



ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

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

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost – August 9, 2026



Rev. Adam Thompson, Guest Pastor

Lisa Marcellus Music Director, music@ascensionpgh.com

Alicia Weisser, Secretary secretary@ascensionpgh.com

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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): Cooper Blake & Bob Booth

LAY READER: Bob Booth

USHERS: Ken Lindsey & Edie Krom

ACOLYTE: Hannah Koontz

SERVING NEXT WEEK:

ELDER(S): Mike Fiffik & Alan Gard

LAY READER: N/A

USHERS: Lynn Gunther & Shane Mitchell

ACOLYTE: Christian Fleishauer

Pre-Service - Take You At Your Word

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 - We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight

LSB 720

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 - 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

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

Old Testament

Job 38:4–18

⁴[The Lord said to Job:] "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the
earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵Who determined its measurements—surely you know!
 Or who stretched the line upon it?
⁶On what were its bases sunk,
 or who laid its cornerstone,
⁷when the morning stars sang together
 and all the sons of God shouted for joy?
⁸“Or who shut in the sea with doors
 when it burst out from the womb,
⁹when I made clouds its garment
 and thick darkness its swaddling band,
¹⁰and prescribed limits for it
 and set bars and doors,
¹¹and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther,
 and here shall your proud waves be stayed’?
¹²“Have you commanded the morning since your days began,
 and caused the dawn to know its place,
¹³that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth,
 and the wicked be shaken out of it?
¹⁴It is changed like clay under the seal,
 and its features stand out like a garment.
¹⁵From the wicked their light is withheld,
 and their uplifted arm is broken.
¹⁶“Have you entered into the springs of the sea,
 or walked in the recesses of the deep?
¹⁷Have the gates of death been revealed to you,
 or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?
¹⁸Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?
 Declare, if you know all this.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Romans 10:5–17

⁵Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. ⁶But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷or “‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart

one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

¹¹For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ¹⁶But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” ¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 14:22–33

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²²Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” and they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”

²⁸And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³²And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message

Pastor Thompson

Hymn of the Day - Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

LSB 722

Sermon

Pastor Thompson

Lutheran Catechesis - Evening Prayer

P *In the evening when you go to bed, 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 graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. 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

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 - He Will Hold Me Fast

Praise Team

Stand

Offertory - Great Is Thy Faithfulness

LSB 809 ref

Refrain

Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness!

Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;

All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vid - ed;

Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Tune: William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

Text: Public domain

Tune: Public domain

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 - You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

LSB 641

'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)

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!

Communion Dismissal

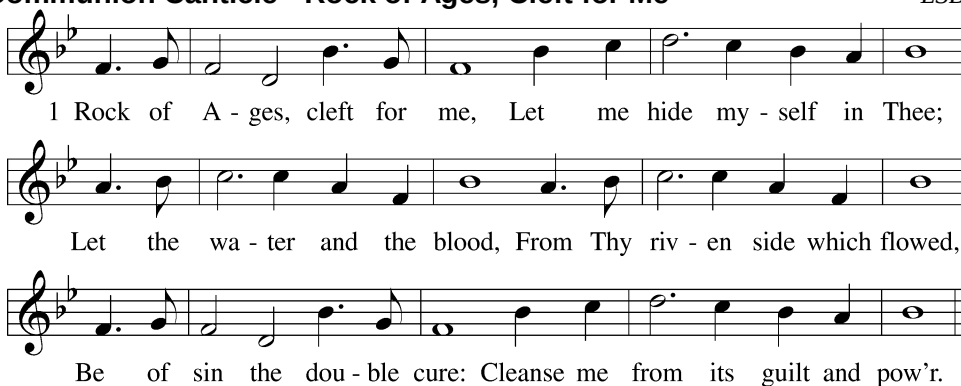
P Now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen and preserve you, in body and soul, unto life everlasting. Depart in His peace ☩ and with joy.

C Amen.

Stand

Post-Communion Canticle - Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

LSB 761 st. 1



Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–78
Tune: Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872
Text and 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 – Jesus

Verse 1

There is a truth older than the ages
There is a promise of things yet to come
There is One born for our salvation
Jesus

Verse 2

There is a light that overwhelms the darkness
There is a kingdom that forever reigns
There is freedom from the chains that bind us
Jesus
Jesus

Chorus 1

Who walks on the waters
Who speaks to the sea
Who stands in the fire beside me
He roars like a lion
He bled as the Lamb
He carries my healing in His hands
Jesus

Verse 3

There is a name I call in times of trouble

There is a song that comforts in the night
There is a voice that calms the storm that rages
He is Jesus Jesus
(Chorus 1)

Bridge

Messiah
My Savior
There is power in Your name
You're my rock and my Redeemer
There is power in Your name
In Your name

Chorus 2

You walk on the waters
You speak to the sea
You stand in the fire beside me
You roar like a lion
You bled as the Lamb
You carry my healing in Your hands
(God)
(Repeat)

Ending

Jesus
There is no one like You

Jesus
There is no one like You

Sit

Announcements

Memory Verse For The Week: Job 38:4 - [The Lord said to Job:] “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.

Dismissal

P Go in peace and
C serve the Lord!

Acknowledgments

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Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses:
Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67; Rom. 11:1-2a,13-15, 28-32; Matt. 15:21-28

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.
- 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:

Happy Anniversary: Bill & Glenna Powers August 10th

Happy Birthday: Cheryl Saffa August 12th
 Sandy Malarkey August 13th

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.

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!

Congregational Meeting: There is a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, August 23rd following the Divine Service.

ALC Lock In: Hey Youth! We are having a lock in at the church starting at 6pm on Friday, August 14th and finishing at 9am on Saturday, August 15th! Please RSVP ASAP to Chris Schroeder at cschroeder@ascensionpgh.com before August 10th if you plan to attend! We also need at least one other adult female

chaperone to help supervise the lock in. If you are able to help, please let Chris Schroeder know.

PALM Annual Mission Grant : PALM is now accepting applications for their 2026 Annual Mission Grant Program. Applications for the grant are due August 15th. For more information, please see the flyer on the Connect Bulletin Board in the Narthex.

Service Time Change from 9:30 to 9 AM Starting August 23: Starting on August 23 we are moving our Divine Service from 9:30 to 9 AM to accommodate Pastor Kuntz who has graciously volunteered to cover as many Sundays as he can during our Pastoral vacancy. By moving the service time to 9 AM Pastor Kuntz will be able to preach at our service and then get back to his church in West View in time for their service. The service time will remain at 9 AM even on the Sundays where Pastor Kuntz won't be able to join us. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility as we navigate through these changes. If you have any questions, please reach out to your Elder.

This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:		
Sunday 08/09	Divine Service	9:30 AM
Tuesday	Church Council Meeting	6:30 PM
Wednesday	Prayer & Praise	10:00 AM
Friday	Lock-In at ALC PALM Bible Study	6:00 PM 7:00 PM
Saturday	PALM Bowling	Noon
Sunday 08/16	Divine Service	9:30 AM