



ASCENSION
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

Divine Service

**Fifteenth Sunday
after Pentecost**

Friends of God,

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3

*Fear the LORD, you his
saints,*

*for those who fear him
lack nothing!*

*Many are the afflictions of
the righteous,*

*but the LORD delivers
him out of them all.*

Gradual
Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

The first place I remember it happening was the creek behind the house I grew up in, in an eastern Ohio town of a hundred and seventy-five people I have written about before. It was a creek you could cross on a fallen log. I spent whole afternoons at it, and I felt, the way a child feels the things that matter before he can defend them, that the creek was somebody, that it had a face turned my way. Then I grew old enough for the account that corrects a boy out of all that. Runoff and gravity. So many cubic feet a second. Oxygen, hydrogen, and whatever the farms upstream had sent down. Every word of it true, and under it ran the lesson the words were really teaching: that the something-more I had felt at the water was weather inside me, not news from the creek. Mine. And so, beside the point...

Here is the habit said straight. We are taught to see the world as less than it is, and coached to call the smaller sight realism. It is a blindness with good manners. It never introduces itself as blindness; it arrives looking like maturity, the clear-eyed adult putting away childish things, and for the better part of my life I mistook it for clear sight.

Beauty Went First, The Creek Behind the House

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 ✠ 8:30AM & 11:00AM

SPECIAL WELCOME TO THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We are so glad that you are here! This is God's House and He put the wiggle in children, so please feel completely at home.

Sit towards the front: That's where children can easily see the procession, note the colors and watch the pastor and leaders.

Help your child look and listen: Tell them key words that will be used often. Point out crosses, banners and other reminders of Jesus and His Good News.

Participate joyfully! Sing, fold your hands for prayer, stand and kneel. Bring them to the Communion rail for a blessing. Your child will model your actions. He or she watches everything that you do.

Involve your child: Encourage them to say and pray their parts: *"Amen. Lord have mercy. I believe... Our Father..."* Ascension at Prayer allows you to learn songs and prayers ahead of time so that children recognize them as their own.

If You and Your Child Must Leave: There is a nursery for emergencies, but please come back. What we do here promises to engage your children little-by-little and shape them powerfully and forever.

Rainbow Activity Bags are available at the Usher Table for children five and under.

If you need help, just ask! We are here to serve Jesus who said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Luke 18:16)



WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

If you are a visitor, we are delighted to have you join us in worshiping God and hearing His Word! Please take a moment after the service to introduce yourself to our pastor. You are cordially invited to join in our congregation's fellowship and study of God's Word between services and all week long.

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION



Our greatest desire is to share in the blessing of the Lord's Supper with you! Since this meal unites us spiritually by faith in the Word of God, we ask that you come having prepared your heart. Please read the following questions. If your answer to each is "Yes" then joyfully receive the Lord's gift in His Sacrament.

- ☐ **Do you come to the Lord's Table for assurance of forgiveness, healing from doubt and shame, and to receive God's gift of a holy life and reconciliation through Jesus?**
- ☐ **Have you been baptized and instructed in the Sacrament so that you come to confess the holy, catholic and apostolic faith along with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod?**
- ☐ **Do you believe Jesus' words, that the bread and the wine are, in fact, His own body and blood, given and shed for you?**

We invite all those who are not prepared to commune to join our study of God's Word and to speak to our pastor for direction. In the meantime, we invite you to receive a blessing at God's altar this morning. Please fold your hands over your heart during the distribution of the Sacrament and join in our prayers for God to restore us through repentance, to unity and holiness in Christ alone.

*The "white" individual cups at the center of each tray are alcohol-free.
For gluten-free communion, please ask the pastor prior to the service.*

Gathered Together...

PRELUDE

This Is My Father's World

Sheppard

*As the prelude begins, please prepare for worship by composing yourself for prayer.
At the end of the announcements, please stand.*

ENTRANCE HYMN

Psalm 57:9; 100:4-5

Turn and face the cross in procession.

