



ASCENSION
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

Divine Service

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Friends of God,

But immediately Jesus spoke to them,
“Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”

Matthew 14:27

Once on a hillside, people were gathered
Hoping to see Him, as thousands were fed
He touched the blind eyes, healed broken spirits
He moved with compassion, while He raised up the dead

Once on a hillside, people were gathered
Watching as Jesus was crucified
No one showed mercy, to the one who had healed them
Yet, Jesus loved them, as He suffered and died

Once on a hillside, people were gathered
For Jesus had risen and soon would ascend
Then, as He blessed them, He rose to the heavens
And gave them His promise to come back again

We shall see Jesus! Just as they saw Him!
There is no greater promise than this
When He returns in power and glory
We shall see Jesus, we shall see Jesus, just as He is!

“We Shall See Jesus”

The Cathedral Quartet, lyrics by Ernie Haase

1st Gradual for Holy Trinity

Ps. 145:3, 5b, 6b

AUGUST 13, 2023 † 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

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.

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)



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 reminder 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.

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)

Gathered Together...

PRELUDE

Favorite Hymns (8:30am)

Christ Be My Leader (11am)

LSB 861

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!"

OPENING HYMN

578 Thy Strong Word

5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia!
May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias,
Alleluias without end!

△ 6 God the Father, light-creator,
To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever
Praise the holy Trinity!

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.

CONFSSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth. *Psalm 124:8*

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. *Psalm 130:3-4*

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

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

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen. *John 20:19-23*

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Stand.

KYRIE

Mark 10:47; Luke 17:13



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

He is like a man who lives in the world as though being conducted through an immense cathedral, not like one lost in a shoreless sea.

CS Lewis, on the traditional Christian vs the modern man

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!

O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.

For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—

Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,

You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.

Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—

In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22, et.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God, preserve us from all harm and danger that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish what You want done; 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.

...Around The Word...

OLD TESTAMENT READING

JOB 38:4-18

A The Old Testament Reading is from Job, the thirty-eighth chapter.

[The Lord said to Job:] “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements— surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

“Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed?’

“Have you commanded the morning

since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? It is changed like clay under the seal, and its features stand out like a garment. From the wicked their light is withheld, and their uplifted arm is broken. “Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Limits are part of God's good design for human creatures. Recognizing God-given limits of your body, according to Alan Noble, helps you also embrace "that you belong to your family...to the church...and to the place where you live." Physical limits are a feature, not a *bug*, of the human experience.

Josh Pauling, "Going Upstream of Streaming Worship"¹

A The Epistle is from Romans, the tenth chapter.

Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) or “Who will descend into the abyss?” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will

not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

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

C These things are written that you may believe that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

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

HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 14:22-33

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourteenth chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.

Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

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

And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

For Christians, transhumanism isn't a cool, creative reimagining of life but a violation of what nature actually is... The use of our smartphones every day, or being on Zoom rather than meeting with others in person...Our imagination is being changed by our use of these technologies.

As I get older, I pray that God will make that reality [He redeemed in Christ] more real to me...If I have that why would I fear death? If you read Athanasius' *On the Incarnation*, he says, in effect, "I have presented my argument for the incarnation. But if you want real proof, look at us Christians: we're not afraid of death." Unlike the transhumanists who attempt to find a technological way of overcoming death without the body, Christianity embraces death because Christ made it the gateway to life.

Brannon Ellis, Interview in *Modern Reformation*, 7/2023¹

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.

John 3:16; Romans 10:9
Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:35

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.

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 \ddagger 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 text reads "catholic," meaning the whole Church
as it confesses the wholeness of Christian doctrine.*

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

781 We Give Thee But Thine Own

1 We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive
3 Oh, hearts are bruised and dead, And homes are bare and cold,
4 To com - fort and to bless, To find a balm for woe,

All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first-fruits give!
And lambs for whom the Shep-herd bled Are stray-ing from the fold.
To tend the lone and fa - ther-less Is an - gels' work be - low.

5 The captive to release,
To God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace,
It is a Christ-like thing.

6 And we believe Thy Word,
Though dim our faith may be:
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,
We do it unto Thee.

SERMON

Stand.

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.

OFFERING

Tithes and offerings may be placed in the plate at the rear of the sanctuary.

