



ASCENSION
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

Divine Service

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Friends of God,

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

Matthew 14:27

*Fear the LORD, you his saints,
for those who fear him lack
nothing!*

*Many are the afflictions of the
righteous,
but the LORD delivers him
out of them all.*

Gradual

Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

Faith places man before God. Man knows that God is calling to him... But that call cannot be mere information concerning a new *concept* of God. For the mere statement that God forgives sin would [given our mortal experience] have to make God appear as an inconsistent Lawgiver and a softhearted Judge. To believe this would amount to substituting a sure experience of the divine wrath for a wish that is founded on nothing at all.

Actually, however, the *concept* of forgiveness of sins was a paraphrase of the Lutheran concept of the “righteousness of God”... Luther himself understood this righteousness to be the righteousness given to man as a gift... Here, first of all, it is stated in a much more elementary manner than in the concept of forgiveness of sins alone that God, even though He forgives man for transgressing, still does not... desist from demanding that man must be righteous.

Werner Elert*

AUGUST 9, 2026 ✝ 11:00AM

SPECIAL WELCOME TO THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

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

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION



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

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

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

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

Gathered Together...

PRELUDE

Jesus Shall Reign Where're the Sun

Jones

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

ENTRANCE HYMN

Psalms 57:9; 100:4-5

Turn and face the cross in procession.

544 O Love, How Deep

1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
2 He sent no an - gel to our race,
3 For us bap - tized, for us He bore
4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;

Be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,
Of high - er or of low - er place,
His ho - ly fast and hun - gered sore;
For us His dai - ly works He wrought,

That God, the Son of God, should take
But wore the robe of hu - man frame,
For us the temp - ta - tion sharp He knew;
By words and signs and ac - tions thus

Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
And to this world Him - self He came.
For us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
Still seek - ing not Him - self but us.

- 5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and
death;
For us He gave His dying breath.
- 6 For us He rose from death again;
For us He went on high to reign;
For us He sent His Spirit here
To guide, to strengthen, and to
cheer.

△ 7 All glory to our Lord and God
For love so deep, so high, so broad;
The Trinity whom we adore
Forever and forevermore.

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.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.

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.

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.

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.

INTROIT

Psalm 34:4-8; antiphon: v. 1 (tone C)



Leader sings antiphon. All sing verses and Gloria.

I will bless the LORD at | all times;*
his praise shall continually be | in my mouth.

I sought the LORD, and he | answered
me*
and delivered me from | all my fears.

Those who look to him are | radiant,*
and their faces shall never | be
ashamed.

This poor man cried, and the LORD |
heard him*
and saved him out of all his |
troubles.

I will bless the LORD at | all times;*
his praise shall continually be | in my mouth.

The angel of the LORD encamps around
those who | fear him,*
and de- | livers them.

Oh, taste and see that the | LORD is good!*
Blessèd is the man who takes ref- | uge
in him!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

KYRIE

Mark 10:47

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

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

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

2 Timothy 4:22

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with your spirit.
- P** 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.



Churches that have no creeds have “statements of faith.”

Those are creeds. [...]

The Creed answers the questions, “Who is Jesus?” This is the question Jesus himself asked his disciples: “Who do men say that I am?” and “Who do you say that I am?” He is interested in how we answer.

Jim Kushimer,

In The Fellowship of St. James: For Christ, Creed and Culture

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

John 6:68



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



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve 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."

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."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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
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*

The third day He rose again from the dead.

1 Corinthians 15:4; Luke 24:6

He ascended into heaven

Acts 1:9

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

Acts 7:55

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Acts 10:42; Matt. 26:64

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

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

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

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

765 God Moves in a Mysterious Way



1 God moves in a mys - te - rious way His
2 Judge not the Lord by fee - ble sense, But
3 His pur - pos - es will rip - en fast, Un -
4 Blind un - be - lief is sure to err And
5 You fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take; The



won - ders to per - form; He plants His foot - steps
trust Him for His grace; Be - hind a frown - ing
fold - ing ev - 'ry hour; The bud may have a
scan His work in vain; God is His own in -
clouds you so much dread Are big with mer - cy



in the sea And rides up - on the storm.
prov - i - dence Faith sees a smil - ing face.
bit - ter taste, But sweet will be the flow'r.
ter - pret - er, And He will make it plain.
and will break In bless - ings on your head.

SERMON

SUPPLICATION OF THE FAITHFUL

Ephesians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 11:26

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



If we are called by God to holiness of life, and if holiness is beyond our natural power to achieve (which it certainly is), then it follows that God himself must give us the life, the strength, and the courage to fulfill the task he requires of us. He will certainly give us the grace we need. If we do not become saints it is because we do not avail ourselves of his gifts.

