



ASCENSION
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

Matins

**Sixteenth Sunday
after Pentecost**

Friends of God,

If you forgive others their trespasses,
your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Matthew 6:14

*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.

When we're riding in a car or train, the nearest telephone pole always looms the largest. It's easy for us to magnify little things simply because they are close to us in time and space and easy for us to see and feel. If we have no context to judge their size, we think of the little things that tick us off as really great offenses because they make us feel greatly upset and angry. We judge them by our own subjective feelings about them. This is especially true for the closest and most intimate of all relationships, a husband and wife, who are always two very imperfect persons and will always...inevitably tick each other off in many ways.

And it's also easy for us to minimize great things if they are far above us and removed from us in time and space and seen not with the eyes of the flesh but with the eyes of faith—like Christ saving our souls, closing the door to hell and opening the door to heaven, but giving his life for us on the cross. But when we judge these two facts relative to each other...when we get out of our own stuffy subjective feelings and into the cool light of truth, what do we see?

Peter Kreeft, Food for the Soul

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 ✠ 8:30AM

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 and try these tips from parents who've gone before you:

Sit towards the front: That's where children can easily see.

Help your child look and listen: Tell them key word and point out crosses and other reminders of Jesus' good news.

Participate joyfully! Sing, fold your hands for prayer, stand and kneel. Your child will model your actions. He or she watches everything that you do.

Involve your child: Encourage them to say and pray: "*Amen. Lord have mercy! I believe... Our Father...*" so that children recognize them as their own parts.

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.

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)

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



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.



Today our worship follows the order of Matins.

Matins, which means "of the morning," is the name of the ancient Christian order of prayer anticipating the break of day. Prayed at various times from midnight to morning, Matins trains us to receive each new day with watchfulness for Christ and with intercession, praise and thanksgiving.

An early observance of Matins, about AD 200, is described by Hippolytus of Rome: "*about midnight, get out of your bed, wash with clean water and pray. If you have a wife, pray the psalms alternating verses with her...so you will learn to keep watch. Our Lord in His parable put it so: About midnight, He said, there came a call. Look! Here comes the bridegroom! Go out to meet him! Keep watch then, he told them, for you do not know either the day or the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.*"

More recently Matins has been used in the church whenever God's people gather for worship without Holy Communion. It is wonderful to use as a guide

for your prayer at home.

Today our prayers are for our congregation's ministry, for God to guide and bless our worship, teaching, care, fellowship, prayers and outreach that we may share His benefits and point all to Christ.

Matins places us for a while alongside the Old Testament saints who "only saw from a distance the things promised and welcomed...and admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth." (Heb. 11:13) The chief parts of service are the Venite (Psalm 95) and the Te Deum, an ancient hymn derived from the scriptures read at Easter Vigil. This way of singing and praying marks Christians as people who emerge from darkness and death to praise God in the light of new life, every day and then forevermore. It is a powerful and gospel-shaped way to pray "from God's Word." May it bless you this morning!

PRELUDE

Voluntary in A-minor

Boyce

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

Please stand.

SHARING THE LORD'S PEACE

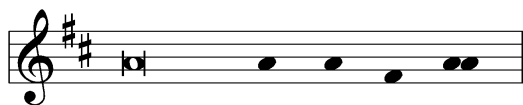
L The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

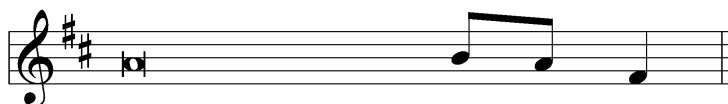
L Let us share His peace with one another.

All greet one another in the name of the Lord saying, "Peace be with you."

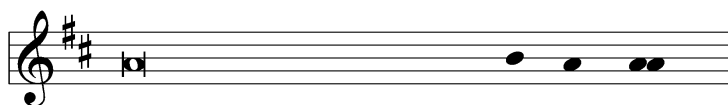
Psalm 51:15; Psalm 70:1



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.

