



ASCENSION
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



Matins

Second Sunday after Pentecost

*Great is the LORD,
and greatly to be
praised, and his
greatness is
unsearchable.*

*On your wondrous
works, I will
meditate, and I
will declare your
greatness.*

Gradual
Psalm 145:3. 5b. 6b

Friends of God,

I came not to call the
righteous, but sinners.

Matthew 9:13b

The other point in today's Gospel is what Jesus says to the self-righteous Pharisees who complain that Jesus pals around with criminals like Matthew, who is now an ex-criminal, and his friends... Why is Jesus still attracted to sinners? Doesn't that show that he himself is a sinner?

No, exactly the opposite. Jesus invites sinners for the same reason doctors invite patients. He says to the Pharisees, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do."

The greatest of all sins is pride, the refusal to admit and repent of your sins. Are you proud or humble? If you say you are humble, you are proud...proud of your humility. See how deceptive pride is?

Peter Kreeft, Food for the Soul, A, 510

JUNE 7, 2026 ✠ 10AM

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 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."

Hippolytus of Rome, describing an early observance of Matins, about AD 200.

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.

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 the summer season, to entrust to the Lord our well being and our works, our society and all our life together to the Triune God whose love makes us righteous and forever new in 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) 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!

Gathered Together...

PRELUDE

Intermezzo

Schumann

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

Please stand.

SHARING THE LORD'S PEACE

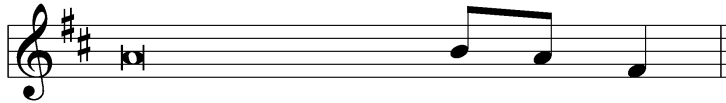
- L** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** **And also with you.**
- L** Let us share His peace with one another.

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

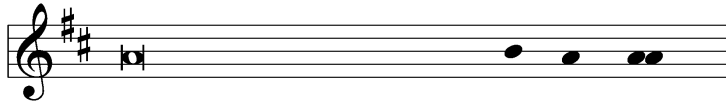
Psalm 51:15; Psalm 70:1



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, King who comes to save us.

Psalmody



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



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

INTROIT

Psalm 50:7-10; antiphon: Psalm 50:1



Liturgist sings antiphon. All sing verses and Gloria.

The Mighty One, God the LORD,
speaks and sum- | mons the earth*
from the rising of the sun to its | setting.

“Hear, O my people, and I will
speak;
O Israel, I will testify a- | gainst
you.*

I am | God, your God.
Not for your sacrifices do I re- |
buke you;*
your burnt offerings are
continually be- | fore me.
I will not accept a bull | from your
house*

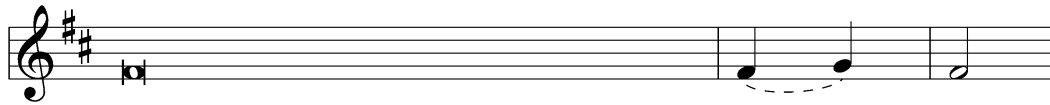
or goats | from your folds.
For every beast of the for- | est is
mine,*
the cattle on a | thousand hills.

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.

The Mighty One, God the LORD,
speaks and sum- | mons the earth*
from the rising of the sun to its | setting.

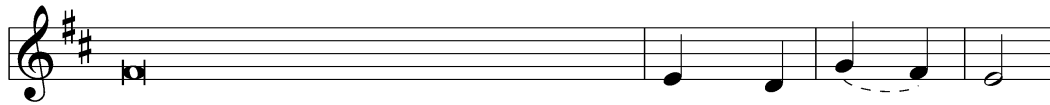
VENITE

PSALM 95:1-7



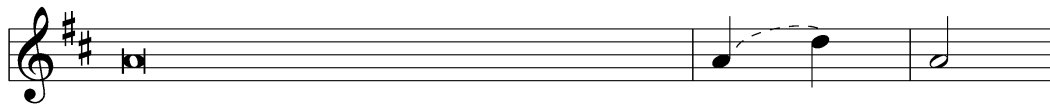
- 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
- 2 For the Lord is a great God
- 3 The sea is His, for He made it,

