

*Alleluia!* Not to us, O LORD, Not to us, but to Your Name give glory,  
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness.  
Blessed are those who dwell in Your house, ever singing Your praise!

Psalm 115:1, Psalm 84:4



*95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*



ASCENSION  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

**Divine Service**

MAY 3, 2026 † 8:30AM & 11AM

## 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 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.**

Today we are overjoyed...

To welcome our **Bishop the Rev. Dr. Bill Harmon.**

**14<sup>th</sup> President of the Southeastern District Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.**

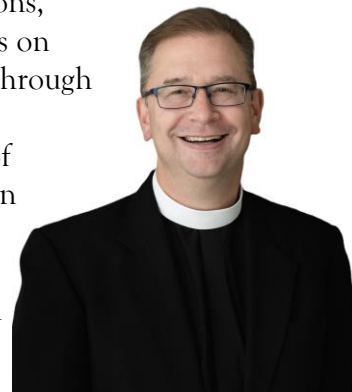
Rev. Dr. Bill Harmon is a native of Baltimore, Maryland. He attended Emmanuel Lutheran School and Baltimore Lutheran (now Concordia Preparatory School) before continuing his education at Concordia College, New York, and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He holds a Doctor of Ministry degree with an emphasis in leadership, renewal, and coaching from Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

President Harmon was elected President/Bishop of the Southeastern District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) in May 2022 and re-elected to a second term in May 2025.

In this role, he provides spiritual and strategic leadership to congregations, schools, and ministries across the Mid-Atlantic region. His work centers on equipping leaders, strengthening churches, and advancing the Gospel through the district's focus on Immeasurably More (Ephesians 3:20-21).

His leadership is shaped by a deep commitment to fostering a culture of wellness and witness, helping the Southeastern District fulfill its mission to connect people with Jesus so that lives are transformed and God's Kingdom grows.

President Harmon also serves as an Assistant Pastor at King of Glory in Williamsburg, Virginia. He and his wife, Gayle, are blessed with three sons.



And to celebrate the **95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ascension Lutheran!**

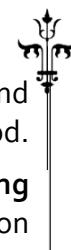
“Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, known now as Ascension Lutheran Church, had its first worship service on the evening of May 10, 1931 at Wesley Heights public school. Three people attended that first service. Laura Belle Taylor, the pianist and the founding pastor, Rev. Leslie F. Frerking, who was at that time serving as the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) missionary-at-large for the Carolinas. Three evening services averaged only three in attendance, but Sunday morning worship assured the continuation of the Mission. The first Sunday School classes were held on June 7, 1931. The first baptism was performed on June 28, 1931...” (*official history*)



Little could those first three have imagined the leaps and bounds by which Ascension has grown, the daughter churches which have sprung forth, and the thousands of people who have passed through our doors for 95 years' worth of Sundays. We thank God for the rich blessings He has bestowed upon us through Ascension Lutheran Church, and we pray that this church will continue to thrive and spread the Good News to our Centennial and beyond.

Attempt great things for God and expect great things from God.

**Rev. Leslie F. Frerking**  
Founding Pastor of Ascension



# Gathered Together...

## PRELUDE

Prelude in F-sharp minor, from WTC I

J. S. BACH (BWV 859)

## EASTER GREETING *Please stand.*

Luke 24:6-7; Romans 6:9

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*Greet one another with the Easter Blessing. Say "Christ is Risen!" and reply, "He is risen indeed!"*

## ENTRANCE HYMN *Turn and face the cross in procession.*

Psalm 57:9; 100:4-5

### 646 Church of God, Elect and Glorious



1 Church of God, e - lect and glo - rious, Ho - ly  
2 God has called you out of dark - ness In - to  
3 Once you were an al - ien peo - ple, Strang - ers  
4 Church of God, e - lect and ho - ly, Be the



na - tion, cho - sen race; Called as God's own  
His most mar - v'ulous light; Brought His truth to  
to God's heart of love; But He brought you  
peo - ple He in - tends; Strong in faith and



spe - cial peo - ple, Roy - al priests and heirs of  
life with - in you, Turned your blind - ness in - to  
home in mer - cy, Cit - i - zens of heav'n a -  
swift to an - swer Each com - mand your Mas - ter



grace: Know the pur - pose of your call - ing,  
sight. Let your light so shine a - round you  
bove. Let His love flow out to oth - ers,  
sends: Roy - al priests, ful - fill your call - ing



