

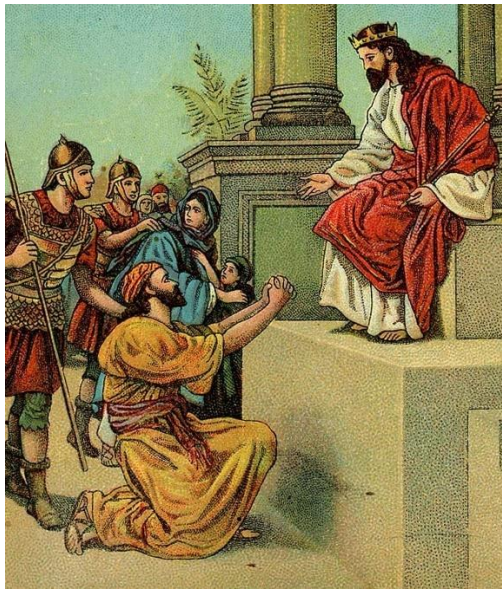


ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

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

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 13, 2026



Rev. Scott Kuntz, Guest Pastor, pastorkuntz@gmail.com
Lisa Marcellus Music Director, music@ascensionpgh.com
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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 an usher or a member with a name tag; they will be happy to help you out.

SERVING TODAY:

ELDER(S): Cooper Blake & Dave Dille

LAY READER: Trish Young

USHERS: Ken Lindsey & Lynn Gunther

ACOLYTE: Juliette Schroeder

SERVING NEXT WEEK:

ELDER(S): Kurt Dolph & Bob Booth

LAY READER: N/A

USHERS: Ken Lindsey & Lynn Gunther

ACOLYTE: Hannah Koontz

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Pre-Service - His Mercy Is More

Welcome

Stand

Opening Hymn – Chief of Sinners Though I Be

LSB 611 sts. 1–3, 5

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

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.

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.

Hymn of Praise - Nothing But the Blood

Verse 1

What can wash away my sin
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
What can make me whole again
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Verse 2

For my pardon this I see
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
For my cleansing this my plea
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Chorus

O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Sit

Verse 3

Nothing can for sin atone
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
Naught of good that I have done
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Verse 4

This is all my hope and peace
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
This is all my righteousness
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
(Chorus x2)

Tag

Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Old Testament

Genesis 50:15–21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Romans 14:1–12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God.”

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21–35

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and

payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day - Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

LSB 851

Sermon

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 - Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

Praise Team

Stand

Offertory - Create In Me

192



C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
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.

Installation of Sunday School Teachers

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 - In Remembrance

Verse 1

In remembrance of Me eat this bread
In remembrance of Me drink this wine
In remembrance of Me pray for the time
When God's own will is done

Verse 2

In remembrance of Me heal the sick
In remembrance of Me feed the poor
In remembrance of Me open the door
And let your brother in let Him in

Bridge

Take eat and be comforted

Drink and remember too

That this is My body
And precious blood shed for you shed
for you

Verse 3

In remembrance of Me share my truth
In remembrance of Me show my love
In remembrance of Me don't look around
But in my Word, in my Word, look in my
Word...for God
Do this in remembrance of Me
Do this in remembrance of Me
In remembrance of Me

Where Charity and Love Prevail

LSB 845

Communion Dismissal

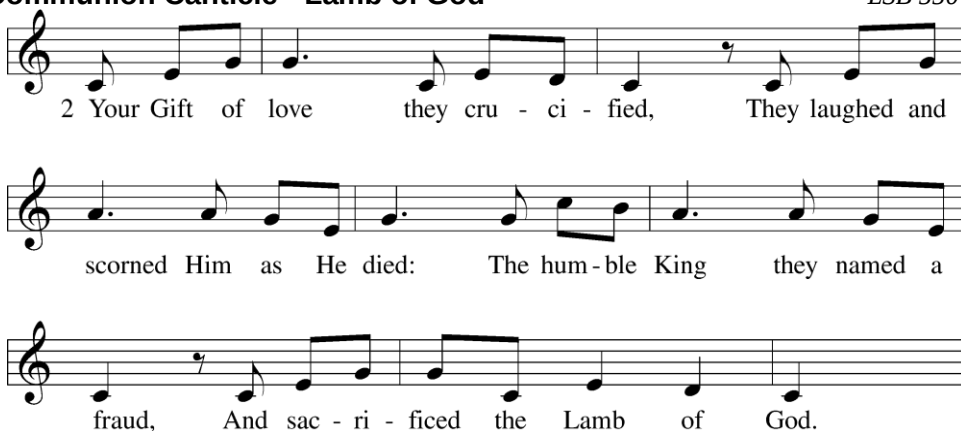
P Now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen and preserve you, in body and soul, unto life everlasting. Depart in His peace ☩ and with joy.

C Amen.

Stand

Post-Communion Canticle - Lamb of God

LSB 550 sts. ref, 2



2 Your Gift of love they cru - ci - fied, They laughed and
scorned Him as He died: The hum - ble King they named a
fraud, And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.



O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God!



O wash me in His pre-cious blood, My Je-sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Text and tune: Twila Paris, 1958

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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 - Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Verse 1

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace

Verse 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Verse 3

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures
(Chorus)

Chorus

Verse 4

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below

Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

Sit

Announcements

Memory Verse Of The Week: Romans 14:7-9 – For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Dismissal

P Go in peace and
C serve the Lord!

Acknowledgments

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Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses:

Isaiah 55:6-9; Psalm 27:1-9; Phil. 1:12-14, 19-30; Matt. 20:1-16

This week we pray for:

- God's blessings on the marriage of Emily Marcellus and Michael Shildt on Saturday, September 5th.
- For the family and friends of Denise Bedel, who died in the faith. Comfort them with the hope and peace that comes from the promise of the resurrection victory in Jesus.
- 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 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.
-



This week's altar flowers are given by Cheryl Sedar. George-Happy Heavenly Birthday-Love Cheryl.

Church News & Announcements:

<u>Happy Birthday:</u>	Grace Russler	September 13 th
	Amanda Diak	September 14 th
	Dennis Meier	September 16 th
	Lynn Gunther	September 17 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.

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.

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: Immediately following the Divine service **today** 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. 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

Oktoberfest 2026- Concordia Lutheran Ministries will be having their annual Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 3, 2026 from 4-8pm at Haven I, 112 Marwood Road, Cabot. See the flyer on the Connect Board for more information.

Men's Bible Study: Men of Ascension, come join us for some fellowship, conversation and study of the faith on Saturday, September 26th at 8:30 am.

Upcoming Bible Class: Beginning September 20th, join Mike Fiffik in Fellowship Hall for Nurturing Your Faith: Identity which is a four-session Bible study that

examines our identity as children of God. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we are ambassadors of reconciliation. Jesus is made known to others through our word and witness. Our hope is that God uses our identities, born again through faith, to serve Him and to draw others to His Son—who alone deserves all honor and praise.

Pumpkin Fest/Flea Market: Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex under Serve for dates and ways you can help with this important project.

Vintage Truck Needed: You may have noticed our logo for this year has a vintage truck on it. If you have an old/vintage pickup truck we could park in front of church and use for advertising the Pumpkin Fest, please call the church office and leave a message for Trish or Lisa.

This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:		
Sunday 09/13	Divine Service Rally Day Picnic	9:00 AM 10:30 AM
Tuesday	Elders Meeting	6:30 PM
Wednesday	Prayer & Praise	10:00 AM
Sunday 09/20	Divine Service Christian Education Hour	9:00 AM 10:30 AM