Thomas Merton

Life and Holiness, p.17[†]

...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.



Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name. You are mine.

Isaiah 43:1

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.

Stand.

OFFERTORY

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** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For wisdom, that we may know Christ by faith and trust in God's Word amid the stormy seas of this mortal life, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For our pastors, our seminaries and their students, that God would continue to send preachers of His mercy; and that all the world may hear and believe, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For all married couples, that their union might reflect Christ and His Church; and for all Christian homes, that God would bless them with His presence and make them places of peace and refuge in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For all nations, that the Lord who stands over all creation might speak peace unto them and raise up good and faithful leaders, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the sick and the suffering, that they would be anxious for nothing, but instead make their requests known to Christ, the God of peace. We pray especially for..

our members

Allie Homan
Scott Hertzog
John Strohschein
Sharon Gugel
Ted Cash
John Henry
Jasmine Timm
James Dake
Peri Hertzog
Tony Byrum
Cissi Burtner
Elaine Elston

those at home:

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

those dear to us:

Paul Zellmer
Kane Family
List Family
Greene Family
Judi Domeier
Steve Barringer
Brian Marshall
Hermione Moul
Joan Lee
Mike Chaney
Toby Gowin
Cassandra Shropshire

and rejoice with...

our family birthdays:

Lyla Bennes
Levi Hege
Verna Cash

Megan Humphrey
Lauren Christ
Bill Swenson

Cissi Burtner
Jan White

let us pray to the Lord:

- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For all who come to the Lord's table, that we might be united in confession even as we are one in Him, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**

L O Lord, our God, be our light in darkness, our strength in weakness, our courage in fear and our peace in distress. Speak to us by the voice of Your Word, that we may call upon You in the day of trouble and confess Your saving name before all people. Hear us for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

SHARING THE LORD'S PEACE

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

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Let us share His peace with one another.

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

PREFACE

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

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

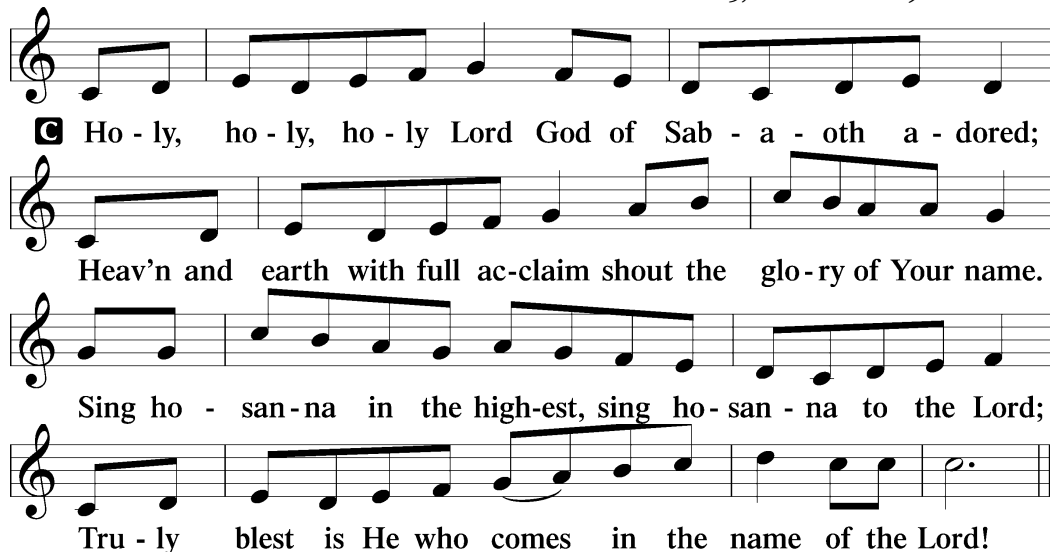
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C 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, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.
Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.
Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

- C** Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

John 20:19

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



The best form of prayer is the Lord's Prayer, which Christ Himself has prescribed to us and has commanded us to pray. If you pray this prayer, you need not worry about having omitted anything.

