

Ascension Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod



July 18, 2021

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Pastor: Rev. Adam Thompson
pastor@ascensionpgh.com

Secretary: Christine Skelly
secretary@ascensionpgh.com

Music Director: Vanessa Candreva
music@ascensionpgh.com

Welcome To Our Guests

It is a great joy to have you here today. We pray that your time with us has helped to deepen your faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ. If we can be of service to you or your family, we invite you to talk to us at your convenience. You will always be welcome here. Please do us the honor of signing the guest sheet at the podium at the front of the church or at the entrance from the Education Wing.

Thank you for coming!

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 18, 2021

Worship Service - 9:30 AM

WELCOME

PRELUDE

AS WE GATHER

Is there just one God? Who is God? What is God like? Does God love me? Can I know God? Our kids, and us adults, grapple with these kinds of questions every day. There's a sea of confusion out there about who God is and what He is like; this past week at VBS we looked to God's Word to answer these questions so that our kids and all of us know who God is and what He has done for each of us. From the pages of Scripture, today and every day, we learn that our one true God loves us and has done amazing things for us in Jesus!

(stand)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING HYMN: Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise LW 451, vs. 1-4

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, O Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Your great name we praise!**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Not wanting nor wasting, You rule in Your might;
Your justice like mountains high soaring above,
Your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**All life You engender in great and in small;
To all life befriender, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish in richness and range,
We wither and perish, but You never change.**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Your angels adore You, enveiling their sight.
All laud we would render; oh, lead us to see**

The light of Your splendor, Your love's majesty!

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Ephesians 2:12–13, alt.*

Pastor: Remember that you were once separated from Christ, having no hope and without God in the world.

People: **But now in Christ Jesus we who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace.**

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, for You have commanded us to confess our sins and yet have promised Your forgiveness. We therefore confess our sins, even those we are not aware of, those we have done and all that we have failed to do. By Your divine command, grant us Your forgiveness for the sake of the blood of our crucified and risen Shepherd, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, for You have commanded Your called ministers of Christ to absolve those who repent of their sins. Therefore, upon this, your confession, 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.

People: **Amen.**

GREETING OF PEACE

(sit)

SPECIAL MUSIC: Holy, Holy, Holy Praise Team and Children
(Congregation sings on refrain)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty
All the world will praise your name on earth and sky and sea
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed trinity

Original Tune, public domain; Words and Music by Corey LaCroix, Mark Millard, and Steve King; Answers in Genesis

OLD TESTAMENT: 1 Samuel 17:19-24, 42-49

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE: Acts 17:16-34

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(stand)

HOLY GOSPEL: John 3:11-21

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Congregation reads together:

¹¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(sit)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Adam Thompson

THE APPLICATION OF GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY

Pastor Adam Thompson

(stand)

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(sit)

OFFERING

(stand)

OFFERTORY SONG: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each prayer, the response will be:

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: 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 is My + blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is celebrated at Ascension Lutheran 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 really present for the forgiveness of our sins. All baptized believers who hold this confession and have examined themselves according to Scripture's guidance (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), are invited to receive His Sacrament.

COMMUNION HYMN: Lord Jesus Chris, Life-Giving Bread LW 248, vs. 1-4

Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,

May I in Grace possess you.

Let me with holy food be fed,

In hunger I address you.

Prepare me well for you, O Lord,

And, humbly by my prayer implored,

Give me your Grace and mercy.

To pastures green, Lord safely guide,

To restful waters lead me;

Your table well for me provide,

Your wounded hand now feed me.

Though weary, sinful, sick, and weak,

Refuge in you alone I seek, To share your cup of healing.

O bread of heav'n, my soul's delight,
For full and free remission
I come with prayer before your sight
In sorrow and contrition.
Your righteousness, Lord, cover me
That I receive you worthily,
Assured of your full pardon.

I do not merit favor, Lord,
My weight of sin would break me;
In all my guilty heart's discord,
O Lord, do not forsake me.
In my distress this comforts me
That you receive me graciously,
O Christ, my Lord of mercy!