915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.
2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,
Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.
His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.
What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,
The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,
No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;
When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.
A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.
Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.
We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

INVOCATION

1 Kings 8:27-30; Matthew 18:20; 28:18-20

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.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- 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*

Kneel or sit forward. Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- 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. *Luke 18:13-14*

- 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. *Romans 5:8; John 3:16; John 20:21-23*

- C** Amen.

Stand.

INTROIT

Psalm 92:1-4; antiphon: v. 5



Leader sings antiphon. All sing verses and Gloria.

How great are your works, | O LORD! *
Your thoughts are | very deep!

It is good to give thanks | to the
LORD, *
to sing praises to your name, | O
Most High;
to declare your steadfast love in the |
morning, *
and your faithful- | ness by night,
to the music of the lute | and the
harp, *
to the melody | of the lyre.

How great are your works, | O LORD! *
Your thoughts are | very deep

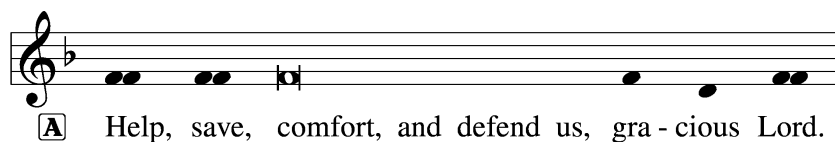
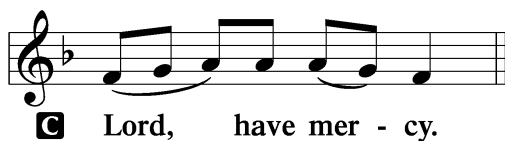
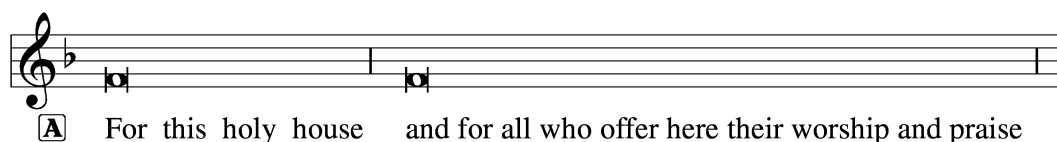
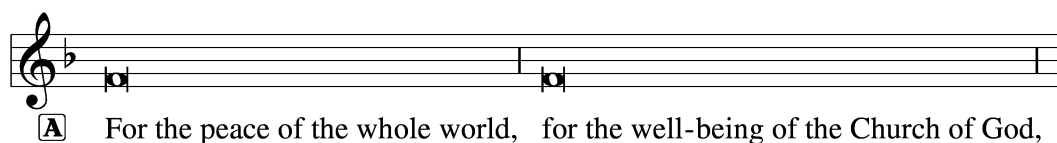
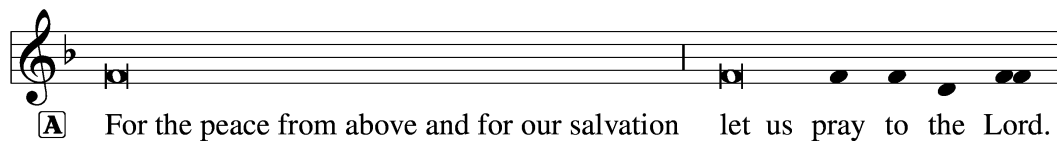
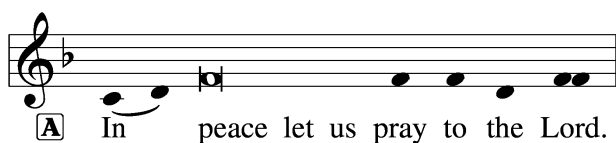
For you, O LORD, have made me
glad | by your work; *
at the works of your hands I |
sing for joy.

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.

KYRIE

Mark 10:47; Luke 18:13; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1



THIS IS THE FEAST

Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9

Refrain

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*

gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so with you.

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 A - men.

Sit.

...Around the Word...

OLD TESTAMENT READING

EZEKIEL 33:7-9

A The Old Testament Reading is from Ezekiel, the thirty-third chapter.

“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. If 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. But 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.

EPISTLE

ROMANS 13:1-10

A The Epistle is from Romans, the thirteenth chapter.

