

Divine Service

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE ASCENSION

SEPTEMBER 6, 2020 ✝ SUNDAY, 10:00 A.M.



PRELUDE

Fanfare for the Common Man

Aaron Copeland

WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Please stand and face the processional cross.

Lutheran Service Book 686

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"



1 Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Tune my heart to
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer, Hith - er by Thy
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con -
4 Oh, that day when freed from sin - ning, I shall see Thy



sing Thy grace; Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,
help I've come; And I hope, by Thy good plea - sure,
strained to be; Let that grace now like a fet - ter
love - ly face; Clothed then in the blood - washed lin - en,



Call for songs of loud - est praise. While the hope of end - less
Safe - ly to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a
Bind my wan - d'ring heart to Thee: Prone to wan - der, Lord, I
How I'll sing Thy won - drous grace! Come, my Lord, no long - er



glo - ry Fills my heart with joy and love, Teach me
strang - er, Wan - d'ring from the fold of God; He, to
feel it; Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my
tar - ry; Take my ran - som'd soul a - way; Send Thine



ev - er to a - dore Thee; May I still Thy good - ness prove.
res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.
heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.
an - gels soon to car - ry Me to realms of end - less day.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

Kneeling or sitting forward

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

The Sixth Commandment

You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

Preparation for Confession and Absolution according to the Sixth Commandment:

- *Have I held in highest regard God's gift of sexuality or have I debased it in any way by my thoughts, words, or conduct?*
- *Am I guilty of lust, indecency, or the use of pornography?*
- *Have I reserved my sexual activity for the pleasure and consolation of my spouse, and when God wills, the procreation of children?*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

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.

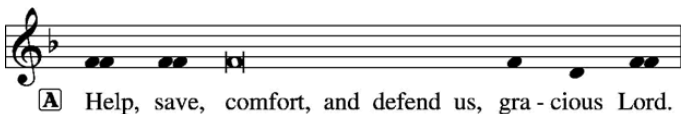
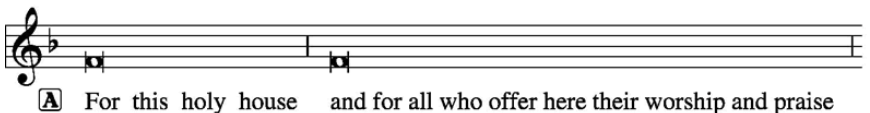
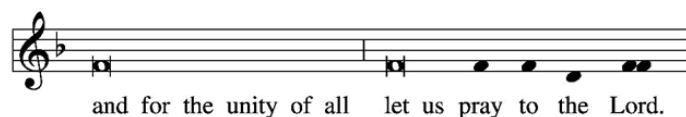
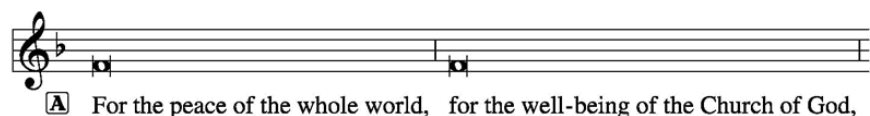
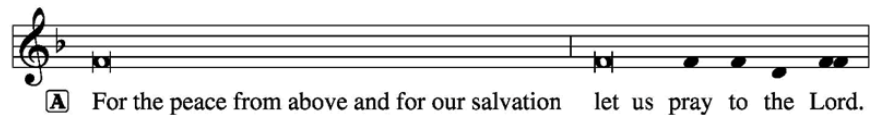
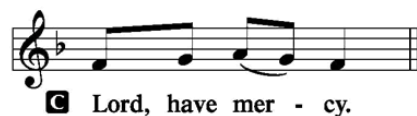
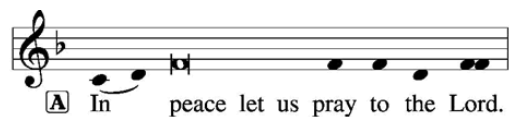
[John 20:19-23]

Standing

SERVICE OF THE WORD

KYRIE ~ *Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47



GLORIA IN EXCELSIS ~ *Glory to God in the Highest*

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.