Show to all His might - y deeds; Tell of love that  
That God's name is glo - ri - fied And all find fresh  
Let them feel a Fa - ther's care; That they too may  
Through your sac - ri - fice and prayer; Give your lives in



knows no lim - its, Grace that meets all hu - man needs.  
hope and pur - pose In Christ Je - sus cru - ci - fied.  
know His wel - come And His count - less bless - ings share.  
joy - ful ser - vice— Sing His praise, His love de - clare.

## CONFESSION & 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.

*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.
- 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 Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

*Stand.*

### INTROIT

*1 Chron. 29:10b, 11, 13; antiphon: Psalm 26:8*



*Pastor sings antiphon. All sing verses and Gloria.*

O LORD, I love the habitation | of your house\*  
and the place where your | glory dwells.  
Blessèd are you, O LORD, the God of | Israel\*  
our father, forever and | ever.

**Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the | majesty,\***

**for all that is in the heavens and in the | earth is yours.**

**Yours is the kingdom, | O Lord,\***  
**and you are exalted as head a- | bove all.**

**And now we thank you, | our God,\***  
**and praise your | glorious name.**  
**For all things | come from you, \***  
**and of your own have we | given you.**

**Glorry 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.**

O LORD, I love the habitation | of your house\*  
and the place where your | glory dwells.  
Blessèd are you, O LORD, the God of | Israel\*  
our father, forever and | ever.

# KYRIE

Mark 10:47

## Refrain

"Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison" means "Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy."

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Chri - ste e - le - i - son,  
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Lord Jesus, You came to gather the nations into the peace of God's Kingdom. **Refrain**

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. **Refrain**

You will come in glory with salvation for Your people. **Refrain**

# GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

LUKE 2:14; JOHN 1:29

## Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth.  
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth.  
1. Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-migh-ty God and Fath-er, we  
wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry. *Refrain*  
2. Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fath-er, 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 Fath-er: re-ceive our prayer. *Refrain*

3. 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 Fath-er. A-men. *Refrain*

**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.

Almighty God, You have promised to be with Your Church forever. We praise You for Your presence in this place of worship and ask Your ongoing blessing upon those who gather here. Dwell continually among us with Your holy Word and Sacraments, strengthen our fellowship in the bonds of love and peace, and increase our faithful witness to Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

Sit.



“Love is ‘that mystical death which is the secret of life.’ Through self-giving we find our true selves...Community is made possible.”

**Gilbert Meilander**

Quoting C. S. Lewis in “The Taste for the Other”

# ...Around the Word...

## THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

1 KINGS 8:22-30

**A** The Old Testament Reading is from First Kings, the eighth chapter.

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven, and said, “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart, who have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day. Now therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father what you have promised him, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.’ Now

therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you have spoken to your servant David my father.

“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built! Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you this day, that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you have said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place. And listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## ANTHEM

CHANCEL CHOIR

**Be Still and Know**

*Marrolli*

## EPISTLE

REVELATION 21:1-5

**A** The Epistle is from Revelation, the twenty-first chapter.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his

people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

Stand.

