



ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

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

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 27, 2026



Rev. Scott Kuntz, Guest Pastor, pastorkuntz@gmail.com

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

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): Dave Dille & Mike Fiffik

LAY READER: Dave Dille

USHERS: Jim Obringer & John Russler

ACOLYTE: Elijah Blake

SERVING NEXT WEEK:

ELDER(S): Bob Booth & Cooper Blake

LAY READER: Trish Young

USHERS: Lynn Gunther & Ron Curcio

ACOLYTE: Christian Fleishauer

Pre-Service - I Stand Amazed (How Marvelous)

Welcome

Stand

Opening Hymn - All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

LSB 549 sts. 1, 4–5, 7

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.**

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.

Hymn of Praise - Praise the Father, Praise the Son

Verse 1

O sov'reign God O matchless King
The saints adore the angels sing
And fall before the throne of grace
To You belongs the highest praise

Verse 2

These sufferings this passing tide
Under Your wings I will abide
And ev'ry enemy shall flee
You are my hope and victory

Chorus 1

(Oh) praise the Father praise the Son
(And) praise the Spirit Three in One
Clothed in power and in grace
The name above all other names

Verse 3

Sit

To the valley for my soul
Thy great descent has made me whole
Your word my heart has welcomed
home
Now peace like water ever flows
(Chorus 1)

Bridge

Yours is the kingdom Yours is the power
Yours is the glory forever
Yours is the kingdom Yours is the power
Yours is the glory forever

Chorus 2

Praise the Father praise the Son
And praise the Spirit Three in One
Clothed in power and in grace
The name above all other names
The name above all other names

Old Testament

Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . .

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet

the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

³⁰"Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 2:1–4, 14–18

¹If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. . . .

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or questioning, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:23–27

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it

come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day - Praise Be to Christ

LSB 538

Sermon

Lutheran Catechesis - The First Commandment

C You shall have no other gods.

P *What does this mean?*

C We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

Lutheran Catechesis - The Second Commandment

C You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

P *What does this mean?*

C We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

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 - I Stand Amazed (How Marvelous)

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

Before the Throne of God Above

Verse 1

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is Love
Who ever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on His hands
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart
No tongue can bid me thence depart

Verse 2

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin
Because the sinless Saviour died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me
To look on Him and pardon me

Verse 3

Behold Him there the risen Lamb
My perfect spotless righteousness
The great unchangeable I Am
The King of glory and of grace
One with Himself I cannot die
My soul is purchased with His blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ my Saviour and my God
With Christ my Saviour and my God

Verse 4

I bow before the cross of Christ
And marvel at this love divine
God's perfect Son was sacrificed
To make me righteous in God's eyes
This river's depths I cannot know
But I can glory in its flood
The Lord Most High has bowed down
low
And poured on me His glorious love
And poured on me His glorious love

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.

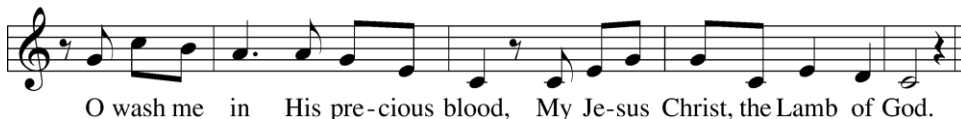
C Amen.

Stand

Post-Communion Canticle - Lamb of God

LSB 550 sts. 1, ref





Text and tune: Twila Paris, 1958

Text and tune: © 1985 Straightway Music, admin. EMI. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004761

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 - How Great Is Our God

Verse 1

The splendor of the King
Clothed in majesty

Let all the earth rejoice
All the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light

And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice
And trembles at His voice

Chorus

How great is our God
We will sing
How great is our God
And all will see how great
How great is our God

Verse 2

And age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the End
Beginning and the End
The Godhead three in one
Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb

Sit

Announcements

Memory Verse For The Week- Philippians 2:4 - Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Dismissal

P Go in peace and
C serve the Lord!

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.

(Chorus)

Bridge

Name above all names
Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God
(Repeat)
(Chorus)

Ending

Then sings my soul
My Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art
How great Thou art
Then sings my soul
My Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art
How great Thou art

Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses:
Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-19; Phil. 3:4b-14; Matt. 21:33-46

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.
-

Church News & Announcements:

Happy Anniversary: Tim & Lora Koontz September 29th
Jim & Martha Obringer October 2nd

Happy Birthday: Lora Koontz September 27th
Armani Obringer September 29th
Concetta Letters September 30th

Christian Education Hour - Join us at 10:30am (after some tasty treats in the Fellowship Hall) for one of our Bible Classes and Sunday School! Options are available for those aged 2 and above. See the Learn bulletin board in the Narthex for more info and about future classes and offerings.

Sunday School- Sunday school meets on the 2nd floor in the education room and is divided into three classes: PreK taught by Mrs. Rajendaran; K-2nd taught by Mrs. Lopresto and 3rd-6th taught by Mr. Obringer/Mrs. Mayes. There are signs located outside of each classroom.

Youth Group (7th – 12th)- Join Janine Nicolette in the Youth Room for Hebrews 11 Heros Study.

Adult Bible Class-

- **Adult Topical Study:** 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.

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.

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.

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.

Shepherd's Heart Clothes Drive: October once again is our clothes drive. Shepherd's Heart is looking for coats, gloves, hats, socks, thermal underwear, regular underwear, sweatshirts, sweaters, or any winter item NEW or USED. Women and men's items are needed-sizes M to XXL. There will be baskets in the Narthex under SERVE. We will be collecting these items through the month of October. Thank you!

Attention Singers: Choir will be singing on Nov. 15, Nov. 22, and Christmas Eve this semester. Rehearsals will be held 7:15-8:00 on the following evenings for anyone interested in joining us! Rehearsal tracks are available, so you do not need to attend every rehearsal. Wed, Oct 14; Wed, Oct. 21; Wed, Nov. 11; Wed, Dec. 2; Wed, Dec. 9; Wed, Dec. 16

Solo/Small Groups Also Needed, if you would be interested in performing any special music for Christmas Eve, please let Lisa know!
(LMarcellus@ascensionpgh.com)

Christmas Pageant: We are excited to begin preparing for our Christmas Pageant! The pageant will be held on Sunday, December 20, during the church service. As we begin planning and assigning parts, **please let us know if your child will be unable to participate due to travel plans or another scheduling conflict.** Please text, email or talk to Elizabeth Russler by October 3rd. We're

looking forward to working with the children and celebrating the joy of Jesus' birth together this Christmas season! Thank you!

Ascension's Busy Beaver Day: Do you have a chainsaw? We are looking for a few good people to participate in Ascension's Busy Beaver Day on Saturday, October 3rd from 9am to 1pm. We need to turn some of our fallen woodlot logs into firewood bundles to be sold at Pumpkin Fest. Please RSVP via text to Michael Fantin at 412-965-3232. Bring gloves and a chainsaw.

This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:		
Sunday 09/27	Divine Service Christian Education Hour	9:00 AM 10:30 AM
Tuesday	Apple Pie Prep	9:00 AM
Wednesday	Apple Pie Prep Prayer & Praise	9:00 AM 10:00 AM
Sunday 10/04	Divine Service Christian Education Hour	9:30 AM 11:00 AM