C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:

We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.

For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,

You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spirit.

P Let us pray.

O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 33:7-9

- A** The Old Testament Reading for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost is from Ezekiel, chapter 33.

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that

wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.

- C** Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Psalm 32:1-7; antiphon: Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

Antiphon

Debra Ramsey Dickensheets

Cantor introduces first time, then congregation repeats:

Voice

Fear the Lord you his saints, For those who fear him lack noth-ing!

Ma-ny are the af-flic-tions of the right ous, but the Lord de-liv-ers him out of them all.

A

Blessèd is the one whose transgression is for- | given,*
whose sin is | covered.

- L** Blessèd is the one whose transgression is for- | given,*
whose sin is | covered.
- C** Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no in- | iquity,*
and in whose spirit there is | no deceit.
- L** For when I kept silent, my bones wast- | ed away*
through my groaning | all day long.



- C** For day and night your hand was heavy up- | on me;*
my strength was dried up as by the heat of | summer.
- L** I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my in- | iquity;*
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity | of my sin.
- C** Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time
when you | may be found;*
surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not | reach him.
- L** You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from | trouble;*
you surround me with shouts of de- | liverance.
- C** Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
- C** *Antiphon*

"Families can, and should, evangelize other families. Newly married spouses can be helped by older and more experienced husbands and wives to learn to accept one another with all their virtues and weaknesses. Spouses in crisis who may be thinking of divorce can be greatly aided by loving and wise couples who give them good examples of forgiveness, large-heartedness, patience, Christian charity, and a basic acceptance of the fact that we are not yet in heaven, where everyone and everything will be found perfect. Parents who have problem children need to be evangelized by older and wiser couples who show them how to relate with difficult teenage children or with rebellious offspring. While a priest can preach on all these matters, the example and advice of experienced couples have a power of their own to help, encourage, and convince young husbands and wives to keep making the necessary effort."

Francis Cardinal Arinze
Celebrating the Holy Eucharist

A The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 13.

¹ Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴ for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of

conscience. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷ Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Standing

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

John 6:68

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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



P ¹ At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ² And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³ and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵ "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶ but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷ "Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸ And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹ And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

¹⁰ "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in

heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹² What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³ And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴ So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵ "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



APOSTLES' CREED

P God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

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.

CATECHETICAL RECITATION

First Petition of the Lord's Prayer

P What is the First Petition of the Lord's Prayer?

C Hallowed be Thy name.

P What does this mean?

C God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

P How is God's name kept holy?

C God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

Sitting

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lutheran Service Book 709

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul He lead - eth And, where the ver - dant
 love He sought me And on His shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, Thy rod and staff my

I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid And home re - joic - ing brought me.
 com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.

**5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
 Thine unction grace bestoweth;
 And, oh, what transport of delight
 From Thy pure chalice floweth!**

**6 And so through all the length of days
 Thy goodness faileth never;
 Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
 Within Thy house forever!**

Public domain

SERMON



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

P Blessed Lord, You have promised that where two or three are gathered in Your name, You are in the midst of them. Hear the prayers of Your people, and grant our supplications.