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. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. 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, 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. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For

the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. 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.

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 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.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

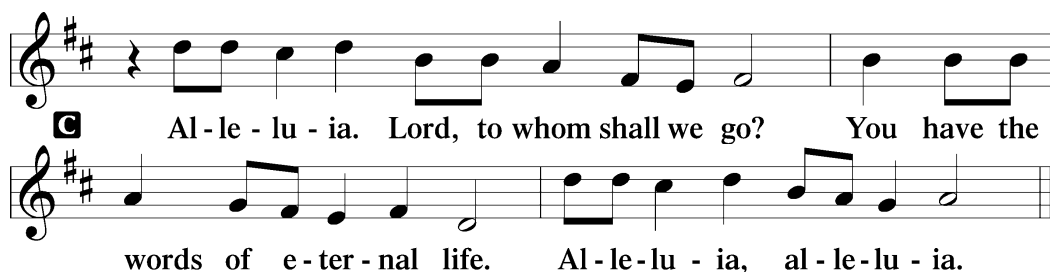
A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

JOHN 6:68



HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 18:1-20

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

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

"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, 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.

"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! 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. 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.

"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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

For the Son of Man came to save the lost. 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? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

"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. 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. 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. 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. 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. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."



APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

*Matthew 6:9; Exodus 6:3
Genesis 1:1; John 1:1*

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.

*John 3:16; Romans 10:9
Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:35
Galatians 4:4; Matthew 1:23-25
Matthew 27:26; John 19:1-3
Mark 15:25; John 19:30; Luke 23:53
Acts 2:24; 1 Peter 3:19
1 Corinthians 15:4; Luke 24:6
Acts 1:9
Acts 7:55*

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.

*Acts 10:42; Matt. 26:64
John 14:26; Genesis 1:2; Acts 2:38
1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:19-22
Ephesians 4:1-6; 15-16; Revelation 7:9-17
Luke 24:46-48; Acts 13:38; Col. 1:14; 1 John 1:7
John 11:25; 1 Cor. 15:35-49; 1 Thess. 4:13-18
Mark 10:29-30; Matthew 10:40-42*

**Christian: the ancient text reads “catholic,” meaning the whole
Church as it confesses the wholeness of Christian doctrine.**

Sit. The children may be invited forward for a children’s message.



The resurrection of Jesus establishes the conditions in which we live and mature in the Christian life...

We live our lives in the practice of what we do not originate and cannot anticipate. When we practice resurrection, we continuously enter into what is more than we are. When we practice resurrection, we keep company with Jesus, alive and present, who knows where we are going better than we do, which is always from glory unto glory.

Eugene Peterson, Practice Resurrection, 8

HYMN OF THE DAY

605 Father Welcomes

Refrain

Fa - ther wel-comes all His chil - dren To His fam - 'ly

through His Son. Fa - ther giv - ing His sal - va - tion,

Life for - ev - er has been won.

1 Lit - tle chil-dren, come to Me, For My king - dom

2 In the wa - ter, in the Word, In His prom - ise,

3 Let us dai - ly die to sin; Let us dai - ly

is of these. Life and love I have to give,

be as - sured: Those who are bap - tized and be - lieve

rise with Him, Walk in the love of Christ our Lord,

Refrain

Mer - cy for your sin.

Shall be born a - gain.

Live in the peace of God.

SERMON

SUPPLICATION OF THE FAITHFUL

Ephesians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 11:26

- P** Heavenly Father, strengthen us, your unworthy servants, for Your service with the power of Your Holy Spirit.
- C** Now let us, the faithful, proclaim the death of the Lord, confess His resurrection, and await His coming with joy. Amen.

...And Blessed

All those wishing to commune should examine themselves, as in the following prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, You call to Yourself all those who labor and are heavy burdened, to refresh them and to give rest to their souls. Dear Lord, I pray, let me also experience Your love at the heavenly feast, which You have prepared for Your children on earth. Rescue me here from impenitence and unbelief, so that I do not receive the Sacrament to my damnation. Remove the spotted garment of my flesh and my own righteousness and adorn me with the garment earned by Your blood. Strengthen my faith, increase my love and hope, and hereafter make me to sit at Your heavenly table, where You give me to eat of the eternal manna and to drink of the river of Your pleasures. Hear me for Your own sake. Amen.