HOLY COMMUNION

(stand)

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: For the Bread Which You Have Broken (tune -
Joyful, Joyful)

For the bread, which You have broken;
For the wine, which You have poured;
For the words, which You have spoken -
Now we give You thanks, O Lord.

By this promise that You love us,
By Your gift of peace restored,
By Your call to Heaven above us,
Hallow all our lives, O Lord.

(sit)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

THE BLESSING

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN/SONG: One True God

Pastor: Go in peace and

People: serve the Lord.

MYSTERY ISLAND VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VIDEO

LOOKING AHEAD: The assigned readings of the Church Calendar for next week are Genesis 9:8-17, Ephesians 3:14-21, and Mark 6:45-56.

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

JULY 18, 2021	WORSHIP SERVICE IN-PERSON AND LIVE-STREAMED	9:30 AM
	FAMILY WATERFALL HIKE	3:00 PM
TUESDAY	UPSTAIRS CLASSROOMS AND HALL CARPET CLEANING	
WEDNESDAY	PRAYER AND PRAISE GROUP VIA ZOOM	10:00 AM
	FAMILY SMALL GROUP	6:00 PM
THURSDAY	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	

ASCENSION NEWS

Pastor Thompson will be on vacation July 18 (after worship) through July 26. Pastor Brian Bocian will be the guest preacher on July 25.

****IMPORTANT – EVERYONE please sign in** on one of the attendance sheets located at the Narthex or the Education Wing entrances.

NURSERY IS AVAILABLE – If you should have need of the nursery during today's service, please follow the sign at the entrance near the front of the Sanctuary. The service is live-streamed in that room. Also, be sure to wipe down any areas used in the nursery with the provided disinfecting wipes and/or spray. Thank you.

ACTIVITY BAGS FOR PRESCHOOLERS – We have tote bags available for preschoolers to use during the worship service. These have books, crayons, and small toys to keep them busy during the service. They are located in a basket in the Narthex of the church. Please return them to the wicker basket marked “Used Worship Bags” after the service.

BULLETINS and **CHILDREN’S BULLETINS** are available on the table in the Narthex and on our website: www.ascensionpgh.com.

HAND SANITIZER – Hand sanitizer is available in the Narthex, Fellowship Hall, and at the office entrance for your use.

ALTAR GUILD / JULY: Ruth Redondo
ELDERS ON DUTY TODAY:Darryl Gunther, Cooper Blake
LAY READER:Trish Young
USHERS: Cristen Fiffik, Lynn Gunther
ATTENDANCE 07/011/21: WORSHIP59

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

July 19: Zoe Pizzica
July 20: Myra Davis
July 21: Stone Gaertner
July 22: Amy Diak
July 22: Logan Tinneney
July 24: Patti Lopresto

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

More anniversary celebrations to list next week

VBS - A gigantic **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped in any way, shape, or form for VBS!!! We spent the week at Mystery Island tracking down the one true God. We learned God is great, God is almighty, God is Emmanuel, and God is trustworthy! What an awesome and gracious God we serve!

PRAYER AND PRAISE GROUP is meeting via Zoom. Join us on **Wednesday** (July 21) from 10 AM to 11 AM and then every Wednesday thereafter until we are able to meet in person. If you have any questions or need prayer, please call me at 808-295-1835. In the Love of Jesus, Bob Booth

NEW TO ASCENSION? Are you new or relatively new to Ascension? Do you contribute regularly? Would you like to receive giving envelopes? Then contact the financial secretary at finance@ascensionpgh.com and he can make it happen! You don't have to be a member to have giving envelopes. This helps the church track giving more accurately, enables you to receive a contribution statement each quarter for tax purposes, and helps you track your own giving. And don't forget about online giving! But if you give online, having envelopes assigned enables us to record those contributions as well. Questions? See Bob Marcellus.