Brief silence

P O Lord, grant to Your people courage, that with boldness we may speak Your name in witness and warn sinners so that they may come to faith and repentance and so enjoy the forgiveness of their sins. Give Your Church wisdom and strength by Your Spirit, that she may be steadfast and unmovable in Your Word and truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, be present among Your people to serve us with the gifts of Your grace, and grant that we may receive them with joy. Give to us faithful pastors and church workers who will minister to us in Your name and strengthen our faith and life together as Your baptized people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, give to us good and honest leaders who will govern according to Your Word and will. Give us grace, that we may not fail to pray for those who lead us and to act as good citizens and good neighbors to one another. Give peace to the nations, and bring an end to violence, prejudice and racism. Guide us to know and respect all life, from the infant in the womb to the youth beginning maturity, and from the mature to the aged. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, You send rain upon the earth and turn the seeds into plants rich with fruit for harvest. Accept our thanks and praise for Your continued goodness in providing a good harvest and food for all. Give us wisdom so that we may use Your resources wisely and extend Your care to those in need. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, You urge us to give special care and guidance to the young and those new to the faith. Give us grace, that we may not lead them into temptation or sin but guard their faith by making known to them the full counsel of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, You are the strength of the weak, the healing of the sick, the comfort of those who grieve and the peace of those near death. Hear us on behalf of _____, that they may be sustained in their afflictions, comforted in life and death, and delivered to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** O Lord, You have given the day for work and the night for rest. Bless all honest labor and industry, artists and artisans, and those in caring professions. Keep us in humility, and guard us against pride and arrogance. Give to us a spirit of generosity, that we may share with others the blessings that flow from our labors. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O Lord, teach us to forgive others as You have forgiven us and bless the fellowship of the forgiven, that we may be united in doctrine and life. Bless us as we commune today upon the body and blood of our Savior, and help us to keep in holy lives what we will receive upon our lips in this Holy Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O Lord, deliver us from pandemic and pestilence, from disaster and danger, and from a sudden death, that kept in faith, we may be preserved through this mortal life and in death be received into the arms of Your mercy and into the blessed rest of everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Hear us, O Lord, who cry to You in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, whom with the Spirit, You are one God and one Lord, now and forevermore.
- C** **Amen.**

Sitting

OFFERING

MUSIC

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

Neil Harmon

MEDITATION

Matthew 18:4 – “(Jesus said), ‘Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.’” What does it mean to have childlike faith? Certainly, Jesus does not want us to have a faith that is childish. We are not called to ignorance or silliness. Rather, we are called to trust the way a child trusts – with complete confidence in the Father. We show that confidence in our lives when we follow His directives for our life. Father knows best, so we’ll take His advice!

“The devil has never made anyone or begotten anyone or created anyone; but whoever acts as the Devil acts does become in one sense a child of the Devil, as if begotten by him. The child resembles the father, not because they are literally kin, but because the child imitates the father.”

St. Augustine (354 – 430 A.D.)

OFFERTORY

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa-lem.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

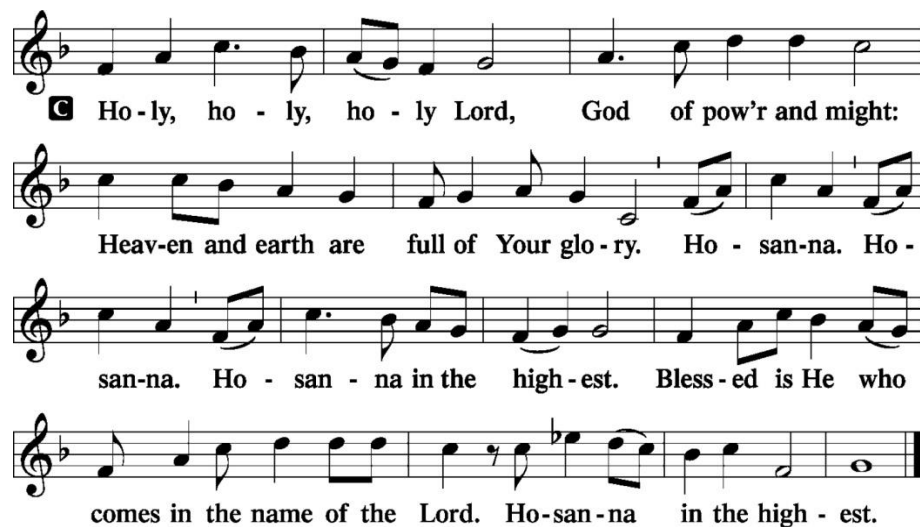


P The Lord be with you.
C And with your spir it.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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 OUR LORD

Matthew 26; 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."

PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

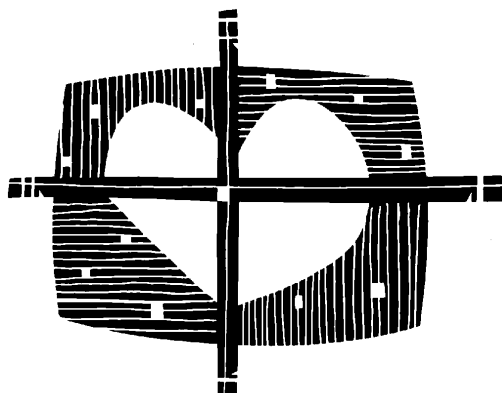
John 20:19



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.



AGNUS DEI ~ *Lamb of God*

John 1:29



G Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sitting

About participation in the Lord's Supper:

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor. [Those coming to the altar for a blessing rather than Holy Communion are asked to cross their arms over their chest.]

For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

(Above is the "Model Communion Card Statement" from Theology and Practice of the Lord's Supper, a 1983 report by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.)

MUSIC FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

Lutheran Service Book 611

"Chief of Sinners Though I Be"



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
all to me; All my wants to Him are known,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.
hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.

- 5 O my Savior, help afford
By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.**

"In the Eucharist, Christ has given to those who desire Him the ability not only to see Him, but even to touch Him, eat Him, fix their teeth in His flesh, and embrace Him, to satisfy all their love. For this reason, we must return from that Table like lions breathing fire, having become terrifying to the Devil. We must be thinking about the love He's shown to us."

St. John Chrysostom (c. 347 – 407 A.D.)

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE ~ *Thank the Lord*



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

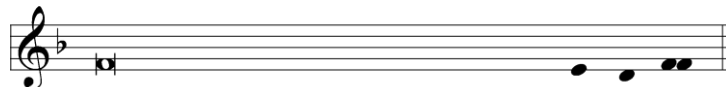
P Let us pray.

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 A - men.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Lutheran Service Book 725

"Children of the Heavenly Father"



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly
2 God - His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the
4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His

in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He
Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose

heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.
show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.
sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

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POSTLUDE

Maestoso

Johann Erasmus Kindermann

SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP

Presiding Minister

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

Altar Assistant(s)

J.P. Morr, *Head Elder*

Penny Durden, *Acolyte*

Organist

Debbie Dickensheets, *Director of Music*

Altar Guild

Jeni Miller/Sarah Cadagin

Usher(s)

Greg Ison/Richard Drachenberg

SERVING NEXT WEEK

Presiding Minister

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

Altar Assistant(s)

J.P. Morr, *Head Elder*

Edie Durden, *Acolyte*

Organist

Debbie Dickensheets, *Director of Music*

Altar Guild

Lucie Woolery/Jill Drachenberg

Usher(s)

Grayson Beckman/Isaac Beckman

Making Christ Known

CALENDAR		
Sunday 9/6	Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost Nursery available Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>The Epistles of Peter</i> Divine Service with Holy Communion Fellowship Hour Outdoor Divine Service with Holy Communion	8:30 – 11:30 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM Following worship Noon
Monday 9/7	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	Closed Closed
Tuesday 9/8	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Wednesday 9/9	Open Arms LCDC Church Office Open Arms LCDC Chapel	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM 10:00 AM
Thursday 9/10	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Friday 9/11	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Saturday 9/12	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	Closed Closed
Sunday 9/13	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Nursery available Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>The Epistles of Peter</i> Divine Service with Holy Communion Fellowship Hour Open Arms Board Meeting Outdoor Divine Service with Holy Communion	8:30 – 11:30 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM Following worship Following fellowship Noon

Truth ~ GROWING IN HIS WORD

✦ Adult Bible Study: *The Epistles of Peter*

Theme: It was to St. Peter that the Lord Jesus Christ called, "Follow Me." And it is through the two Petrine epistles that the Lord Jesus Christ still calls us today to be His disciples. Hear that calling like never before, and discover what it really means to follow Him with this nine-week Bible study.

Day & Time: Sundays at 9:00 A.M., from August 30 – October 25

Location: Church fellowship hall

✦ Adult Bible Study: *Lutheranism 101*

Theme: Has it been decades since you last opened Luther's *Small Catechism*? Have you been wondering lately why Lutherans do the funny things that we do? Are you brand spanking new to Lutheranism? Whatever the case, this class is for you! The basis of our study is the book *Lutheranism 101*. You may purchase a copy for \$25. Please contact Pastor Miller for details.