...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2

OFFERING

Please place your tithes and offerings in the plates as the ushers pass by.
Take a moment to sign and pass along the red books found at the end of each pew.

OFFERTORY

PSALM 116:12-13, 17-19



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.

Stand.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

- L** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the Church, that by our warning and witness sinners may come to repentance with faith, and so enjoy the forgiveness of their sins, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For all Christians, that they may be steadfast and immovable in God's truth, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For all little ones, that they may be kept from sin and that their pastors, parents and teachers would teach them to trust in Christ's forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For all who bear the sword, that they may bear it as God's servants; and that under their peaceable governance Christ's holy people may be guarded and directed in righteousness, quietness and unity, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the ill, grieving and lonely, that they may remember that the Good Shepherd, who loves them, seeks and saves the one lost sheep. We pray especially for...

our members

Curt Schmidt
Frank Moravec
Dan Nelson
Jackie Elam
Scott Hertzog
John Strohschein
Sharon Gugel
Ted Cash
John Henry
Jasmine Timm
James Dake
Peri Hertzog
Cissi Burtner
Elaine Elston

those at home:

Janet Miller
Lila Thompson
Doris Falconieri
Tom Hagen
Karen Priebe
Roy & Sharon Gugel
Mary Keefauver
Helen Gounis
Louise Nordman

those dear to us:
Bowman Family
Thomas Barnette
Molly
Pam Cole
Shaneyfelt Family
Harvey Mozolak
Byrum Family

Wyatt Dawson
Ruchelle Smith
Aunt Liz
Jim Melton
Angela Carby
Kevin King II
King Family
Carby Family
Judi Domeier
Steve Barringer
Hermione Moul
Mike Chaney
Toby Gowin
Cassandra Shropshire
Charlotte Area Soup
Kitchens

- Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

- P** For those who rejoice in the rich blessings of God, that they may remember the Giver of every gift and find their joy complete in giving Him heartfelt thanks, especially for:

our family birthdays:

Pam Balling
Diane Beard
John Seigler
Siobhan O'Rourke
Margie Crane

Marlee Sauer
Bianca De Lima
Aydelott
Phil Edwards
Sharon Gugel

Kathleen Cousins
Austin Wilkalis
Dwight Stine
Blake Phillips

- let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For childlike faith to trust God's Word as we receive Christ's body and blood, that it may strengthen us in faith toward God and in fervent love toward one another, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L O almighty God, we confess that we are poor sinners and could not give an answer if You should contend with us. Yet do we thank You with all our hearts that You have taken our guilt from us and laid it upon Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, who has atoned for it. Graciously sustain us in this faith. Govern us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may live according to Your will in love and service to our neighbors. Do not let us give way to wrath or revenge, and so incur Your wrath, but let us always find in You a gracious Father; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SHARING THE LORD'S PEACE

Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

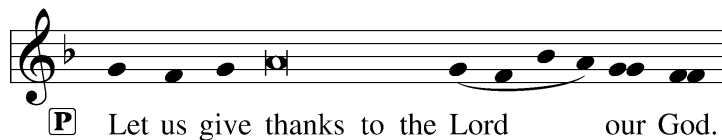
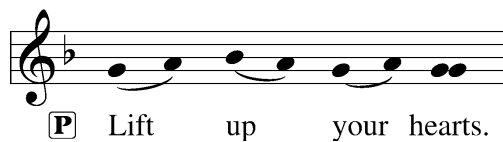
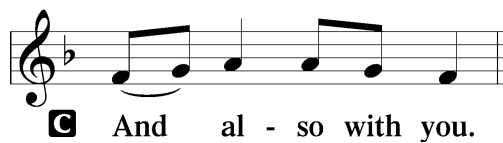
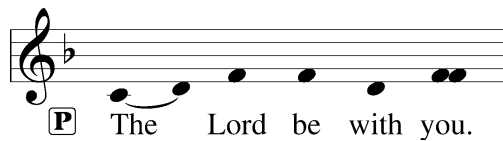
C **And also with you.**

P Let us share His peace with one another.

