



ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

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

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost – October 11, 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 an usher or a member with a name tag; they will be happy to help you out.

SERVING TODAY:

ELDER(S): Alan Gard & Dave Dille

LAY READER: Trish Young

USHERS: Ken Lindsey & Matt Gunther

ACOLYTE: Gabriel Blake

SERVING NEXT WEEK:

ELDER(S): Mike Fiffik

LAY READER: Darryl Gunther

USHERS: Shane Mitchell & John Russler

ACOLYTE: Adalyn Russler

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Pre-Service - I Can Only Imagine

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 - Even So Come

Verse 1

All of creation all of the earth
Make straight a highway a path for the Lord
Jesus is coming soon

Verse 2

Call back the sinner wake up the saint
Let ev'ry nation shout of Your fame
Jesus is coming soon

Chorus 1

Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Even so come Lord Jesus come
Even so come Lord Jesus come

Verse 3

There will be justice all will be new

Your name forever faithful and true
Jesus is coming soon
(Chorus 1)

Bridge 1

So we wait we wait for You
God we wait You're coming soon
So we wait we wait for You
God we wait You're coming soon

Chorus 2

Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Even so come Lord Jesus come
Even so come Lord Jesus come

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 - O Savior, Precious Savior

LSB 527

Sit

Old Testament

Isaiah 25:6–9

- ⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.
⁷And he will swallow up on this mountain

the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.
⁸He will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
⁹It will be said on that day,
“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.
This is the LORD; we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 4:4–13

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹²I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:1–14

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, ³and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.’ ⁵But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. ⁷The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ ¹⁰And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. ¹²And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day - The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us

LSB 514

Sermon

Lutheran Catechesis - The Third Commandment

C Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

P *What does this mean?*

C We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

Lutheran Catechesis - The Fourth Commandment

C Honor your father and your mother.

P *What does this mean?*

C We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

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

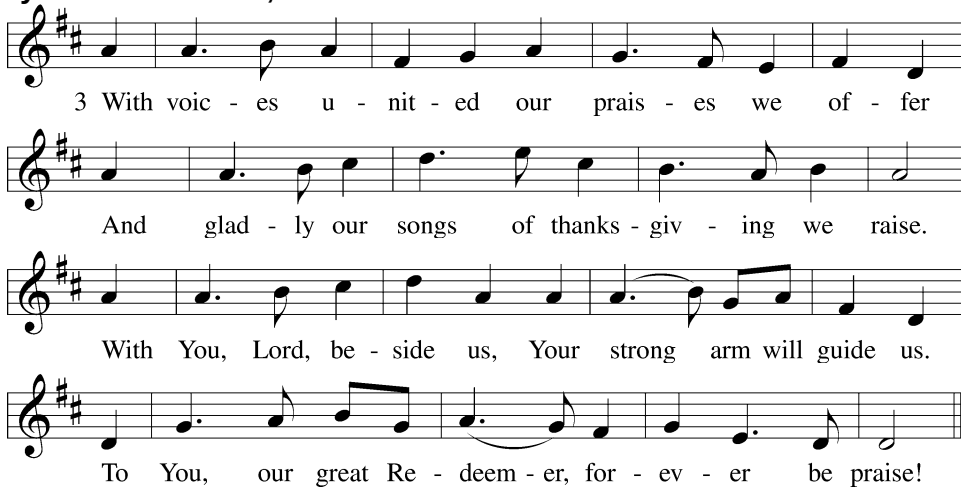
Meditation Song - I Am Not My Own

Praise Team

Stand

Offertory - We Praise You, O God

LSB 785 st. 3



3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer
And glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.
With You, Lord, be - side us, Your strong arm will guide us.
To You, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Text: Julia B. Cory, 1882–1963, alt.
Tune: Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck, 1626, Haarlem
Text and 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 - How Beautiful

Verse 1

How beautiful the hands that served
The wine and the bread and the sons of
the earth
How beautiful the feet that walked
The long dusty roads and the hill to the
cross

Chorus

How beautiful how beautiful
How beautiful is the body of Christ

Verse 2

How beautiful the heart that bled
That took all my sin and bore it instead
How beautiful the tender eyes
That chose to forgive and never despise
(Chorus)

Bridge

And as He laid down His life
We offer this sacrifice
That we will live just as He died
Willing to pay the price
Willing to pay the price

Verse 3

How beautiful the radiant Bride
Who waits for her Groom with His light
in her eyes
How beautiful when humble hearts give
The fruit of pure lives so that others may
live
(Chorus)

Verse 4

How beautiful the feet that bring

The sound of good news and the love of
the King
How beautiful the hands that serve

The wine and the bread and the sons of
the earth
(Chorus)

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

LSB 636

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 - Thank You Jesus for the Blood

Thank You Jesus for the blood applied
Thank You Jesus it has washed me white
Thank You Jesus You have saved my life
Brought me from the darkness into glorious light

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 - Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

LSB 516

Sit

Announcements

Memory Verse For The Week: Philippians 4:8 – Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Dismissal

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

Acknowledgments

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Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses:

Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-9(10-13); 1 Thess. 1:1-10; Matt. 22:15-22

This week we pray for:

- **NEW** The family and friends of Shirley Waselko, who died in the faith. Comfort them with the hope and peace that comes from the promise of the resurrection victory in Jesus.
- **NEW** Pete DePasquale, who is having heart issues and battling lung cancer.
- 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.
-

Church News & Announcements:

Happy Anniversary: Tim & Kristin Mayes October 11th
Joseph & Melissa Ann Pama October 15th

Happy Birthday: Ron Gredlein October 11th
Diane DePasquale October 17th

Christian Education Hour - Join us at 11:00am (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

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 Cards Needed: Karen Booth is looking for about 150 Christmas Cards to bless our shut-ins and the residents at Concordia Homes. If you can help, please see Karen or Bob Booth.

Worship Committee Survey: The Worship Committee is asking that you complete their survey by Monday, October 19th. The link for the survey is emailed in the weekly reminders or there are paper copies under the Learn Bulletin Board in the Narthex.

Women and Girls of Ascension: Our Dots and Doodles pottery event will be shifted into 2027 due to scheduling conflicts. We are working to plan an ornament exchange / Christmas party. Stay tuned for details!

THANK YOU FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE to everyone who helped make PumpkinFest happen — whether you volunteered, donated, helped behind the scenes, or simply showed up! It's always so encouraging to see our church family come together for a good cause. Stay tuned for the amount raised and more PumpkinFest stats!

Operation Christmas Child - Next Sunday, October 18th is kick-off Sunday! Our goal this year is 230 shoeboxes. There will also be a link coming out so you can pack a shoebox online. Lots more info to come. And of course, please pray for another successful shoebox season. As usual, see Bob Marcellus with questions.

This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:

Sunday 10/11	Divine Service Christian Education Hour	9:30 AM 11:00 AM
Tuesday	Church Council Meeting	6:30 PM
Wednesday	Prayer & Praise Choir Rehearsal	10:00 AM 7:15 PM
Saturday	OCC Set Up	1:00 PM
Sunday 10/18	Divine Service Christian Education Hour	9:30 AM 11:00 AM