ATTENTION FAMILIES! **Waterfall Hike, Creek Splash & Summer Supper, Sunday, July 18th, 3:00 PM** – Did you know that we have a waterfall hike right in our area? Join us on Sunday, **July 18th** at 3:00 PM at Falls Run Park in Shaler for a short yet fun hike and creek walk followed by dinner at a local restaurant (location TBD). Bring bathing suits and towels if you plan to splash around in the creek or waterfall. For more information, contact Ronette at youth@ascensionpgh.com.

THE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is **Thursday**, July 22, 2021. Please submit any articles/announcements/meeting dates, etc., for the newsletter or August calendar to secretary@ascensionpgh.com. Thank you!

ATTENTION TEENS (6th grade and up)! Kayaking & Ice Cream in North Park, Saturday, 7/31, 2:00PM – Have you ever seen those beautiful lakeside pictures of North Park dotted with packs of kayakers and wished for an opportunity to experience that level of serenity? Well, here's your chance! The teens will gather at the North Park boathouse on Saturday, July 31st at 2:00pm to kayak on this special lake with rentals from Venture Outdoors. We'll grab an ice cream at the ice cream stand after. We look forward to sharing this experience with you! RSVP to Ronette at youth@ascensionpgh.com or 412-443-3704.

ONLINE VIEWING – Those viewing the services online, please don't forget to email the church office at secretary@ascensionpgh.com with the names and number of those who view our service online each week in your household. This information will be helpful for tracking attendance during COVID and assisting Pastor in identifying those who need spiritual connection and care. Thank you!

HAVING A MEETING, GROUP STUDY, OR GATHERING AT THE CHURCH? If so, you should request access to the church building by contacting the secretary at secretary@ascensionpgh.com and by contacting a trustee at trustees@ascensionpgh.com. We are here to help make your function go smoothly.

SHEPHERD'S HEART FELLOWSHIP – Please remember the homeless in Pittsburgh. Donations will be accepted of non-perishable breakfast food items and men's clothing. Please place donations in the baskets under the mailboxes in the Narthex.

PENNIES FOR JESUS – Now that the COVID restrictions have been lifted, the children can once again come forward during the offering to put their coins in the Pennies for Jesus container that is next to the baptismal font. These donations will go to the North Hills Food Bank on Perry Highway and the Northside Common Ministries on Brighton Road. We will collect for these missions until the end of August. We will then choose a new mission and begin collecting for them in September. If you have any suggestions for a mission we could collect for, see Janet Seitz, or send her a message at janetseitz@hotmail.com.

EMPTY PRINTER CARTRIDGES – If you have any empty printer cartridges at home, please donate them to the church. OfficeMax® will accept any brand empty printer cartridges. For each cartridge we will receive \$2 towards supplies at OfficeMax®. Just place the cartridges in the basket above the coat rack in the Narthex. Thank you!

EMAIL ACCOUNTS – Please use the email addresses below for contacting these individuals/groups:

Pastor Thompson	pastor@ascensionpgh.com
President (Russ Lucas)	president@ascensionpgh.com
Treasurer (Patti Lopresto)	treasurer@ascensionpgh.com
Financial Secretary (Bob Marcellus)	finance@ascensionpgh.com
Elders	elders@ascensionpgh.com
Board of Christian Education	education@ascensionpgh.com
Board of Trustees	trustees@ascensionpgh.com
SOAR Respite Nights	soar@ascensionpgh.com
Music Director (Vanessa Candreva)	music@ascensionpgh.com
Media (Cherie Shaginaw)	media@ascensionpgh.com
Vacation Bible School	vbs@ascensionpgh.com
Youth (Ronette Blake)	youth@ascensionpgh.com
Secretary	secretary@ascensionpgh.com

LCMS STEWARDSHIP NOTE – Ephesians 2:13 – “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” What all of mankind’s efforts, works, and scheming could not do, the blood of Christ did. We have peace with God, and we are brought near to the Father. This life-giving sacrifice of Christ sets the pattern for the sacrifices we are called to make for others within our vocations in home, church, and society.