5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

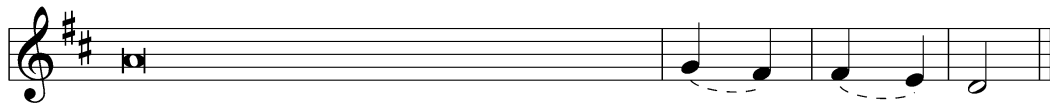


- 1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
- 2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
- 3 and His hand formed the dry land.

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.



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



Q O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Sit.

974 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive



1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich
 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shep - herd
 4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions
 grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro -
 e'er for - sak - eth; Wea - ry souls that lost their
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to



live And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is
 claim; Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly
 way Christ, the Shep - herd, gent - ly tak - eth In His
 me; Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these



hope for all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 in these words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 arms that they may live: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 words my soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

5 Oh, how blest it is to know:
 Were as scarlet my
 transgression,
 It shall be as white as snow
 By Thy blood and bitter passion;
 For these words I now believe:
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

6 Now my conscience is at peace;
 From the Law I stand
 acquitted.
 Christ hath purchased my release
 And my ev'ry sin remitted.
 Naught remains my soul to
 grieve:
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

7 Jesus sinners doth receive;
 Also I have been forgiven;
 And when I this earth must leave,
 I shall find an open heaven.
 Dying, still to Him I cleave:
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

Readings

OLD TESTAMENT READING

HOSEA 5:15-6:6

A The Old Testament Reading is from Hosea, the fifth chapter.

I will return again to my place,
until they acknowledge their
guilt and seek my face,
and in their distress earnestly
seek me.

“Come, let us return to the
LORD; for he has torn us, that
he may heal us; he has struck us
down, and he will bind us up.
After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us
up, that we may live before
him.

Let us know; let us press on to
know the LORD; his going out
is sure as the dawn; he will
come to us as the showers,

as the spring rains that water
the earth.”

What shall I do with you, O
Ephraim?

What shall I do with you, O
Judah?

Your love is like a morning
cloud, like the dew that goes
early away.

Therefore I have hewn them by
the prophets; I have slain them
by the words of my mouth, and
my judgment goes forth as the
light.

For I desire steadfast love and
not sacrifice, the knowledge of
God rather than burnt
offerings.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

ROMANS 4:13-25

A The Epistle is from Romans, the fourth chapter.

The promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the

things that do not exist. In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe

in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Stand.

RESPONSORY


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

Verse *To Refrain*



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.

HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 9:9-13

- L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the ninth chapter.


As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat

with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

- L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to you, O Christ.


Verse *To Refrain*



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 Spir - it.

Refrain



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

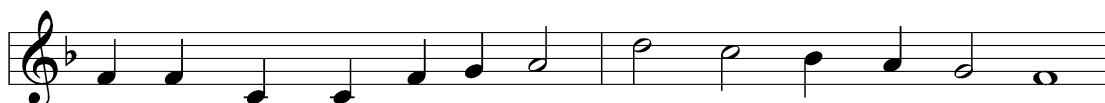
Sit. At this time, the children may be invited to come forward for a children's message.

HYMN OF THE DAY

487 Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain



1 Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain Of tri - um-phant glad - ness!
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst His pris - on
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright With the day of splen - dor,
4 For to - day a-mong His own Christ ap-peared, be - stow - ing
5 Al - le - lu - ia! Now we cry To our King im - mor - tal,



God has brought His Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness,
And from three days' sleep in death As a sun has ris - en;
With the roy - al feast of feasts Comes its joy to ren - der;
His deep peace, which ev - er-more Pass - es hu - man know - ing.
Who, tri - um - phant, burst the bars Of the tomb's dark por - tal.



Loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,
All the win - ter of our sins, Long and dark, is fly - ing
Comes to glad - den faith-ful hearts Which with true af - fec - tion
Nei - ther could the gates of death Nor the tomb's dark por - tal
Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain Of tri - um - phant glad - ness!

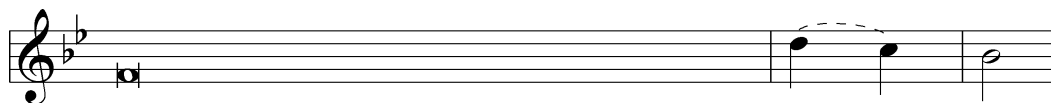


Led them with un-moist-ened foot Through the Red Sea wa - ters.
From His light, to whom is giv'n Laud and praise un - dy - ing.
Wel - come in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
Nor the watch - ers nor the seal Hold Him as a mor - tal.
God has brought His Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness!

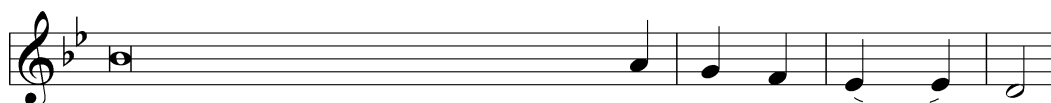
SERMON

Stand.

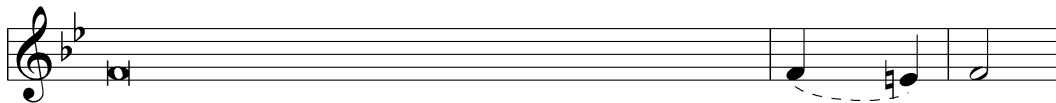
TE DEUM



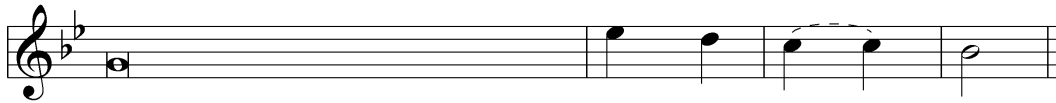
1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
3 The noble army of martyrs praise You.



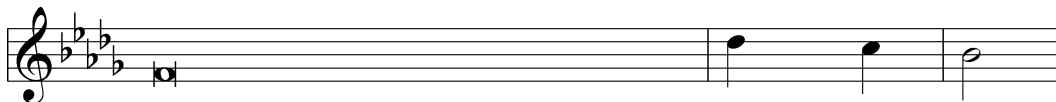
1 All the earth now worships You, the Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing.
2 heaven and earth are full of the majes - ty of Your glo - ry.
3 The holy Church throughout all the world does ac - knowl-edge You:



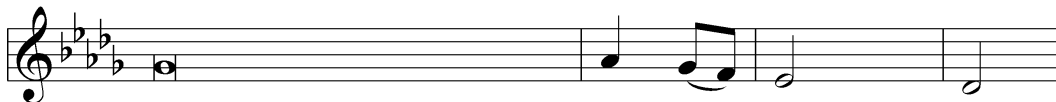
1 To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs there-in.
 2 The glorious company of the apostles praise— You.
 3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and on - ly Son;
 4 You are the king of glory, O— Christ;



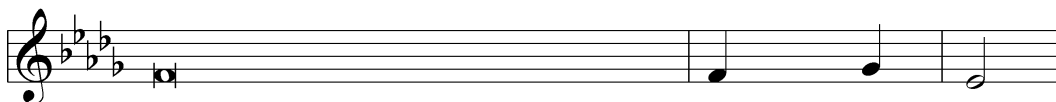
1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
 2 The goodly fellowship of the proph-ets praise— You.
 3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com-fort - er.
 4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.