OFFERTORY

Create in Me



C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

...and Blessed

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

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

Almighty God, You laid the foundations of the earth and set bounds and limits to all things. We give You thanks for Your glorious creation, including our own bodies and souls. In our sin, we have earned for ourselves death, and Your creation has been subjected to futility; yet in Your Son, You grant us forgiveness and new life. Help us to live in righteousness through faith in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Gracious Lord, Your Word is near to the hearts of Your people. Grant them courage to speak the Gospel faithfully before the world. Let those who hear confess Jesus Christ as Lord and be saved. Bring hope and renewal to all congregations and to the pastors who serve them. Remember all who endure persecution for His name, and strengthen them for a bold witness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Help us to trust in You at all times, Father, that we may not doubt or fear. Grant us confidence in all that You have promised to bestow daily and richly upon Your people. Just as You supported Peter in his doubts and fears, keep us from sinking into despair when we suffer the trials of this mortal life. Be with those who are in need. Grant us Your Spirit, that our hearts may not waver, and keep us in the grasp of Your grace, that we may not lose our way or be overcome by weariness and struggle. We pray especially for...

our members

Hailey Wyatt
Louise Nordman
Richard Elam
Cissi Burtner
Phil Edwards
Brittany Hatfield
Betty Treat
Hazel Peek
Sharon Gugel
Mark Parnow
Elaine Elston
those at home:
Helen Gounis

Mary Seiler
Jackie & Richard Elam
Bob & Louise Nordman
Ann Weers
Mary Keefauver
Doris Falconieri
Ron & Karen Priebe
those dear to us:
Jyl Acker
Wright Family
Sue Wahrhaftig
Elaine Miller
Miller Family
Baker Runge
Kuechler Family

Rogers Family

Carson Family
Leslie Terza
Ramey Burch
Kris Kopsell
Jannis Thomas
Ginny
Hermione Moul
Carol Chapman
Elizabeth Marciak
Ron Meyer
Gloria Bueschel
Moul Family
Bob Miller

Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Father, unite us in giving thanks for your saints, all those who have loved and served You in Your Church on earth, showing forth Your image through the forgiveness and love of our Lord Jesus Christ. Bless especially...

our family birthdays:

Bill Swenson

Jan White

Cissi Burtner

Emilie Bova

Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Gracious Lord, give ear to the prayers of Your people and lead us to trust in Your mercy without fear, that we may be confident that You will grant all things needful to us and our 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.

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.

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

Psalm 103:1; Numbers 5:24-26

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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

Ephesians 5:19

819 Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good

1 Sing praise to God, the high - est good, The au - thor of cre -
 2 What God's al - might - y pow'r has made, In mer - cy He is
 3 We sought the Lord in our dis - tress; O God, in mer - cy
 4 He nev - er shall for - sake His flock, His cho - sen gen - er -
 5 All who con - fess Christ's ho - ly name, Give God the praise and

a - tion, The God of love who un - der - stood
 keep - ing. By morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade
 hear us. Our Sav - ior saw our help - less - ness
 a - tion; He is their ref - ute and their rock,
 glo - ry. Let all who know His pow'r pro - claim

Our need for His sal - va - tion. With heal - ing balm our
 His eye is nev - er sleep - ing. With - in the king - dom
 And came with peace to cheer us. For this we thank and
 Their peace and their sal - va - tion. As with a moth - er's
 A - loud the won - drous sto - ry. Cast ev - 'ry i - dol

souls He fills And ev - 'ry faith - less mur - - mur stills:
 of His might All things are just and good and right:
 praise the Lord, Who is by one and all a - dored:
 ten - der hand, He leads His own, His cho - sen band:
 from its throne, For God is God, and He a - lone:

To God all praise and glo - - ry!
 To God all praise and glo - - ry!
 To God all praise and glo - - ry!
 To God all praise and glo - - ry!
 To God all praise and glo - - ry!

POSTLUDE

I Know My Faith Is Founded

LSB 587

The altar flowers are given today in honor of Don & Ginny's wedding anniversary from their grandchildren: Joshua, Catherine & Pat.

We Love You!!!

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Steven Newberg

Director of Music Ministry: Stephanie Knott

Altar Guild: Maggie Bryson, Verna Cash,
Karin Koenig, Sandra Talbert

Readers: Kevin Pollard/Elaine Elston

Greeters: Rae Fangmeier/Luellen Stine

Ushers: Adam Thompson/Martha Barnette,
Jeff Miller, Adam Stansell

Sound & Video: John Tinkelenberg/Laura
Kendall-Zacharczyp

IN HIS SERVICE

Ascension Soup Kitchen: served lunch to 96 guests this Tuesday.