Psalmody



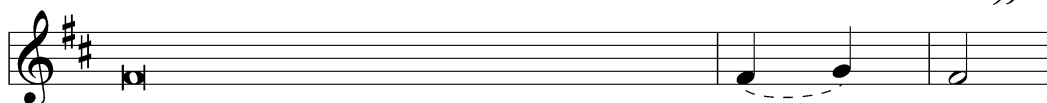
L Blessed be God, the Fa-ther, the Son, and the Ho-ly Spir - it.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

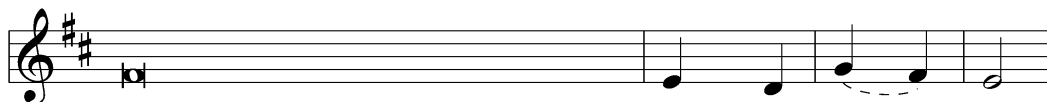
VENITE

Psalm 95:1-7



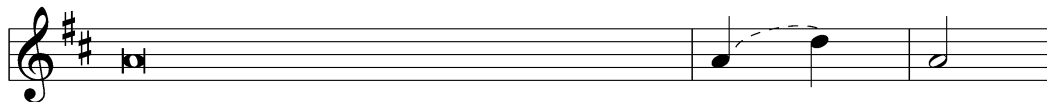
C 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
2 For the Lord is a great God
3 The sea is His, for He made it,

5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

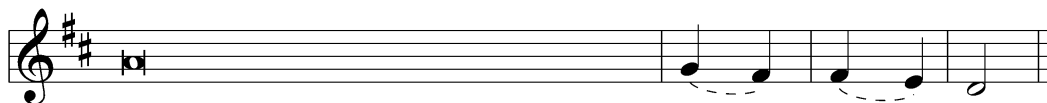


1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
3 and His hand formed the dry land.

5 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,
2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
3 O come, let us worship and bow down,
4 For He is our God,
5 as it was in the be - gin - ning,



1 let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.
2 the strength of the hills is His al - so.
3 let us kneel before the Lord, our mak - er.
4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.
5 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

The antiphon is repeated.

INTROIT

Psalm 143:1-2; antiphon: v. 9



Leader sings antiphon. All sing verses and Gloria.

Deliver me from my enemies, | O LORD!*

I have fled to you for | refuge!

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to
my pleas for | mercy!*

In your faithfulness answer
me, in your | righteousness!
Enter not into judgment with your |
servant,*

for no one living is righteous
be- | fore you.

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.

Deliver me from my enemies, | O LORD!*

I have fled to you for | refuge!

Sit.

501 Come Down, O Love Divine



1 Come down, O Love di - vine; Seek Thou this soul of mine,
2 O let it free - ly burn, Till world - ly pas - sions turn
3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty Mine out - ward ves - ture be
4 And so the yearn - ing strong, With which the soul will long,



And vis - it it with Thine own ar - dor glow - ing;
To dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
And low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—
Shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;



O Com - fort - er, draw near; With - in my heart ap - pear,
And let Thy glo - rious light Shine ev - er on my sight,
True low - li - ness of heart, Which takes the hum - bler part,
No soul can guess His grace Till it be - come the place



And kin - dle it, Thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
And clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
And o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.
Where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes His dwell - ing.

Readings

OLD TESTAMENT READING

GENESIS 50:15-21

A The Old Testament Reading is from Genesis, the fiftieth chapter.

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, 'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. His

brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

A O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

ROMANS 14:1-12

A The Epistle is from Romans, the fourteenth chapter.

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who

abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God."

So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

A O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand.

HOLY GOSPEL

Psalms 119:89; 26:8; Luke 11:28

Verse



L 1 Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

Refrain



C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glo-ry dwells.

MATTHEW 18:21-35

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

Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

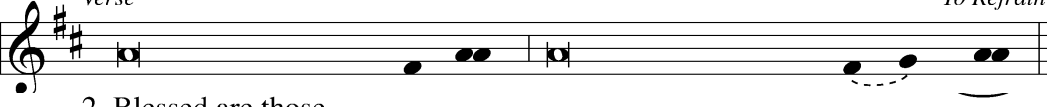
"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a

hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Verse



2 Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

3 Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Refrain

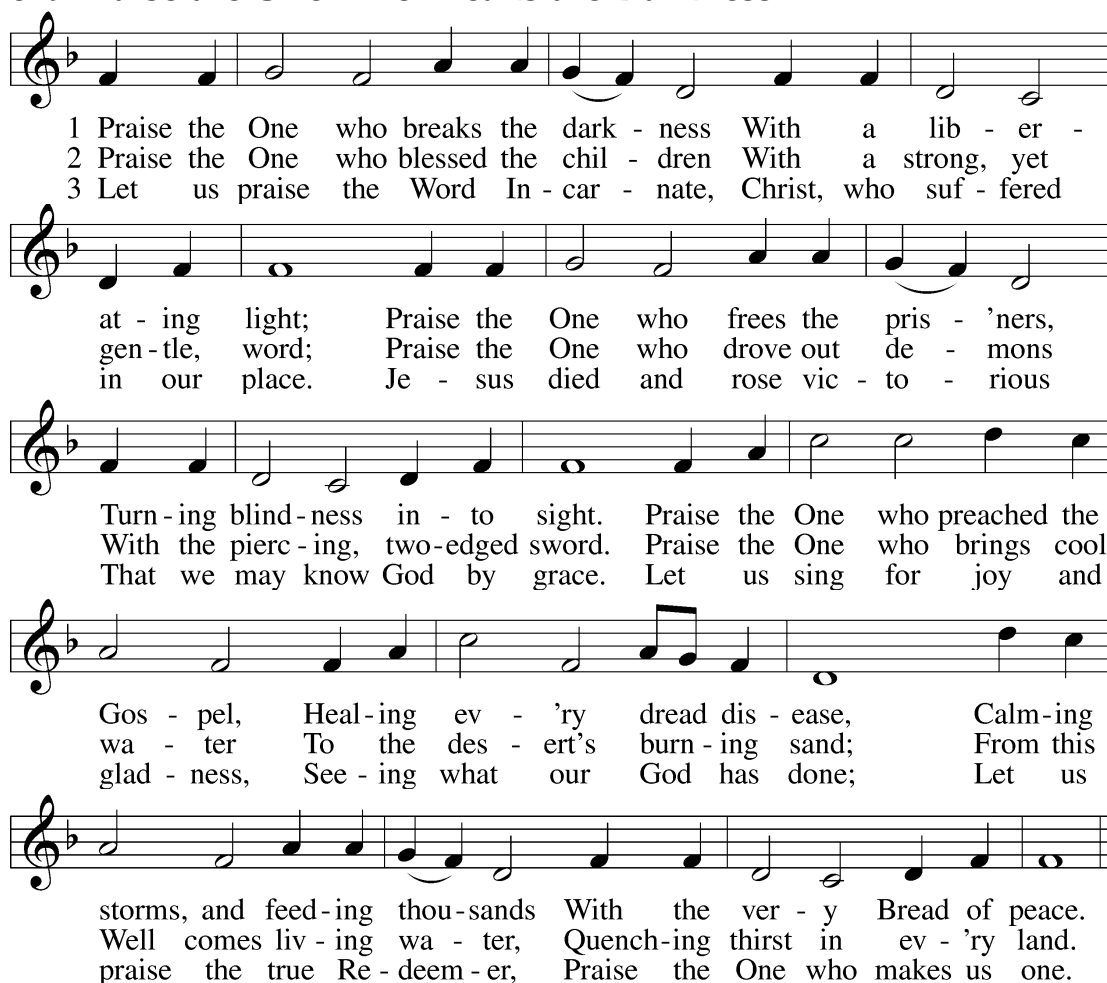


C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glo-ry dwells.

Sit. At this time, the children may be invited to come forward for a children's message.

HYMN OF THE DAY

849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered

at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious

Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
With the pierc - ing, two-edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and

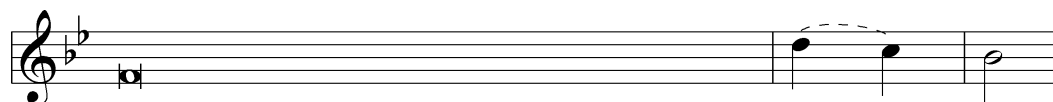
Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us

storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

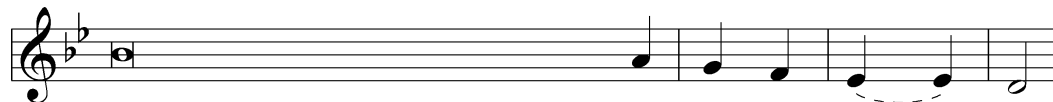
SERMON

Stand.