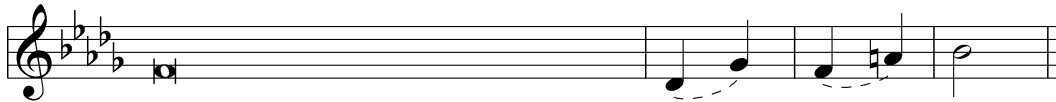
5 When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,
 6 You sit at the right hand of God



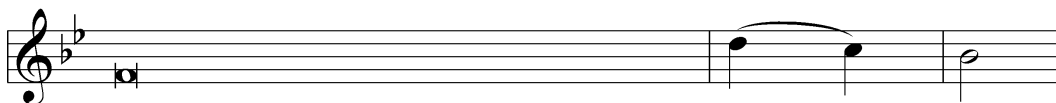
5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
 6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



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



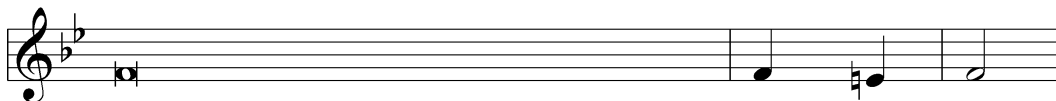
5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
 6 to be— our— judge.



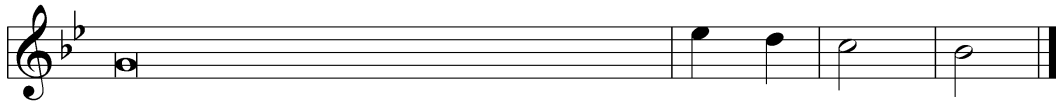
7 We therefore pray You to help Your ser - vants,



7 whom You have redeem - ed with Your pre - cious blood.



7 Make them to be numbered with Your saints



7 in glory ev - er - last - ing.

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



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

LORD'S PRAYER

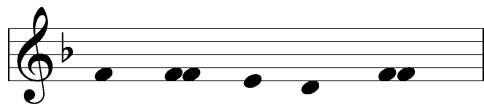
Matthew 6:9-13

L 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.

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

O Lord, King of all Creation, though we justly deserve Your wrath for our sin, you revive us and raise us up. Grant that we would come to you in our failures not facing your wrath, but comforted with your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L Gracious God, Your Son called Matthew from his tax booth to be an apostle who proclaimed salvation. Continue to call men into Your Holy Ministry, and endow them with every good gift to proclaim Your Word and administer Your Sacraments in righteousness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L Father in heaven, by Your grace Abraham did not weaken in faith but trusted Your promises. Strengthen parents to persist in their callings and train their children in Your Word. We also pray for those without children or spouse that they would be models of faith in their various callings. Defend them from discouragement and apathy, and convince them that You are able to do what You have promised. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L Creator of all things, You call into existence what does not exist and govern it for good. Remember those You have given authority among the nations, that the laws they administer might reflect Your order and maintain peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L Gracious Lord, You are the great Physician of both body and soul. Look with compassion on those who are suffering from illness. If it be Your will, give them a full restoration to health and strength. In the midst of these difficulties, O Lord, keep them firm in their faith and trust, that they might never doubt Your presence and love for them. We pray especially for...

our members

Ellen Eich
Tammy Blessing
Hanna Bennes
John Henry
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:

Richie Galloway
Peggy Korzeniowski
Toby Gowin
Joan Lee
McKenney Family
King Family
Brian Marshall
Elijah Kalagius
Lydia Slater
Pat Kane
Al Nicholas
Hermione Moul
Cassandra Shropshire

and rejoice with...

our family birthdays:

Brett Meade
Joseph Timm

Reagan Domeier
Steve Sauer
Liam Iwanski

Stu Nichols
Jacob Timm
Hanna Bennes

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

L Holy God, You desire mercy and not sacrifice. Preserve us from doing good only out of a grudging obligation. Grant us joyful hearts that serve our neighbor in love, in thankfulness for the good You have done for us in Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- L** We entrust all these petitions to Your care, loving Father, confident in Your great mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who is worshiped together 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.

C A - men.