Day & Time: Sundays at 9:00 A.M., beginning November 1

Location: Church fellowship hall

✦ POSTPONED: Men's Group Bible Study: *The Calling: Live a Life of Significance*

Theme: How do I pay the bills? How do I find a job that motivates and inspires. What should I major in at college? Why is my family life in such shambles? How do I live a life of meaning and significance? Am I really living the life God has created uniquely for me?

Unlike Noah or Paul, most of us won't receive answers to these questions directly from God. This doesn't mean, however, that God does not guide us to those choices that will give our life significance.

The Holy Spirit enables us to live the life God created uniquely for us. As we use the resources God places at our disposal, rely on His forgiveness when we stumble, and walk hand in hand with God, He will show us what it means to live a life of significance.

The basis of this study is Kurt Senske's *The Calling: Living a Life of Significance*. Copies are available for just \$20. Please contact Pastor Miller to obtain yours.

Day & Time: To be determined

Location: Church overflow room

✝ **POSTPONED: Women's Group Bible Study: *Praise and Honor: Hymn-Inspired Devotions***

Theme: Come, delve into the great hymns of our church as they're informed by God's Word! The Ascension Women's Group is taking on a new hymn each month using the book *Praise and Honor: Hymn-Inspired Devotions* by Timothy Shoup. It's available for purchase on Amazon for \$13 or through Concordia Publishing House for \$18, and the book "features introductions to 14 hymns with devotions based on each stanza, helping readers learn the biblical basis of the words the authors chose."

If you've never joined this group for a book study before, now is a great time – since the ladies will be studying a different hymn each month, you're free to come when you can and not stress if you can't commit to every meeting. Childcare is provided!

Day & Time: Saturday, September 26 at 9:30 A.M.

Location: Church narthex

Beauty ~ WORSHIPING OUR GOD

✝ **Outdoor Divine Service**

Theme: At Ascension, we're always on the lookout for how we might best serve our neighbor. Due to these unprecedented times, some of our brothers and sisters in Christ have been put in a difficult position. Based on the CDC guidelines, they feel it best to refrain from the regular assembly for the time being. Therefore, in an effort to still provide them the ability to participate in the fullness of the Divine Service, we invite them to worship outdoors in a low-risk environment. An altar, pulpit, and chairs that are appropriately spaced out will be set up outside to ensure that all those gathered may do so in health and safety. Please encourage those who might not otherwise be at ease indoors to please take advantage of this special opportunity just for them.

Day & Time: Sundays in September and October at noon

Location: Front drive of the church

Goodness ~ SERVING IN HIS NAME

✝ **Thank You from Pastor Miller**

Dear saints of Ascension,

Thank you very much for the plethora of Christian grace and generosity of which you showed me on the occasion of my ten-year ordination anniversary. It was an honor to have the chance to renew my ordination vows publicly, and by God's grace I look forward to fulfilling them in service to this wonderful congregation. The monetary gift I received, the artwork, the luncheon, and the many thoughtful wishes are more than I deserve.

This is yet further affirmation that the Holy Spirit moves through this place and inspires hearts to love and charity. It also reaffirms the special relationship that exists between pastor and people, which is why it's such a unique privilege to serve God's Church in this place. It is a joy to share together with you in the ministry of Lutheran Church of the Ascension.

Thank you again for all that you do for me and all that you are to me. You are a blessing more than you know. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Pastor David V. Miller

✝ **1-1-1 Mission Campaign**

Theme: 1-1-1 is a campaign of the English District to raise \$1/per person/per week. That means that by giving \$4 each month, just \$52 a year, everyone can give toward the district's mission efforts. Just think what could happen if every person in the English District did this! Right now, those missions include Concordia Lutheran Mission in Myerstown, PA, and eight other startup congregations, including two Spanish-speaking churches and several college ministries. Please consider playing a part in this special mission! Dollars may be contributed in the designated 1-1-1 Mission box located in the narthex.