Greet one another in the Lord's name saying, "Peace be with you!"

PREFACE

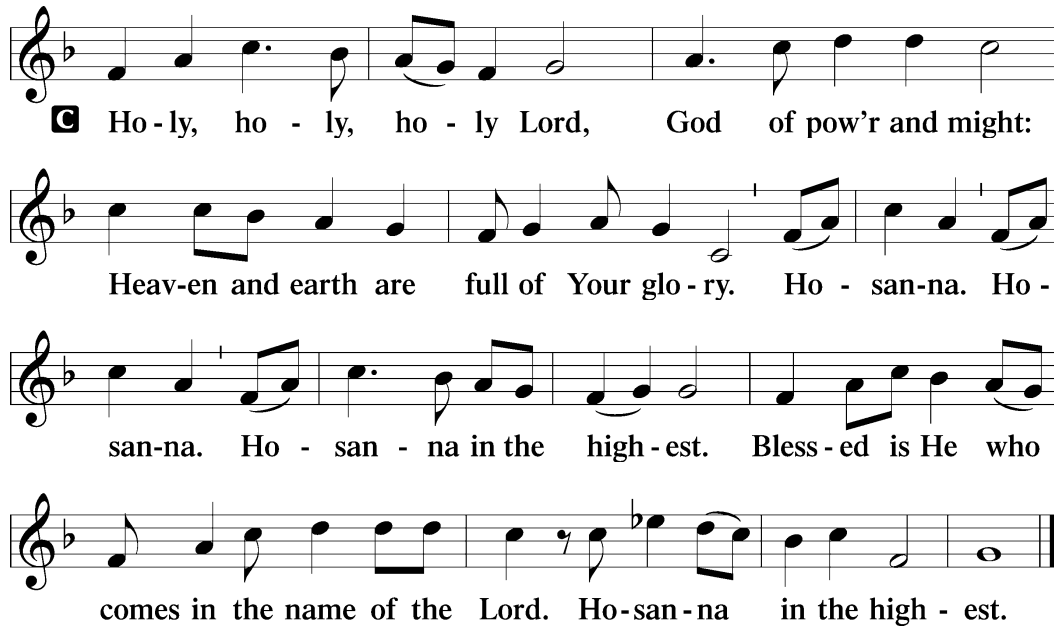
2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136



- 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. 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

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

John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 10:16; Ephesians 1:7

- 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.
We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. 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.
Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

- 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

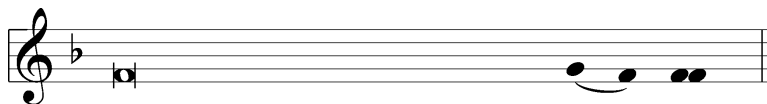
Matt 26:26f; Mk 14:22f; Lk 22:19f; 1 Cor 11:23f

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

John 20:19



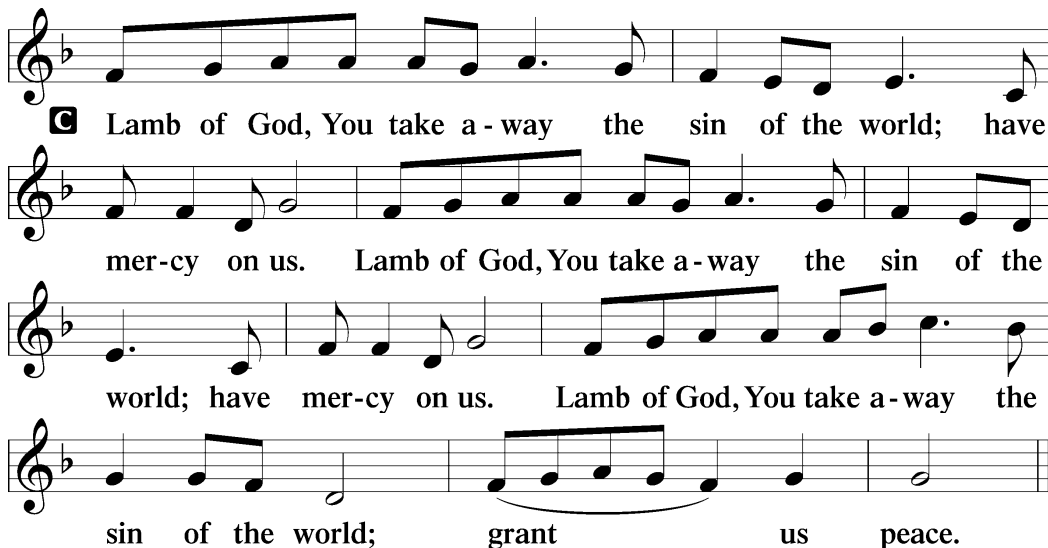
P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