## GOSPEL VERSE

John 6:68

*The assembly sings the refrain twice.*



## HOLY GOSPEL

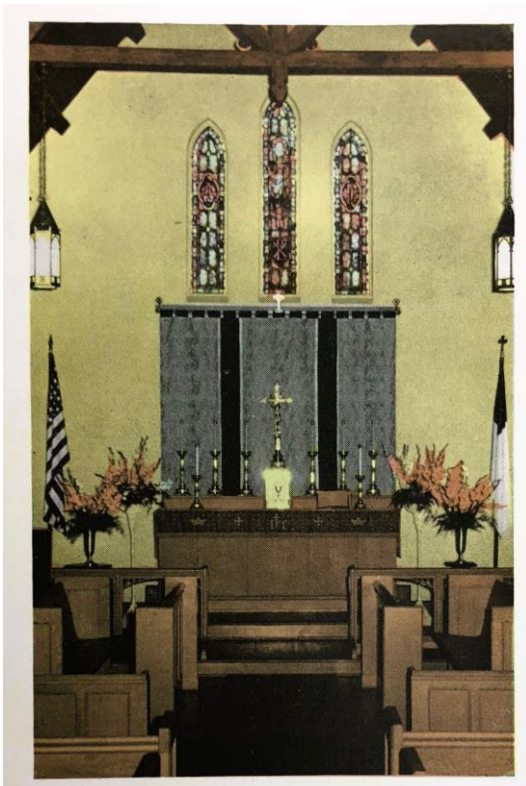
LUKE 19:1-10

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the nineteenth chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." So he

hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**



There is no greater bondage than that of sin; and there is no greater service than that rendered by the Son of God, who becomes the servant of all, no matter how poor, wretched, or despised they may be, and bears their sins.

**Martin Luther**

## NICENE CREED

<b>C</b> I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.	<i>Romans 10:10; Deuteronomy. 6:4 Matthew 6:9; Exodus 6:3 Genesis 1:1; John 1:1 Colossians 1:16</i>
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.	<i>Romans 10:9 John 3:16; Matthew 16:16 John 1:2 John 17:22; John 8:12; John 1:1 Colossians 2:9 John 1:2 John 10:30 Hebrews 1:2; John 1:3 1 Timothy 2:4p Romans 3:23 John 4:41; Luke 15:20 Luke 1:34-35 John 1:14 Mark 15:25; John 19:16-18 John 19:1-3; Luke 23:53 1 Cor. 15:4 Acts 1:9 Acts 7:55 Matthew 26:64 Acts 10:42; Matthew 3:12 2 Peter 1:11</i>
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life $\text{✝}$ of the world to come. Amen.	<i>John 14:26; Genesis 1:2; Acts 2:38 Genesis 1:2; 1 John 3:6 John 15:26 Lk 2:14 Ezekiel 11:5; 2 Peter 1:20-21 1 Pt 2:5; Eph. 2:19ff Eph. 4:5; Acts 2:38 1 Cor. 15:35-49; 1 Thess. 4:13-18 Mark 10:29-30; Matthew 10:40-42 Psalm 106:48</i>

**Us men means all people.**

**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.**

# HYMN OF THE DAY

## 645 Built on the Rock



1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand E - ven when  
2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made with hands God, the Most  
3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built for His  
4 Here stands the font be - fore our eyes, Tell - ing how  
5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done, That, when the



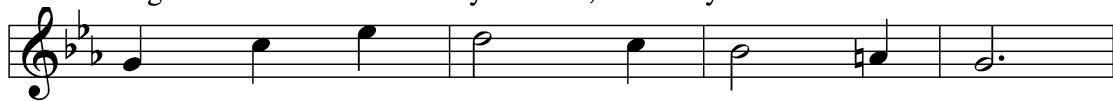
stee - ples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in  
High, is not dwell - ing; High a - bove earth His  
own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal  
God has re - ceived us. The al - tar re - calls Christ's  
church bells are ring - ing, Man - y in sav - ing



ev - 'ry land; Bells still are chim - ing and call -  
tem - ple stands, All earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -  
grace us owns Heirs of His won - drous sal - va -  
sac - ri - fice And what His Sup - per here gives  
faith may come Where Christ His mes - sage is bring -



ing, Call - ing the young and old to rest,  
ling. Yet He who dwells in heav'n a - bove  
tion. Were we but two His name to tell,  
us. Here sound the Scrip - tures that pro - claim  
ing: "I know My own; My own know Me.



But a - bove all the souls dis - tressed,  
Choos - es to live with us in love,  
Yet He would deign with us to dwell  
Christ yes - ter - day, to - day, the same,  
You, not the world, My face shall see.



Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.  
Mak - ing our bod - ies His tem - ple.  
With all His grace and His fa - vor.  
And ev - er - more, our Re - deem - er.  
My peace I leave with you. A - men."