✝ **Baby Shower for Bekah Beckman**

Theme: All are invited to a special baby shower in honor of Bekah Beckman. Men are also encouraged to attend. It will be a fun time of games and activities. Light snacks and cake will be provided. Please RSVP to Darlene Beckman at office@ascension-lcms.com.

Day & Time: Sunday, September 20 at 2:00 P.M.

Location: Church fellowship hall

✝ UPDATE: 1-1-1 Mission Campaign

From the English District:

We give thanks for all God's people. According to their ability, and with joyful hearts, they have continued participation in 1-1-1 even in the midst of this COVID-19 pandemic. While in our human nature we wonder if we will move through such times, our God remains ever faithful to His promises.

Our current 1-1-1 season of supporting Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Chapel, Pittsburgh, PA and Tree of Life Lutheran Church, Inverness, FL comes to a close at the end of August 2020. In September we will announce the new mission focus for 2020-21. If your congregation has 1-1-1 funds that have not been forwarded to the district, please do so by August 31.

Remember, 1-1-1 is completely voluntary and very simple. It is not burdensome, nor sacrificial. It involves every baptized member of the Body of Christ in your congregation, from the newest baby baptized to the oldest member. It demonstrates the power and beauty of Christ's Body working together, prompted by faith. It shows how much can be accomplished by many giving little.

This is the plan: \$1 per baptized member per week.

This is the power of many giving little as we are moved by God's Spirit.

Missions is what the Church is called to do, by Jesus.

✝ Donations for Stepping Stone Mission

Theme: The Lord blesses us so that we may be a blessing to others. Let us share the many gifts we've graciously received with those most in need. Now through September 20, you are invited to donate specific items to our local LCMS outreach to the homeless, Stepping Stone Mission. All donations may be dropped off by the marked box in the narthex. On September 20, you are also invited to stay after service and help put the donated items into "mercy bags." In addition, children are welcome to draw pictures for the recipients or write notes of encouragement to them.

Here's a list of the items requested for donation:

- Non-perishable food items, excluding cans without flip-top lid (since the homeless probably don't have a can opener). Examples include granola bars, protein bars, dried fruit, nuts, etc.
- Water bottles
- Personal hygiene products, including hand sanitizer and masks
- Toiletry items, such as toothpaste, combs, moisturizer, soap, etc.

LIFTING UP ONE ANOTHER IN PRAYER

Birthdays

✝ None this week

Rebirthdays (Baptismal Anniversaries)

✝ None this week

Wedding Anniversaries

✝ None this week

Membership Anniversaries

✝ None this week

In Need

Recent Requests

For persecuted Christians:

✝ Pakistan

For comfort, health, and healing:

✝ Brian Beckman

✝ Brandon Irwin (friend of Lauren Morr)

✝ Jimmy Murray (friend of Adrian Popescu)

✝ Homero Salgado

✝ Heidi Schnakenberg (niece of Clara Smith)

✝ Bob Sponsel (friend of Caitlin East)

✝ All impacted by COVID-19

For the health and safety of our deployed servicemen and women:

✝ Luke Voss (neighbor of the Schoellens)

Ongoing Requests

For family and friends of the congregation:

✝ Terrie Dowling (aunt of Caitlin East)

✝ Hannibal (Hank) Durden

✝ Rev. David Heller (Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Athens, GA)

✝ The Kroll family (friends of Ascension)

✝ Martin Kunkel

✝ Rosalia Kunkel (mother of Martin Kunkel)

✝ Willard Meyer (grandfather of J.P. Morr)

✝ Adi Murphy (former neighbor of the Beckmans)

For the leaders of Church and state:

✝ Director Barbara Collins & Open Arms Board

✝ English District Bishop Jamison Hardy & all district officials

✝ LCMS President Matthew Harrison & all synodical officials

✝ Pastor David Miller & Church Board of Lutheran Church of the Ascension

✝ Rev. Dr. Jonathan & Dcs. Cheryl Naumann, missionaries to Dominican Republic

✝ President Donald Trump & all U.S. government officials

✝ President Donald Trump & all U.S. government officials



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