



ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

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

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – August 23, 2026



Rev. Scott Kuntz, Guest Pastor

Lisa Marcellus Music Director, music@ascensionpgh.com

Alicia Weisser, Secretary secretary@ascensionpgh.com

8225 Peebles Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

www.ascensionpgh.com 412-364-4463

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): Dave Dille & Bob Booth

LAY READER: Darryl Gunther

USHERS: Matt Gunther & Lora Koontz

ACOLYTE: Gabriel Blake

SERVING NEXT WEEK:

ELDER(S): Kurt Dolph & Mike Fiffik

LAY READER: Dave Dille

USHERS: Cristen Fiffik & John Russler

ACOLYTE: Craig Fleishauer

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Pre-Service - Who You Are Nothing But the Blood

Christian Fleishauer, Craig Fleishauer & Lucas Meyes

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 – 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

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 Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

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).

Hymn of Praise - O Love, How Deep

LSB 544, st.1-2, 4-6

Sit

Old Testament

Isaiah 51:1–6

¹“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD:
look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
that I might bless him and multiply him.
³For the LORD comforts Zion;
he comforts all her waste places
and makes her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.
⁴“Give attention to me, my people,
and give ear to me, my nation;
for a law will go out from me,
and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.
⁵My righteousness draws near,
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will judge the peoples;
the coastlands hope for me,
and for my arm they wait.
⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and they who dwell in it will die in like manner;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my righteousness will never be dismayed.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Romans 11:33—12:8

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴“For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?”

³⁵“Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?”

³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 16:13–20

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter

replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message

Lay Leader

Hymn of the Day - The Church's One Foundation

LSB 644

Sermon

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 T 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 - Jesus You Alone

Stand

Offertory – Majesty

Majesty worship His majesty
Unto Jesus be all glory
Honor and praise
Majesty kingdom authority
Flow from His throne
Unto His own His anthem raise
So exalt lift up on high
The name of Jesus
Magnify come glorify
Christ Jesus the King
Majesty worship His majesty
Jesus who died now glorified
King of all kings

Prayer of the Church

After each prayer, the response will be:

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

- 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 - This Is Jesus

Chorus

This is Jesus,
Emmanuel. God is with us,
in this sacrament.
Come, receive Him. Adore Him.
This is Jesus, our Lord.

Verse 1

Bright Star of David,
Radiance of God;
now become the Living Bread,
the body of the Lord.
Come in adoration,
receive with trembling hands;
the sacrament most holy,
the banquet of the Lamb.

Verse 2

Drink of living waters,
flowing from the Lord.
Taste the cup of blessing,

partake of precious blood.
River of Salvation,
holy cleansing tide;
Fountain of Redemption,
flowing from the Savior's side.
(Chorus)

Verse 3

Priest of highest honor,
King and Sovereign Lord,
unblemished Lamb of Sacrifice,
Your very life outpoured;
Royal paschal victim,
true begotten Son,
offered as our ransom
by the Holy One.
(Chorus)

Tag

This is Jesus, Our Lord

Beautiful Savior

LSB 537

Communion Dismissal

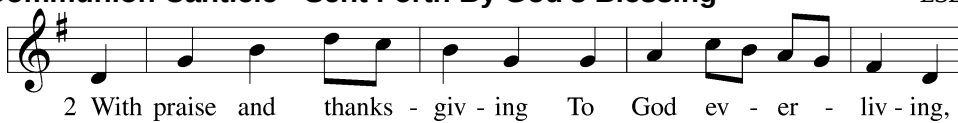
P Now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
strengthen and preserve you, in body and soul, unto life everlasting. Depart
in His peace ☩ and with joy.

C Amen.

Stand

Post-Communion Canticle - Sent Forth By God's Blessing

LSB 643 st. 2



The tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face.
 Our faith ev - er shar - ing, In love ev - er car - ing,
 Em - brac - ing His chil - dren of each tribe and race.
 With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;
 U - nite us as one in this life that we share.
 Then may all the liv - ing With praise and thanks - giv - ing
 Give hon - or to Christ and His name that we bear.

Text: Omer E. Westendorf, 1916-97, alt.

Tune: Welsh

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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 - You Said I Am (Behold and Believe)

Verse 1

You said I am the Bread of Life
Whoever comes to dine
Will not hunger will not thirst
And will be satisfied
You said I am the only light
That gives the blind their sight
And if we see You will lead us through
The darkest night

Chorus

We behold we believe
You are the Lion and the Lamb
The Prince of Peace
We adore we confess
You are the one who came and died
And rose again
The great I Am

Verse 2

You said I am the open door
That souls are longing for
If we walk in new life begins
forevermore
You said I am the Shepherd guide
Who came to live and die
To lead the ones He loves
To resurrection life
(Chorus)

Interlude

The great I Am

Bridge

Before creation's spark
Before light from the dark
Before the waters part You are
You are the great I Am
Before You breathed on the dust
Before Abraham was
Before the burning bush You are
You are the great I Am
(Repeat)

Tag

You are the great I Am
You are the great I Am

Verse 3

You said I am the only way
To see the Father's face
The only truth the only life
The one who saves
You said I am the one true vine
In You we will abide
To bear the fruit of Gospel truth
In death and life
That all might know the mighty name
Of Jesus Christ
(Chorus)

Ending

You're the great I Am
You're the great I Am

Sit

Announcements

Memory Verse For The Week: Matthew 16:18 - And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Dismissal

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

Acknowledgments

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Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses:
Jer. 15:15-21; Psalm 26; Rom. 12:9-21; Matt. 16:21-28

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:

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.

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.

Congregational Meeting: There is a Congregational Meeting on **today** following the Divine Service.

Recipes Wanted!: Please take home a few recipe cards from the Narthex (or bring a few of your own 4x6 cards from home) full of good recipes for the bride to be, Lisa Marcellus! Return them to the recipe card box in the narthex or bring them to her bridal shower.

Rally Day: Rally Day is Sept 13th. Immediately following Divine service the kids will have a quick meet and greet with their teachers in the classrooms. Then there will be the annual rally day picnic outside. Signups will be in the Narthex for side dishes and/or desserts. Outreach committee will provide hotdogs and buns and drinks and condiments. Please join us for a fun time of food and fellowship to kick off the start of the new year!!

Children's Message: Interested in leading a Children's Message during a Sunday worship service? During our vacancy Cristen Fiffik will be coordinating volunteers to help with this very important part of our worship. Ideas that coincide with the weekly Gospel reading will be provided to you! Please contact Cristen if you are able to help. clfiffik66@gmail.com or 412-496-9118

Operation Christmas Child - Don't forget there will be a mini-packing party next Sunday right after the service downstairs in the fellowship hall. This is where everything is provided, you just come and pack a box. This is in addition to the normal OCC activity we do in October and November. It won't take long and it's fun for everyone. See Bob Marcellus with questions.

This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:		
Sunday 08/23	Divine Service Congregational Meeting	9:00 AM 10:30 AM
Wednesday	Prayer & Praise	10:00 AM
Saturday	OCC Set Up	1:00 PM
Sunday 08/30	Divine Service OCC Packing Party	9:00 AM 11:00 AM