AGNUS DEI

John 1:29



Sit.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Matthew 26:30

594 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 God's own child, I gladly say it:
I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it,
Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many?
I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free
Lasting to eternity!</p> | <p>2 Sin, disturb my soul no longer:
I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger:
Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me
Since my Baptism did release me
In a dear forgiving flood,
Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?</p> |
|---|---|

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>3 Satan, hear this proclamation:
 I am baptized into Christ!
 Drop your ugly accusation,
 I am not so soon enticed.
 Now that to the font I've traveled,
 All your might has come unraveled,
 And, against your tyranny,
 God, my Lord, unites with me!</p> | <p>4 Death, you cannot end my gladness:
 I am baptized into Christ!
 When I die, I leave all sadness
 To inherit paradise!
 Though I lie in dust and ashes
 Faith's assurance brightly flashes:
 Baptism has the strength divine
 To make life immortal mine.</p> |
|--|---|
- 5 There is nothing worth comparing / To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring: / Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising / Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ; / I'm a child of paradise!

845 Where Charity and Love Prevail

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Where charity and love prevail
 There God is ever found;
 Brought here together by Christ's love
 By love are we thus bound.</p> | <p>4 Let strife among us be unknown;
 Let all contention cease;
 Be God's the glory that we seek;
 Be ours His holy peace.</p> |
| <p>2 With grateful joy and holy fear
 His charity we learn;
 Let us with heart and mind and soul
 Now love Him in return.</p> | <p>5 Let us recall that in our midst
 Dwells Christ, His only Son;
 As members of His body joined
 We are in Him made one.</p> |
| <p>3 Forgive we now each other's faults
 As we our faults confess,
 And let us love each other well
 In Christian holiness.</p> | <p>6 For love excludes no race or clan
 That names the Savior's name;
 His family embraces all
 Whose Father is the same.</p> |

725 Children of the Heavenly Father

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Children of the heav'nly Father
 Safely in His bosom gather;
 Nestling bird nor star in heaven
 Such a refuge e'er was given.</p> | <p>3 Neither life nor death shall ever
 From the Lord His children sever;
 Unto them His grace He showeth,
 And their sorrows all He knoweth.</p> |
| <p>2 God His own doth tend and nourish;
 In His holy courts they flourish.
 From all evil things He spares them;
 In His mighty arms He bears them.</p> | <p>4 Though He giveth or He taketh,
 God His children ne'er forsaketh;
 His the loving purpose solely
 To preserve them pure and holy.</p> |

After communing it is right to quietly give thanks, as in the following prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank and praise You that You have again refreshed us with the gift of Your holy body and blood in this comforting Sacrament. Bless our participation in Your body that we may depart from here with peace and joy, strengthened in our remembrance of Your forgiveness and in our witness to the knowledge that we are reconciled to God, in Your holy name. Amen.

Stand.

DISMISSAL

Isaiah 41:10; Romans 5:9-10; Hebrews 9:14; 10:19

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ☩ in peace.
- C** Amen.

THANK THE LORD

Psalm 105:1-3, 42-43 | Chronicles 16:8-10

C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.
 Let all who seek the Lord re - joice 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

L 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. *Psalm 107:1*

C A - men.

Psalm 103:1

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.