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

733 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

sts. 1-6



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while
troubles last
And our eternal home!

POSTLUDE

All Creatures of Our God and King

Howard Helvey

The altar flowers are given today by Mark Parnow to the Glory of God and in memory of Carrol & Fran Parnow's wedding anniversary.

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

Liturgist: Vicar Andrew Borseth

Organist: Eric Hauck

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

Greeter: Lisa Wyatt

Reader: Paul Domeier

Ushers: Wayne Balling, Marshal Sawyer/Simon Buser, Jeff Miller

Sound & Video: Branden Korzeniowski

Our Graduating Seniors

Bianca De Lima Aydelott will graduate on June 12th from Mallard Creek High School. She will attend the University of South Florida this fall.

Quinn Schultz will graduate from South Mecklenburg High School on June 17th. He will attend CPCC and then transfer to UNCC for Engineering.

Michael Spokas graduated from Jay M. Robinson High School and will attend Appalachian State University this fall. He plans to study Construction Management.

Peri Hertzog graduated from Rowan-Cabarrus Community College in December with an A.S. degree, finishing her last transfer credit this May. She will transfer to Fayetteville State University this fall to complete a B.S. in Computer Science.

Andrew Kuechler graduated from the University of Tennessee in May with a degree in Industrial Engineering.

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, 88 family members on 5/29 & 6/1.

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
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Patia Bowman, Administrative Asst.
bowman@ascensioncharlotte.org



Rev. Steven Newberg, Pastor
newberg@ascensioncharlotte.org

Vicar Andrew Borseth
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

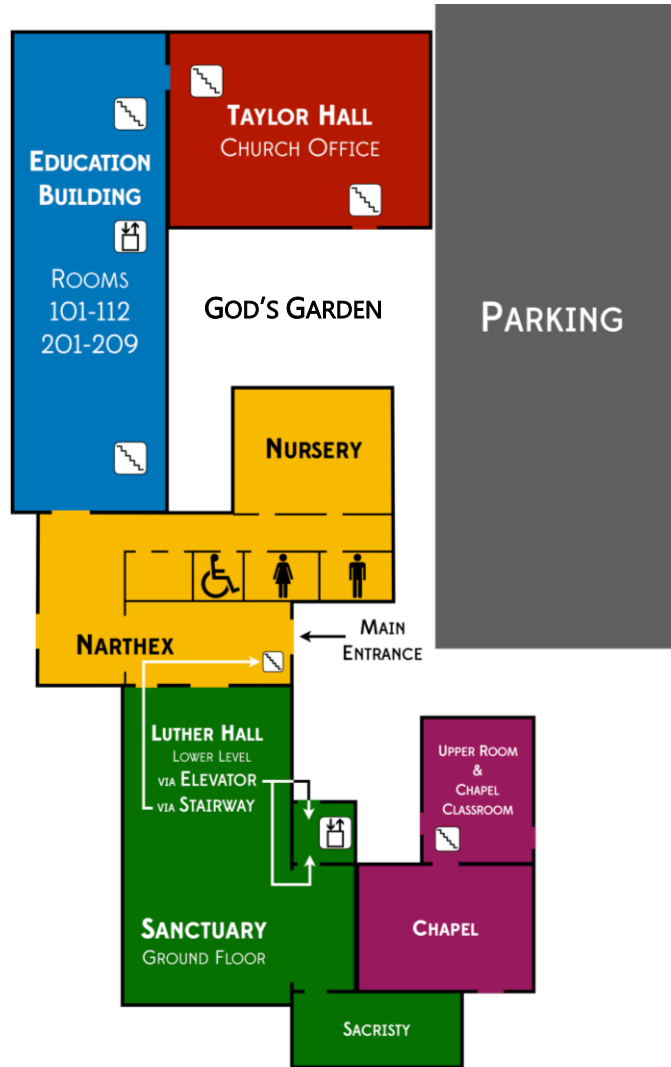
Every Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Serving to-go lunches in the parking lot.

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 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.