SERMON

BISHOP REV. DR. BILL HARMON

PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT  
LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

## 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.*

## OFFERING & VOLUNTARY

*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

*All stand as the congregation's offerings are brought forward to the altar.*

### 955 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, And fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were  
sown, That we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the  
hopes and the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we  
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and  
give us A fore - taste of the feast to come.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

- L** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, through the power of Christ's resurrection, You adopt all who believe in Him. Receive us as Your newborn children and nourish our faith through the pure spiritual milk of Your Word, that we may dwell in Your presence forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- L** Give to Your Church the gift of Your Word through faithful pastors, attentive believers, and supportive leaders, that the wisdom and love of Christ may be ours for the sake of the world. In particular, bless and direct...

*our pastors:*

**Matthew** Harrison, our Synod President,

**Bill** Harmon, our Bishop and District President,

**Steven** Newberg, our Circuit Visitor and Pastor,

together with the ministers, staff, council members and every saint called with them to bestow honor, resources and good order upon the purposes of Your Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- L** Gracious Lord, help parents to raise up their children to know You as their help and hope, that they may not put their trust in princes in whom there is no salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- L** Holy God, Your power brought all things into being and still preserves what You have made. Bless Donald, our president; the Congress of the United States; Josh, our governor; and all elected and appointed civil servants. Lead them to honor You and Your purpose, establishing order and justice, encouraging virtue, and protecting all life. Give them wisdom and moderation to lead for the well-being of the nation. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** Father of glory, Your Son declared Himself to be the way, the truth and the life. Bless all who have requested our prayers and make Christ Himself their way of salvation, their truth amid doubt and their life amid death. Grant them a sure and steadfast hope in the good news that He has prepared a place for them with You, where pain and sickness are no more and all things are made new. Especially we pray for...

*our members*

**Hanna** Bennes

**John** Henry

**Janice** Edwards

**Ardith** Hertzog

**Jasmine** Timm

**James** Dake

**Peri** Hertzog

**Tony** Byrum

**Cissi** Burtner

**Elaine** Elston

*those at home:*

**Janet** Miller

**Lauri** MacDonald

**Lila** Thompson

**Doris** Falconieri

**Jackie** Elam

**Tom** Hagen

**Karen** Priebe

**Roy & Sharon** Gugel

**Mary** Keefauver

**Helen** Gounis

**Louise** Nordman

*those dear to us:*

**Levi** Harris

**Pat** Kane

**Al** Nicholas

**Hermione** Moul

**Cassandra** Shropshire

and rejoice with...

*our family birthdays:*

**Henry** Tinkelenberg  
**Jameson** Lucatero  
**Seth** Greeley  
**Alexander** Stansell  
**Ben** Pruitt  
**Audrey** Hanson  
**Alpo** Crane

**Austin** Dollar

☩  
**Theo** Borseth  
(born to Vicar & Beth  
last Friday!)

*praise & thanksgiving:*

**The National Convention** (the 69th  
Regular Convention of the LCMS  
this July)  
**Nia** Metz, our Lay delegate  
**Ed** Lamberton, our back-up delegate

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

**L** Almighty God, we thank you and praise you for the gift of Your church. Bless, we pray, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and, especially this day, the Southeastern District. May Your guiding hand be upon every congregation, school, and service organization. Equip, we pray, each of our workers and bless all of our members as we shine Your light and love to the world. Through the power of Your Holy Spirit, enable us to connect people with You so that lives are transformed and Your Kingdom grows. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**L** Merciful King, in Christ You have made us a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation and a people for Your possession. Preserve Your people in the one true faith, and grant that all who come to the Supper this day might do so with repentant hearts that thankfully receive Your Son's body and blood.

**L** O Lord, we thank and praise You for 95 years of Your blessings to Ascension Lutheran Church, especially for the gift of Jesus Christ who alone is our salvation. Preserve these blessings among us that we may ever commune with you and one another in the faith, hope and love of heaven, here now and then forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**L** Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**



My soul longs, yes,  
faints for the courts  
of the Lord; my heart  
and flesh sing for joy  
to the living God.

**Psalm 84:2**

## PREFACE

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

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C:** And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks  
to the Lord our God.