I have taken in the light
 that quickened eye and [wheat.]
 May my brain be bright with praise of what I eat...
 May I be worthy of my meat.

Wendell Berry, Prayer after Eating

DEPARTING HYMN

794 The Lord, My God, Be Praised



1 The Lord, my God, be praised, My light, my life from heav - en;
2 The Lord, my God, be praised, My trust, my life from heav - en,
3 The Lord, my God, be praised, My hope, my life from heav - en,
△ 4 The Lord, my God, be praised, My God, the ev - er - liv - ing,



My mak - er, who to me Has soul and bod - y giv - en;
The Fa - ther's own dear Son, Whose life for me was giv - en,
The Spir - it, whom the Son In love to me has giv - en.
To whom the heav'n - ly host Their laud and praise are giv - ing.



My Fa - ther, who will shield And keep me day by day
Who for my sin a - toned With His most pre - cious blood
His grace re - vives my heart And gives my spir - it pow'r,
The Lord, my God, be praised, In whose great name I boast,



And make each mo - ment yield New bless - ings on my way.
And gives to me by faith The high - est heav'n - ly good.
Help, com - fort, and sup - port In sor - row's gloom - y hour.
God Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the Ho - ly Ghost.

POSTLUDE

Jesus Shall Reign

Hatton

*A Church Campus & Ministry Tour immediately follows the service.
Please gather in the Narthex, if interested – thank you!*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
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.
*Quoted in Treasury of Daily Prayer, CPH. †Quoted in St. John Wheaton, IL, worship folder. Beauty Went First Substack.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Steven Newberg

Assistant: Vicar Andrew Cole

Organist: Eric Hauck

Worship Assistants: Richard Eckert/Adam Pilsbury

Communion Assistants: Scott Hertzog/Ruth
Pilsbury

Crucifers: Michael Homan/August Newberg

Acolytes: Allie Homan, Andrew Homan/Dietrich
Newberg, Frederick Newberg

Altar Guild: Kim Cates, Kate Duncan, Shawna
Knutson, Marlys Sielsky, Barbara Suddreth, Emily
Tweel

Readers: Marlis Norton/Laura Jordan

Greeters: Vince Cook/Pam Carico

Ushers: Dale Bogenschneider, Kevin Bowman, Mike
Gordon, Tom White/Jim Aydelott, Bruce Onsager,
Hank Soule, Ryan Zarski

Sound & Video: Branden Korzeniowski/

ASCENSION SOUP KITCHEN

Served lunch to 118 guests this Tuesday.

The soup kitchen furnishes a hot, well-balanced and fresh lunch every Tuesday from 11am-12:00pm. Everyone is welcome! No ID or referral needed. Currently service is to-go for pick-up in the parking lot.

Soli Deo Gloria!

ASCENSION FOOD PANTRY

**Distributed one week of groceries to 37 families,
82 family members on 8/28 & 8/31.**

The food pantry distributes a week's worth of healthy groceries to individuals with a Nourish Up referral, Mondays and Fridays, 11am-1:30pm. *In need of a referral?* Call the church office at 704-372-7317. Anyone in need will be eligible for up to 12 weeks of groceries per year.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Sunday School & Bible Study Year Begins next Sunday, September 13!

9:45-10:45am

Nursery (under 3 yrs) Church Nursery

Ages 3-4 Ed. Bldg. Rm. 111

Kindergarten-Grade 2 Ed. Bldg. Rm. 107

Grades 3-5 Ed. Bldg. Rm. 105

Confirmation (Grades 6-8) Ed. Bldg. Rm. 209

High School (Grades 9-12) Ed. Bldg. Rm. 201

Young Adult Bible Study Ed. Bldg. Rm. 112

Parent Bible Study Adult Library

Adult Sunday School (Everything New) Luther Hall

Members, Please Note:

**3rd Quarter Congregational
Meeting
& Luncheon**

Sunday, September 20

**Immediately following
11am Divine Service in Luther Hall**

New Member Class!