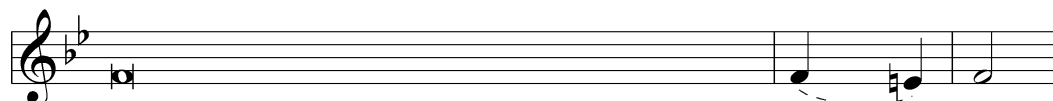
TE DEUM



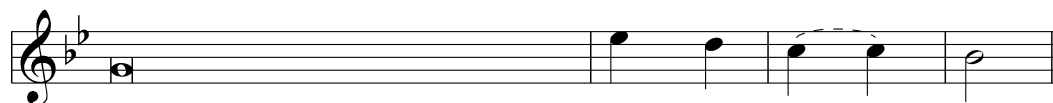
- 1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
 2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
 3 The noble army of martyrs praise — You.



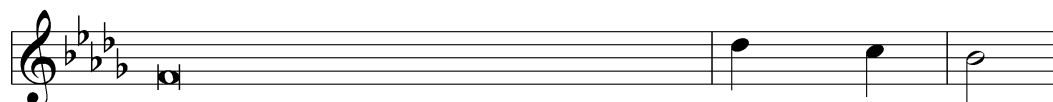
- 1 All the earth now worships You, the Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing.
 2 heaven and earth are full of the majes - ty of Your glo - ry.
 3 The holy Church throughout all the world does ac - knowl-edge You:



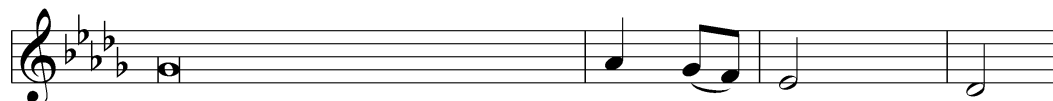
- 1 To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs there-in.
 2 The glorious company of the apostles praise — You.
 3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and on - ly Son;
 4 You are the king of glory, O — Christ;



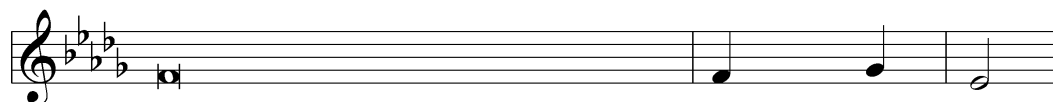
- 1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
 2 The goodly fellowship of the proph-ets praise — You.
 3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com-fort - er.
 4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.



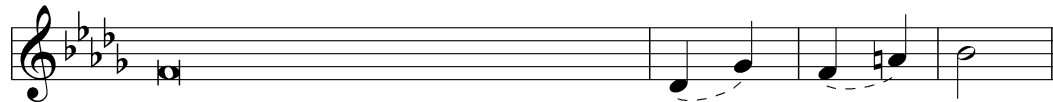
- 5 When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,
 6 You sit at the right hand of God



- 5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
 6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



- 5 When You had overcome the sharpness of death,
 6 We believe that You will come



- 5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
 6 to be — our — judge.

Sit.

OFFERING

Habakkuk 2:20; Zechariah 2:13

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.

Prayers

Kneel or sit forward.

KYRIE

Mark 10:47



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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH



L O Lord, hear my prayer.



C And let my cry come to You.

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

For our congregation.

P For Jesus to be the center of our community, our means of faith and life; for Ascension's leaders and members to have constant faith that the Lord will provide; for God to provide people and resources to carry out His will in our community of faith. For the congregation to enjoy the purpose, friendship and joy of being led by the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

For its leadership.

P With thanksgiving for all Ascensions' volunteers, committee members, and leadership teams, for their contributions, commitment and dedication to the church's faithfulness and success; for their inspiration and faithfulness in managing all that is entrusted to us; for the continued health and growth of the congregation; for the good organization and success of our ministries; for the Church staff to bless one another and the congregation by its work and by the way it carries it out, in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

For our worship together.