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. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, 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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of Your glo-ry. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## 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

*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  $\text{✠}$  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  $\text{✠}$  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

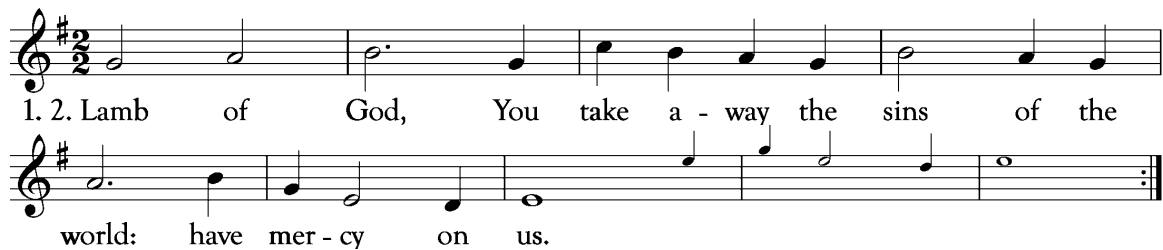
*John 20:19*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

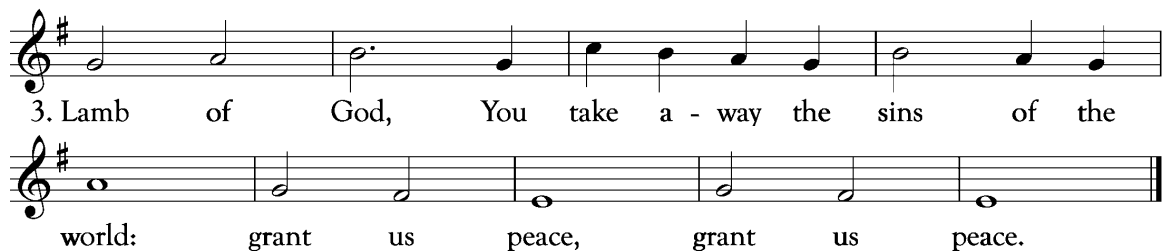
**C** Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

*John 1:29; Revelation 5:6, 12*



1. 2. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.



3. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Sit.*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

### 633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing<br>Praise to our victorious King,<br>Who has washed us in the tide<br>Flowing from His piercèd side.<br>Alleluia!          | 3 Where the paschal blood is poured,<br>Death's dread angel sheathes the sword;<br>Israel's hosts triumphant go<br>Through the wave that drowns the foe.<br>Alleluia! |
| 2 Praise we Him, whose love divine<br>Gives His sacred blood for wine,<br>Gives His body for the feast—<br>Christ the victim, Christ the priest.<br>Alleluia! | 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,<br>Paschal victim, paschal bread;<br>With sincerity and love<br>Eat we manna from above.<br>Alleluia!                       |

5 Mighty Victim from the sky,  
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;  
You have conquered in the fight,  
You have brought us life and light.  
Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,  
Now no more the grave enthrall;  
You have opened paradise,  
And Your saints in You shall rise.  
Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!  
This alone can sin destroy;  
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,  
Newborn souls in You to be.  
Alleluia!

△ 8 Father, who the crown shall give,  
Savior, by whose death we live,  
Spirit, guide through all our days:  
Three in One, Your name we praise.\*  
Alleluia!

### 644 The Church's One Foundation

1 The Church's one foundation  
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
She is His new creation  
By water and the Word.  
From heav'n He came and sought her  
To be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her,  
And for her life He died.

2 Elect from ev'ry nation,  
Yet one o'er all the earth;  
Her charter of salvation:  
One Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses,  
Partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses  
With ev'ry grace endued.

3 Though with a scornful wonder  
The world sees her oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder,  
By heresies distressed,  
Yet saints their watch are keeping;  
Their cry goes up, "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping  
Shall be the morn of song.

4 Through toil and tribulation  
And tumult of her war  
She waits the consummation  
Of peace forevermore  
Till with the vision glorious  
Her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great Church victorious  
Shall be the Church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth has union / With God, the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion / With those whose rest is won.  
O blessèd heav'nly chorus! / Lord, save us by Your grace  
That we, like saints before us, / May see You face to face.