**Meets Sunday, September 20-October 18
6-7:30pm in the Sanctuary**

**Please contact Pastor Steve
and be sure to fill out
the Red "Join Ascension" Card
you'll find located in your pew!**

AROUND THE ALTAR VIDEO SERIES

Vicar's year-long weekly video series, "Around the Altar," debuted last week! Episodes may be found on our YouTube page by clicking [here](#).

Each episode is planned as a 5–10-minute look at different aspects of our worship and Christian life here at Ascension.

Initial topics will include: introductions to the Church year, theology of worship & liturgy, and the Divine Service. As the Church year continues, look for videos on seasonal observances, holy days, and traditions.

These videos are designed for inquirers, new members, and long-time Lutherans to learn new things about our worship life and grow in appreciation of it.

New episodes will be posted on Thursdays.



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

1225 E. Morehead Street

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Patia Bowman, Administrative Asst.

bowman@ascensioncharlotte.org



Rev. Steven Newberg, Pastor

newberg@ascensioncharlotte.org

Vicar Andrew Cole

vicar@ascensioncharlotte.org

www.ascensioncharlotte.org

Welcome!

WORSHIP BROADCAST

Sunday Divine Services are broadcast live on the Internet at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

ASCENSION LUTHERAN SOUP KITCHEN

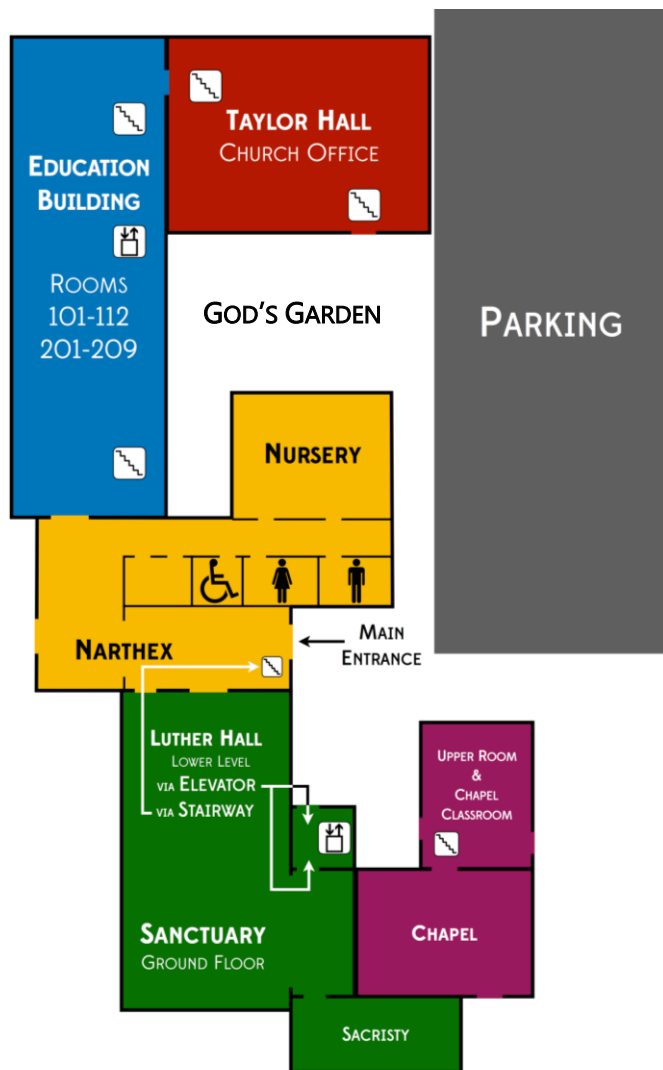
Every Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Serving to-go lunches in the parking lot.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Find out the way we receive the Christian Faith in the Lutheran tradition each week.



ALCcharlotte



RESTROOMS are located down the hallway at the back of the narthex.



A NURSERY for children age 3 and under is located across the hallway from the restrooms. The worship service can be seen and heard from the Nursery. A baby-changing table is available in the Nursery and the Family Restroom (accessible).



ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES are available for check-out from the sound booth in the rear of the sanctuary.

THOSE IN CRITICAL NEED

Members needing financial or physical assistance, please contact pastor for application to the crisis fund or access to folks eager to lend a helping hand.