph & Alan Gard

LAY READER: Trish Young

USHERS: Ron Curcio & Jim Obringer

ACOLYTE: Dalaney Gard

SERVING NEXT WEEK:

ELDER(S): Cooper Blake & Bob Booth

LAY READER: Bob Booth

USHERS: Ken Lindsey & Edie Krom

ACOLYTE: Hannah Koontz

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Pre-Service - Great Is Thy Faithfulness

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 - A Christian's Daily Prayer

Verse 1

As morning dawns and day awakes
To You I bring my need
O Gracious God my source of strength
In You I live and breathe
Each hour is Yours by Wisdom planned
Each deed empower'd by sovereign
hands
Renew my spirit help me stand
Be glorified today

Verse 2

As day unfolds I seek Your will
In all of life's demands
And though the tempter tries me still
I cling to Your commands

Let every effort of my life
Display the matchless worth of Christ
Make me a living sacrifice
Be glorified today

Verse 3

As sun gives way to darkest night
Your Spirit still is here
And though my strength fades like the
light
New mercies will appear
I rest in You abide with me
Until our trials and suffering
Give way to final victory
Be glorified today

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 - This Is the Feast

LSB 155

Sit

Old Testament

Isaiah 55:1–5

- ¹“Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
- ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
- ³Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live;

and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
⁴Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
⁵Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know,
and a nation that did not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Romans 9:1–13

¹I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit— ²that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. ⁴They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. ⁵To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

⁶But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, ⁷and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” ⁸This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. ⁹For this is what the promise said: “About this time next year I will return and Sarah shall have a son.” ¹⁰And not only so, but also when Rebecca had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, ¹¹though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of his call— ¹²she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” ¹³As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 14:13–21

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus heard [about the death of John], he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶But Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." ¹⁸And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message

Pastor Thompson

Hymn of the Day - O Living Bread from Heaven

LSB 642

Sermon

Pastor Thompson

Lutheran Catechesis - Morning Prayer

P *In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross and say:*

C **In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

P *If you choose, you may also say this little prayer:*

C **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

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 - Instrumental

Stand

Offertory - Messenger Doxology

Praise and glory to the Father
Praise and glory to the Son
Praise and glory to the Spirit
Ever three and ever One
(REPEAT)

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)

Tag

And I will raise you up on the last day

The Lamb

LSB 547

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 - Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy

LSB 774

Feed Thy chil - dren, God most ho - ly; Com - fort sin - ners
poor and low - ly. O Thou Bread of Life from heav-en, Bless the
food Thou here hast giv - en! As these gifts the bod-y nour - ish,
May our souls in grac - es flour - ish Till with saints in
heav'n - ly splen - dor At Thy feast due thanks we ren - der.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

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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 - Your Will Be Done

Verse 1

Your will be done my God and Father
As in heaven so on earth
My heart is drawn to self-exalting
Help me seek Your kingdom first
As Jesus walked so shall I walk
Held by Your same unchanging love
Be still my soul O lift your voice and
pray
Father not my will but Yours be done

Verse 2

How in that garden he persisted
I may never fully know
The fearful weight of true obedience
It was held by him alone
What wondrous faith to bear that cross
To bear my sin what wondrous love
My hope was sure when there my
Saviour prayed
Father not my will but Yours be done

Verse 3

When I am lost when I am broken
In the night of fear and doubt
Still I will trust in my good Father

Yes to one great King I bow
As Jesus rose so I shall rise
In ransomed glory at the throne
My heart restored with all Your saints I
sing
Father not my will but Yours be done

Verse 4

As we go forth our God and Father
Lead us daily in the fight
That all the world might see Your glory
And Your Name be lifted high
And in this Name we overcome
For You shall see us safely home
Now as Your church we lift our voice
and pray
Father not my will but Yours be done

Ending

And in this Name we overcome
For You shall see us safely home
Now as Your church we lift our voice
and pray
Father not my will but Yours be done
Father not my will but Yours be done
Father not my will but Yours be done

Sit

Announcements

Memory Verse For The Week: Isaiah 55:2 - Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

Dismissal

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

Acknowledgments

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Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses:

Job 38:4-18; Psalm 18:1-6 (7-16); Rom. 10:5-17; Matt. 14:22-33

This week we pray for:

- For guidance, peace, and increased reliance on faith in God's provision at Ascension Lutheran Church during the transition of Pastor Thompson's departure and our upcoming vacancy.
 - Thanksgiving for Aaron and Catherine Townley and the gift of new life given. Protect Catherine and baby Townley throughout her pregnancy through delivery.
 - 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.
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Church News & Announcements:

Happy Anniversary: Brian & Megan Fenstermaker August 5th
Tom & Cheryl Saffa August 6th

Happy Birthday: Caleb Rajendaran August 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-VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We are looking for one more volunteer to replace Marissa as the person who makes the messages on the Outdoor Sign. Experience with Canva or a willingness to learn how to use it would be needed. It is not hard to learn, and Marissa is willing to help teach you. If interested, please contact pastor at pastor@ascensionpgh.com.

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 **today** after Divine Service and will cover Episodes 5-8.

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.

Bridal Shower: Women and girls of Ascension, help us celebrate the upcoming nuptials of Lisa Marcellus and Alex McMillan with a bridal shower on Saturday, September 26th, from 11:00 am to 2 pm in Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP in the narthex or to Vicki W at 724-816-0413 by Sept 6. Recipe cards are on the Connect Table to help build a recipe collection for Lisa & Alex - please take one or two and return them to the recipe box on the table when you are done! Their registry link can be found in the weekly email.

Farewell Reception for Pastor Thompson: Please join us for a farewell reception for Pastor Thompson and his family after our Divine service on August 16th. Join us for cake and light refreshments as we say goodbye to Pastor and his family and wish them many of God's blessings as they begin their new mission at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Moorhead, MN.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE: The Call Committee was formed and had an organizing meeting on July 29, 2026. Our Circuit Visitor, Pastor Kuntz, was in attendance. Pastor Kuntz provided us with an overview of the call process from the standpoint of the Eastern District. We reviewed provisions in Ascension's Constitution and Bylaws relating to the call process. Our next step is to complete the Congregation & Community Self-Evaluation forms and submit them to the District for them to use in preparing a list of potential candidates for a call. We are not required to restrict ourselves to considering only candidates sent by the District. We plan to host at least two "listening sessions" to receive your input on the call process, the first of which will take place during the Congregation meeting on August 23, 2026. Additional date(s) will be announced in future. We will provide you with bi-weekly written updates of our progress via the bulletin. In the interim, feel free to speak to any member of the Committee with your questions. We would very much appreciate your prayers for Ascension and members of the committee as we move through this process. Thank you!

This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:

Sunday 08/02	Divine Service Summer Bible Study – The Chosen Season 2	9:30 AM 11:00 AM
Tuesday	Outreach Committee Meeting Christian Education Meeting	1:00 PM 5:30 PM
Wednesday	Prayer & Praise	10:00 AM
Sunday 08/09	Divine Service	9:30 AM