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

*Merciful Redeemer, You have raised me up to partake at Your table with those who witnessed Your death upon the cross and beheld Your glorious resurrection. Let Your body and Your blood, which You have given to me in the bread and the cup, preserve me from all fear, for You have breathed on me Your peace and the forgiveness of all my sins. Let these gifts work in me true faith that overcomes unbelief and doubt, and the fullness of wisdom that conquers temptation and evil desires according to Your Word, for love unfeigned and for the observing of Your commandments.*

*Show me to be where Your Holy Spirit comes to rest and where sin is ever cast out so that, together with these beloved brothers and sisters, I may dwell in Your Kingdom and in holiness, always remembering Your grace and living no longer for myself, but for You, my Lord. So may I share the bread of life with my neighbors and be ever glad, even to depart this life, confident in Your promised rest and the delight of beholding Your beauty forever, to Whom is all power and glory, with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

## 822 Alleluia! Let Praises Ring

- 1 Alleluia! Let praises ring!  
To God the Father let us bring  
Our songs of adoration.  
To Him through everlasting days  
Be worship, honor, pow'r, and praise,  
Whose hand sustains creation.  
Singing, ringing:  
Holy, holy,  
God is holy;  
Spread the story  
Of our God, the Lord of glory.
- 2 Alleluia! Let praises ring!  
Unto the Lamb of God we sing,  
In whom we are elected.  
He bought His Church with His own  
blood,  
He cleansed her in that blessed flood,  
And as His bride selected.  
Holy, holy  
Is our union  
And communion.  
His befriending  
Gives us joy and peace unending.
- 3 Alleluia! Let praises ring!  
Unto the Holy Ghost we sing  
For our regeneration.  
The saving faith in us He wrought  
And us unto the Bridegroom brought,  
Made us His chosen nation.  
Glory! Glory!  
Joy eternal,  
Bliss supernal;  
There is manna  
And an endless, glad hosanna.
- 4 Alleluia! Let praises ring!  
Unto our triune God we sing;  
Blest be His name forever!  
With angel hosts let us adore  
And sing His praises evermore  
For all His grace and favor!  
Singing, ringing:  
Holy, holy,  
God is holy;  
Spread the story  
Of our God, the Lord of glory!

*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.

## POST-COMMUNION LITANY

*Psalm 107:1*

- L** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**C** for His mercy endures forever.
- L** Let us pray.  
Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and forever.
- C** Amen.
- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with your spirit.
- L** Let us bless the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

## DEPARTING HYMN

### 829 Christ the Eternal Lord



1 Christ the e - ter - nal Lord, Whose prom - ise here we claim,  
2 Christ the un - chang - ing Word To ev - 'ry pass - ing age,  
3 Christ the re - deem - ing Son, Who shares our hu - man birth,  
4 Christ the un - fad - ing Light Of ev - er - last - ing day,  
5 Christ the as - cend - ed King Ex - alt - ed high a - bove,



Whose gifts of grace are free - ly poured On all who name Your name;  
Whose time - less teach - ings still are heard Set forth on Scrip - ture's page;  
And by His death sal - va - tion won For ev - 'ry child of earth;  
Our Morn - ing Star in splen - dor bright, The Life, the Truth, the Way;  
Whose praise un - end - ing a - ges sing, Whom yet un - seen we love;



With thank - ful - ness and praise We stand be - fore Your throne,  
Trans - form our thought and mind, En - light - en all who read,  
In - spire our hearts, we pray, To tell Your love a - broad,  
That light of truth You give To ser - vants as to friends,  
When mor - tal life is past Your voice from heav - en's throne



In - tent to serve You all our days And make Your glo - ry known.  
With - in Your Word by faith to find The bread of life in - deed.  
That all may hon - or Christ to - day And fol - low Him as Lord.  
Your way to walk, Your life to live, Till earth's brief jour - ney ends.  
Shall call Your chil - dren home at last To know as we are known.