Ascension Food Pantry: distributed one week of groceries to
22 families, 54 individuals on 8/4 & 8/7.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Ascension Soup Kitchen

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

Ascension Food Pantry

The food pantry distributes a week's worth of healthy groceries to individuals with a Loaves and Fishes 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.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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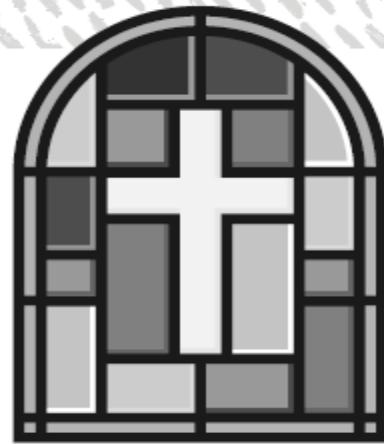
*Quoted in Treasury of Daily Prayer, CPH

†Quoted in St. John Wheaton, IL, worship folder

¹ Taken from Modern Reformation, July/August 2023

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KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



What are the peculiar windows in the church?

If you look around while sitting in the Divine Service, you'll most likely see windows that are different than the windows in your house. These windows are made with pieces of colored glass. These colored pieces may even have designs painted on them. Stained glass windows are a very important part of the church building.

Why do we have stained glass windows in the church?

Stained-glass windows add to the beauty of God's house, but that's not all that they do. These windows are designed to teach us. If you look closely at the windows, you'll find that most of them contain wonderful imagery. This imagery usually depicts **stories from the Bible**, different **Christian symbols** or different **articles of the Christian faith**; and it's all wrapped up in beautiful pictures made from colored and painted glass! What a wonderful way to glorify our Lord and to proclaim the Gospel!



Parents: After worship, be sure to walk around and look at the windows with your child. If there are windows with different themes, take a few moments each week to discuss the individual teaching points of each window. Encourage your child to ask the pastor for help.



Want to find out more about Christian worship? Check out the **Christian Worship** section in our **adult library**, located next to the nursery.



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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

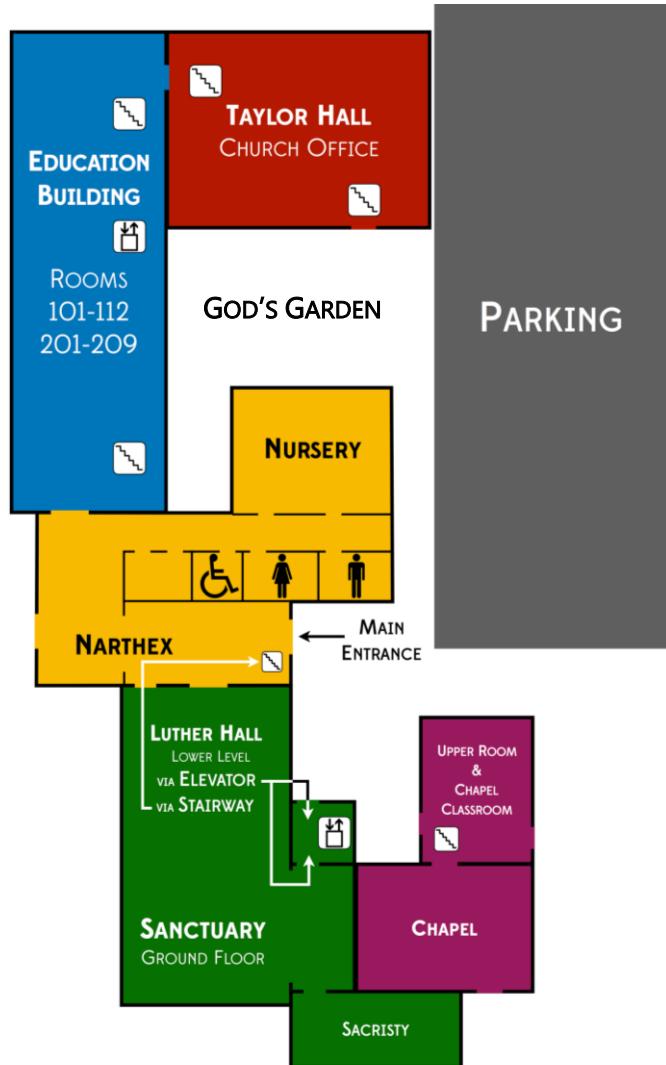
Find out the way we receive the
Christian Faith in the Lutheran
tradition each week.



ALCcharlotte



ascensioncharlotte



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
accessible restroom.



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.