



ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

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

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost – October 18, 2026



Rev. Adam Salinas, Guest Pastor, adaminas@yahoo.com

Lisa Marcellus Music Director, music@ascensionpgh.com

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 an usher or a member with a name tag; they will be happy to help you out.

SERVING TODAY:

ELDER(S): Mike Fiffik

LAY READER: Darryl Gunther

USHERS: Shane Mitchell & John Russler

ACOLYTE: Adalyn Russler

SERVING NEXT WEEK:

ELDER(S): Bob Booth

LAY READER: N/A

USHERS: Lora Koontz & Edie Krom

ACOLYTE: Craig Fleishauer

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Pre-Service - I Am Not My Own All Creatures of Our God and King

Hannah Koontz on clarinet

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 - God of Grace and God of Glory

LSB 850

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 - Jesus Paid It All

Verse 1

And I hear the Savior say
Thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness watch and pray
Find in Me thine all in all

Chorus 1

'Cause Jesus paid it all
All to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow

Verse 2

Lord now indeed I find
Thy pow'r and Thine alone
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone
(Chorus 1)

Verse 3

And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete
Jesus died my soul to save
My lips shall still repeat
(Chorus 1)

Chorus 2

Oh praise the One Who paid my debt
And raised this life up from the dead
(Repeat x4)
(Chorus 1)

Tag

Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow

Sit

Old Testament

Isaiah 45:1–7

¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped,
to subdue nations before him
and to loose the belts of kings,
to open doors before him
that gates may not be closed:
²“I will go before you
and level the exalted places,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
³I will give you the treasures of darkness
and the hoards in secret places,
that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I name you, though you do not know me.
⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other,
besides me there is no God;
I equip you, though you do not know me,
⁶that people may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is none besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
⁷I form light and create darkness,
I make well-being and create calamity,
I am the LORD, who does all these things.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:1–10

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

²We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our
prayers, ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of
love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers

loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. ⁹For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:15–22

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle [Jesus] in his talk. ¹⁶And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” ²¹They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²²When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message

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 $\dagger$ everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Offering

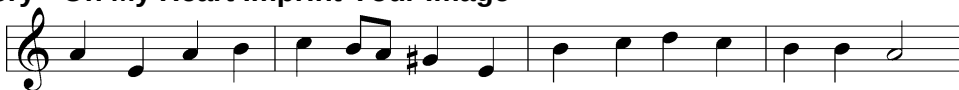
Meditation Song - My Worth Is Not In What I Own

Praise Team

Stand

Offertory - On My Heart Imprint Your Image

LSB 422



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, alt.
Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758
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 - Lamb of God

LSB 550

My Worth Is Not In What I Own

Verse 1

My worth is not in what I own
 Not in the strength of flesh and bone

But in the costly wounds of love at the
 cross

Verse 2

My worth is not in skill or name
In win or lose in pride or shame
But in the blood of Christ that flowed at
the cross

Chorus

I rejoice in my Redeemer
Greatest treasure Wellspring of my soul
I will trust in Him no other
My soul is satisfied in Him alone

Verse 3

As summer flowers we fade and die
Fame youth and beauty hurry by
But life eternal calls to us at the cross

Verse 4

I will not boast in wealth or might
Or human wisdom's fleeting light
But I will boast in knowing Christ at the
cross
(Chorus)

Verse 5

Two wonders here that I confess
My worth and my unworthiness
My value fixed my ransom paid at the
cross
(Chorus)

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

2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing To God ev - er - liv - ing,
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

Text: © 1964 World Library Publications. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004761

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 - Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

LSB 851

Sit

Announcements

Memory Verse Of The Week: Matthew 22:21b: “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

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.

Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses: Rev. 14:6-7; Psalm 46; Rom. 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

This week we pray for:

- 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.
 - 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.
 - 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 Birthday: Paul Krom October 18th
Benjamin Forbis October 20th
Mason Foust October 22nd

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.

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 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.

Operation Christmas Child: It's here! Kick-off for Operation Christmas Child is today!! Start packing those shoeboxes, bring them in anytime, and place on the table inside the office door or in the Narthex. Last day to bring in your boxes is November 15th. Or pack a box online! A link to our Goal Page has been sent out in the weekly reminders for online packing. Happy packing and see Bob Marcellus with questions.

This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:

Sunday 10/18	Divine Service Christian Education Hour	9:30 AM 11:00 AM
Tuesday	Elder's Meeting	6:30 PM
Wednesday	Prayer & Praise Choir Rehearsal	10:00 AM 7:15 PM
Sunday 10/25	Divine Service Christian Education Hour	9:30 AM 11:00 AM