## "THE IRISH BLESSING"

CHANCEL CHOIR

*Please remain standing for the choral blessing.*

*May the road rise to meet you,  
and may the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine on you,  
as the rain falls gently on your fields.  
And until we meet again, may God smile on you,  
and until we meet again, may God hold you in His hands.*

## POSTLUDE

Toccata

Gigout



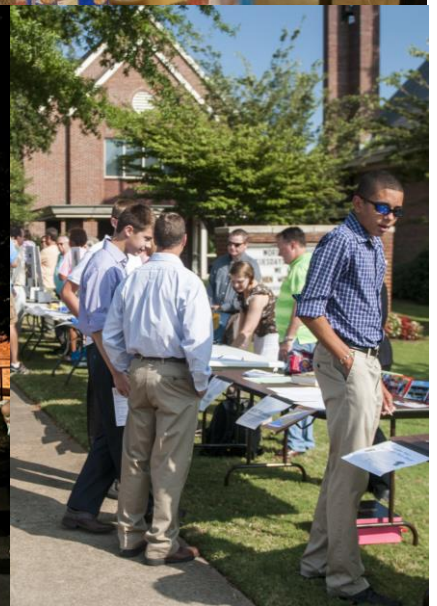
“A true Lutheran relies on God’s Word and would not worry about it even if the whole world mocked and despised him for it. He does not consider the world an authority in religious matters. He rests his faith on higher authority.”

**C. F. W. Walther**  
Law & Gospel



“This parish was always conscious of what Jesus said in the gospel, that I have other sheep that are not of this sheep fold, and I’ve got to go get them. This church was the church that was always reaching out to people and inviting people to come and know the gospel of Jesus Christ...they believed that this church existed for the sake of people who were not in it.”

**Rev. John Frerking**  
Ascension’s 75th Anniversary Service





Now we shall "hold fast the confession of our hope" (Heb 10:23) and not for a second allow ourselves to be impressed over the deluge of disbelief that streams over our society and seems to be all the more prevalent where there's power and influence. Instead, "stir one another to love and good works" (Heb 10:24). Oddly enough it's a duty that Christians of our time aren't always conscious of. It's not considered proper to get involved in other people's religion. What if it concerns their salvation, however? Or the gospel's good reputation and its possibilities to convert? It's not a question of nagging and being critical. A person can be both loving and discreet and still show which way is Jesus', often better with their example than with some statement or contribution. So lastly: Let us not abandon the fellowship in our congregation and fail to come to worship services. Already at that time were those who made a habit of that. That is and remains a betrayal not only to the congregation but to Him who is the head, Christ...Rather, let us not hesitate to go forth all the way to God...with clean hearts that speak about everything, even our most humiliating sins [since] we are "washed with pure water," baptized as a sign that Jesus Himself has chosen us and paid for all.

**Bo Giertz**

In "To Live With Christ" , p. 700





"Even those who have renounced Christianity and attack it, in their inmost being still adhere to the Christian ideal, for hitherto neither their subtlety nor the ardor of their hearts has been able to create a higher ideal of man and of virtue than the ideal given by Christ of old."

Fyodor Dostoyevksy *The Brothers Karamazov*



*Altar flowers are given today to the glory of God, and in honor of the  
95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ascension Lutheran Church.*

**SERVING IN WORSHIP**

**Pastor:** Rev. Steven Newberg  
**Bishop:** Rev. Dr. Bill Harmon  
**Assistant:** Vicar Andrew Borseth  
**Organist:** Eric Hauck  
**Worship Assistants:** Ben Finlay/Romain Bell  
**Communion Assistants:** Scott Hertzog/Kate Mervine  
**Crucifers:** John Seigler/Easton Nash  
**Acolytes:** Liam Iwanski/Bristol Carico, Jaxon Nash

**Altar Guild:** Kim Cates, Kate Duncan, Shawna Knutson, Marlys Sielsky, Barbara Suddreth, Emily Tweel  
**Reader:** Pastor Tim Fangmeier  
**Greeters:** Caroline Finlay/Diane Beard  
**Ushers:** Nate Brinkley, David Ellison, Tim Friemark, Ed Sielsky/Vince Cook, Dan Nelson  
**Sound & Video:** Darren Seigler  
**Musicians:** Chancel Choir