P For the beauty of worship in God's house to be a foretaste of heaven for our souls; for Eric's leading, for the singing and playing of choirs and for the whole congregation to movingly manifest Christ and the gospel in music; for our organization and care for God's altar be a fit response to His gifts of creation, life and salvation through Jesus, and that in providing the Sacrament, our homes and society might be blessed in the human arts of gathering, serving, and giving thanks to God in Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

For the servants of God's House.

P For all who come to Ascension to find God's welcome; for our congregation to excel in the art of hospitality through God's Grace; for ushers to cultivate such habits of attentiveness, decorum and gladness as demonstrates the great care and blessing of God; for readers to be prepared to declare the Word of God clearly and joyfully; for God to direct and use our A/V ministry to bless all who are distant and to draw them close and make them ever welcome in the house of God; for our lay ministry to excel in encouragement and exhortation; for our campus and building to be a refuge from the world and for the means to faithfully care for our property so that it remains a blessed place for the people of God to gather as His Body for generations, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

For our education, Sunday School and youth.

P For Christ's teaching to lead and inspire all our parents and teachers; for a strong commitment among leaders, students and parents; for the availability and awareness of good resources and direction in teaching; for parents to live out their baptismal vows to teach their children about God at home and bring them to God's house to learn and worship; for our Church and Sunday Schools, especially our Adult Bible Studies, to be full, and for familiarity and fellowship as we meet; for leaders and listeners to remain prayerful and come to know the source of wisdom and grace in God, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

For our lay ministry and altar guild, for ministries of fellowship, care and outreach.

P For unity in the body of Christ, that through us God brings relief and stability to a divided world; for right focus and attention on the mission of God; for the congregation to discover friendship and joy as they work together; for members to see the eternal value of applying their gifts and callings to God's work; for our homebound and any who feel lonely, isolated, unaccepted, to receive the care of Jesus and tokens of his friendship through members; for all our celebrations this year to be times of joy and fulfillment and a foretaste of heaven; for our society, business and way of life to be blessed by our priority of practicing times of celebration together; for leaders to inspire and encourage all to care and service; for God to reveal the way people are hurt and what Jesus would have us do about it; and that God would give us the words, the presence of mind and the willingness to give the glory to Christ in everything we do together, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Heavenly Father, Source of all life and the life that never ends, receive our prayers this day in the name of Your beloved Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

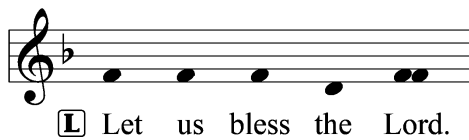
L O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.



Stand.



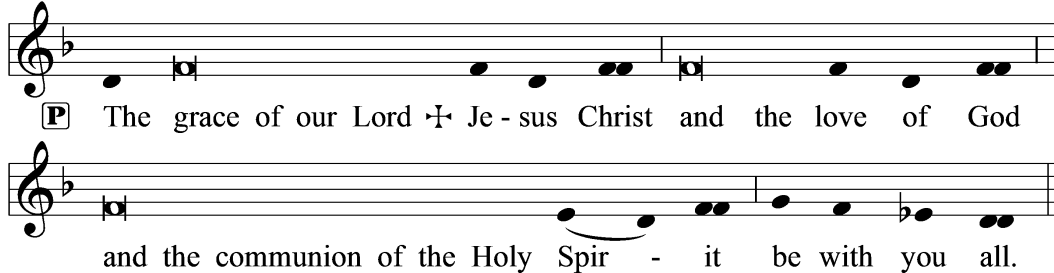
L Let us bless the Lord.