LIVE-STREAMING WORSHIP SERVICES – Our worship services are live-streamed on our YouTube Channel. Just click on this link https://www.youtube.com/channel/Ucu_ARgzTTcfZZXuZAeiyEVQ/videos or search in YouTube for Ascension Lutheran Church PGH. More detailed directions are available on our website (www.ascensionpgh.com). If you have any questions, feel free to contact Vanessa Candreva at music@ascensionpgh.com.

SOCIAL MEDIA – Ascension is on Facebook (www.facebook.com/AscensionPgh) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/AscensionPgh). You don’t have to have accounts to view our pages online. Please do check us out (and “Like”/follow us).

CLOTHING RECYCLING PROGRAM – Don’t forget to recycle your clothes in our recycle bins in the parking lot!

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

“GOD WITH US” ON THE RADIO – If you are not attending in-person worship services and do not have access to a computer for online services, the Lutheran broadcast “God With Us” is **available on WORD-FM 101.5 on Sundays at 10:30 AM.** “God with Us” features Rev. Dr. Daniel A. Hahn, Jr., Pastor of Tri-Parish (St. John’s, Bethel and Zion, Lawrenceville).

THE LUTHERAN HOUR is on WWNL/1080 AM on Saturdays at 3:30 PM and on Tuesdays at 12:30 PM. Read or listen to the sermon at www.lutheranhour.org. **July 18, 2021: “The Problem and Promise of Deathbed Conversion”** Is a last-minute conversion cause for joy or an insult to lifelong believers? Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler explores both the problem and the promise of deathbed conversions. (Ephesians 2)

CONCORDIA ANNUAL 140th SUMMER FESTIVAL – On Sunday, **July 25** from 12:30 – 5:30 PM at Concordia at Cabot Campus the 140th Concordia Summer Festival will be held. There will be a picnic lunch served at 12:30 PM and entertainment by the Pittsburgh Doo Wop Big Band beginning at 1:30 PM. At 4 PM the traditional worship service will be held with Concordia Chaplaincy Director Rev. Jack Hartman giving the sermon. A car cruise will be on-site from 12:30 - 3:00 PM. A mini fishing derby for kids 12 and under will highlight the children’s activities beginning at 12:30 PM. Crafts and games at the pavilion will keep the kids busy for the rest of the day, and they are entitled to one free drink and one free food item from our quick food tent, such as a burger, hot dog or chicken tenders. The entire event is open to the public, and admission is free. Contact Public Relations at 724-352-1571, extension 8268, or visit the [Events and News page of our website here](#).

KFUO RADIO, a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on **KFUO.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. You can find programs on demand at kfu.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: **@KFUOradio** on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). **CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE.org:** Begin the book of Nehemiah on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), study Jeremiah 32-35 on Sharper Iron's "A Time to Destroy and a Time to Build" (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), and hear practical application of our Lutheran Confessions on Concord Matters 7/17 at 10:00 a.m. CT.

CHRISTIAN COUNSELING ASSOCIATES is a full-service counseling center committed to using the resources of the Christian faith in helping individuals and families achieve emotional, spiritual, and physical well-being. Licensed and certified professional counselors provide all services. Available services include help for those seeking professional help for emotional and

life challenges such as depression, anxiety, marital problems, addictions, grief, trauma, or any mental health concern. CCA offers services to adults, children, adolescents, and families. Christian counseling engages a faith-based process of change that can equip individuals to overcome the challenges they face. CCA accepts many different health insurances for payment and offers a sliding fee scale if there is no insurance. Ascension provides office space for CCA. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 724-396-1510.

LIFE QUOTE: “You, too, are one of the people Jesus came to rescue. You are one that He loves enough to suffer and even die for. His intention is to give you life—everlasting life—just as He has risen from the dead and will never die again. He is your king, and He wants you in God’s kingdom.” *Dr. Kari Vo, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*