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book & Mass of Remembrance, Marty Haugen, GIA, 2011  
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Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House  
Quoted in *Treasury of Daily Prayer*,\* CPH †Quoted in St. John Wheaton, IL, worship folder ‡ from Weedon, *Celebrating the Saints*  
<sup>1</sup>quoted in *Food for the Soul* <sup>2</sup>quoted in *LSB Companion to the Services*. <sup>3</sup> dailyoffice.org

**ASCENSION SOUP KITCHEN**

**Served lunch to 112 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 40 families,  
82 family members on 4/24 & 4/27.**

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!**



**PHOTOS** *COVER:* Palm Sunday 2023 and Dedication Day 1953 (editing credit Peri Hertzog). *PAGE 3:* Ascension from the air about 1950. *PAGE 7:* hanging stars for All Saints. *PAGE 9:* the original Altar, 1940s. *PAGE 20:* worshippers on the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation; the Soup Kitchen in 2014; the 2024 Hymnal Meets Jazz; 2015 Ministry Fair. *PAGE 21:* Pastor Tim Fangmeier baptizing about 1990; Christmas program from not that long ago; Installations for vicar and pastor. *PAGE 22:* Ascension Lutheran School about 1950; 2016 Bach Cantata; 2025 Sunday School Sip & Paint; Choir, Pastor, and Mrs. Sigmund on the organ. *PAGE 23:* ladies of the Soup Kitchen in 2017; an inaugural Food Pantry Team in 2021.



# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

1225 E. Morehead Street  
Charlotte, NC 28204

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# Welcome!

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

## ASCENSION LUTHERAN SOUP KITCHEN

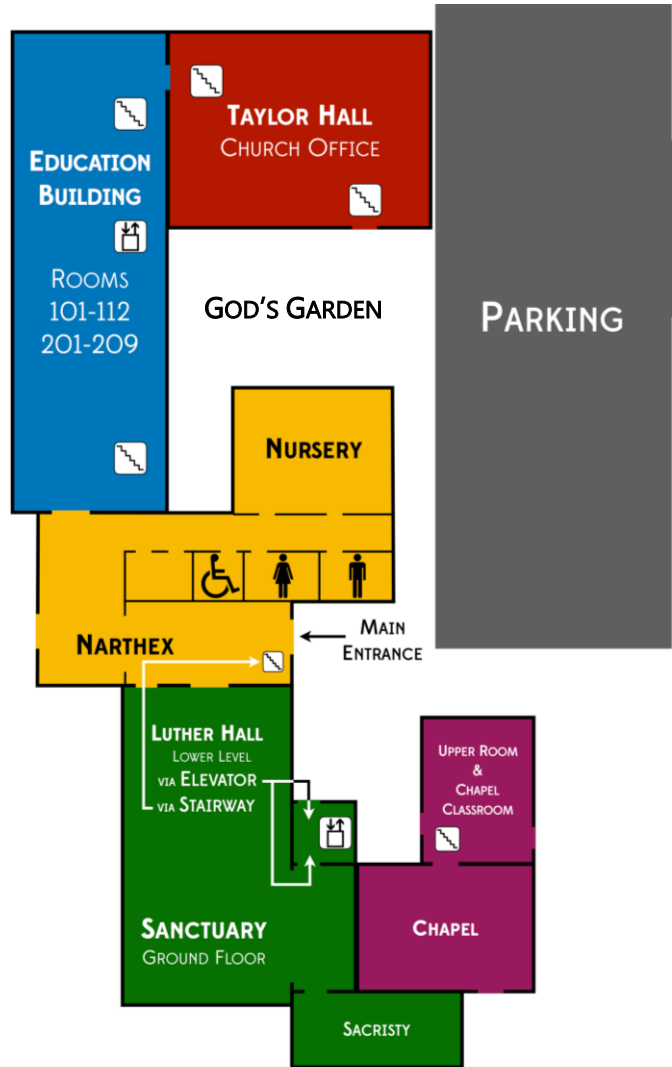
Every Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.  
Serving to-go lunches in the parking lot.

## 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.