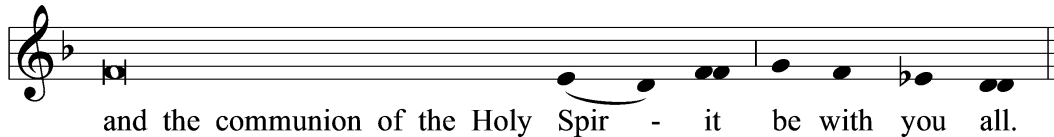
C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

2 Corinthians 13:14



P The grace of our Lord ✠ Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C A - men.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

832 Jesus Shall Reign



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Does its suc -
2 To Him shall end - less prayer be made, And end - less
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue Dwell on His
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er He reigns: The pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring Hon - ors pe -



ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom stretch from
prais - es crown His head; His name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song; And in - fant voic - es
leap, un - loose their chains, The wea - ry find e -
cu - liar to our King; An - gels de - scend with



shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise With ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on His name.
ter - nal rest, And all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, And earth re - peat the loud a - men.

POSTLUDE

Voluntary in B-flat

Battishill

*The altar flowers are given today by
Julie Conlin in memory of Todd Mees.*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Matins from Lutheran Service Book unless otherwise indicated,
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*Quoted in Treasury of Daily Prayer, CPH †Quoted in St. John Wheaton, IL, worship folder
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SERVING IN WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Steven Newberg

Assistant: Vicar Andrew Cole

Organist: Eric Hauck

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

Greeter: Jane Friemark

Reader: Pam Balling

Ushers: Dale Bogenschneider, Mike Gordon,
Tom White

Sound & Video: Branden Korzeniowski

Sunday School & Bible Study Year

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

Plus: Check Out Vicar's New YouTube Series [Here!](#)

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!

ASCENSION SOUP KITCHEN

Served lunch to 106 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 26 families,
51 family members on 9/4.**

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!



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

1225 E. Morehead Street
Charlotte, NC 28204

704-372-7317 MAIN NUMBER

Melanie Broome, Office Manager

admin@ascensioncharlotte.org

Ardith Hertzog, Communications

communications@ascensioncharlotte.org

Jon Greene, Facilities Manager

facilities@ascensioncharlotte.org

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

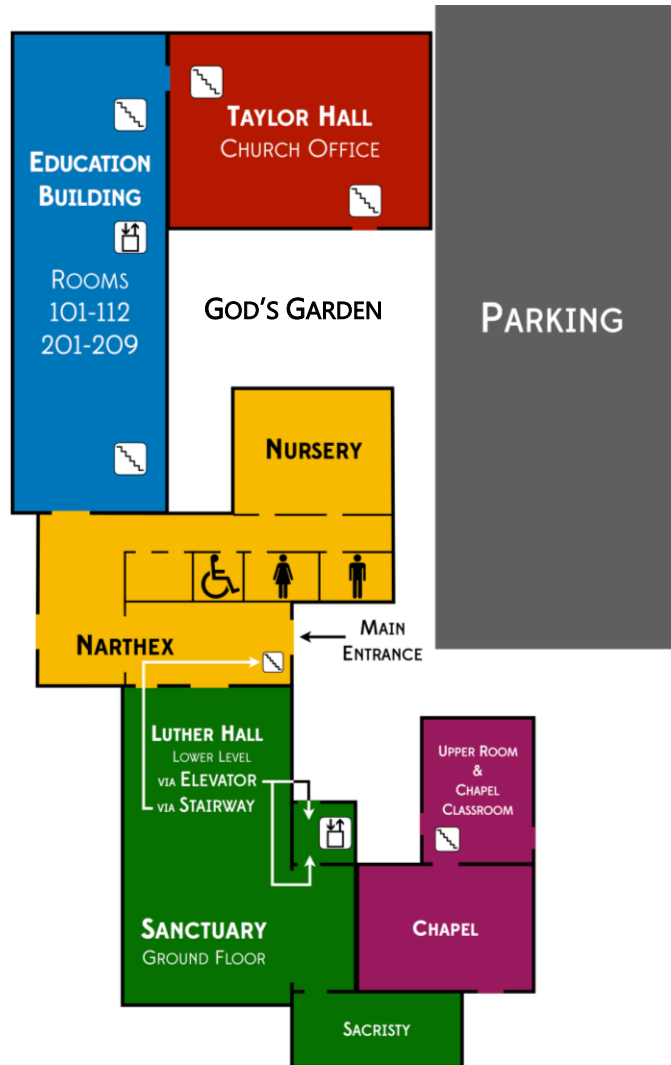
Every Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Serving to-go lunches in the parking lot.

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.