Martin Luther

AGNUS DEI

John 1:29; Revelation 5:6, 12

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Matthew 26:30

694 Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Thee will I love, my strength, my tower;
Thee will I love, my hope, my joy.
Thee will I love with all my power,
With ardor time shall ne'er destroy.
Thee will I love, O Light divine,
So long as life is mine.</p> | <p>3 I thank Thee, Jesus, Sun from heaven,
Whose radiance hath brought light to me;
I thank Thee, who hast richly given
All that could make me glad and free;
I thank Thee that my soul is healed
By what Thy lips revealed.</p> |
| <p>2 Thee will I love, my life, my Savior,
Who art my best and truest friend.
Thee will I love and praise forever,
For never shall Thy kindness end.
Thee will I love with all my heart—
Thou my Redeemer art!</p> | <p>4 O keep me watchful, then, and humble;
Permit me nevermore to stray.
Uphold me when my feet would stumble,
And keep me on the narrow way.
Fill all my nature with Thy light,
O Radiance strong and bright!</p> |
| <p>5 Thee will I love, my crown of gladness;
Thee will I love, my God and Lord,
Amid the darkest depths of sadness,
And not for hope of high reward,
For Thine own sake, O Light divine,
So long as life is mine.</p> | |

739 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the
night,
Lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead
me home. | 2 When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call;
Hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord;
lead me home. |
| 3 When the darkness appears
And the night draws near
And the day is almost gone,
At the river I stand;
Guide my feet, hold my hand,
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home. | |

555 Salvation unto Us Has Come

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Salvation unto us has come
By God's free grace and favor;
Good works cannot avert our doom,
They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,
Who did for all the world atone;
He is our one Redeemer. | 5 Yet as the Law must be fulfilled
Or we must die despairing,
Christ came and has God's anger
stilled,
Our human nature sharing.
He has for us the Law obeyed
And thus the Father's vengeance stayed
Which over us impended. |
| 2 What God did in His Law demand
And none to Him could render
Caused wrath and woe on ev'ry hand
For man, the vile offender.
Our flesh has not those pure desires
The spirit of the Law requires,
And lost is our condition. | 6 Since Christ has full atonement made
And brought to us salvation,
Each Christian therefore may be glad
And build on this foundation.
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
Your death is now my life indeed,
For You have paid my ransom. |
| 3 It was a false, misleading dream
That God His Law had given
That sinners could themselves
redeem
And by their works gain heaven.
The Law is but a mirror bright
To bring the inbred sin to light
That lurks within our nature. | 7 Let me not doubt, but truly see
Your Word cannot be broken;
Your call rings out, "Come unto Me!"
No falsehood have You spoken.
Baptized into Your precious name,
My faith cannot be put to shame,
And I shall never perish. |
| 4 From sin our flesh could not abstain,
Sin held its sway unceasing;
The task was useless and in vain,
Our guilt was e'er increasing.
None can remove sin's poisoned dart
Or purify our guileful heart—
So deep is our corruption. | 8 The Law reveals the guilt of sin
And makes us conscience-stricken;
But then the Gospel enters in
The sinful soul to quicken.
Come to the cross, trust Christ, and
live;
The Law no peace can ever give,
No comfort and no blessing. |

9 Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone
And rests in Him unceasing;
And by its fruits true faith is known,
With love and hope increasing.
For faith alone can justify;
Works serve our neighbor and
supply
The proof that faith is living.

△ 10 All blessing, honor, thanks, and
praise
To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God who saved us by His grace;
All glory to His merit.
O triune God in heav'n above,
You have revealed Your saving love;
Your blessed name we hallow.

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

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

Stand.

DISMISSAL

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

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS

Luke 2:29-32

C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry it, Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Psalm 107:1

L Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Psalm 103:1

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

512 At the Name of Jesus



1 At the name of Je - sus Ev - 'ry knee shall bow,
2 At His voice cre - a - tion Sprang at once to sight,
3 Hum - bled for a sea - son, To re - ceive a name
4 Bore it up tri - um - phant With its hu - man light,



Ev - 'ry tongue con - fess Him King of glo - ry now.
All the an - gel fac - es, All the hosts of light,
From the lips of sin - ners Un - to whom He came,
Through all ranks of crea - tures To the cen - tral height,



'Tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure We should call Him Lord,
Thrones and bright do - min - ions, Stars up - on their way,
Faith - ful - ly He bore it Spot - less to the last,
To the throne of God - head, To the Fa - ther's breast,



Who from the be - gin - ning Was the might - y Word.
All the heav'n - ly or - ders In their great ar - ray.
Brought it back vic - to - rious When from death He passed;
Filled it with the glo - ry Of that per - fect rest.

5 In your hearts enthrone Him;
There let Him subdue
All that is not holy,
All that is not true:
Crown Him as your captain
In temptation's hour;
Let His will enfold you
In its light and pow'r.

6 Christians, this Lord Jesus
Shall return again
In His Father's glory,
With His angel train;
For all wreaths of empire
Meet upon His brow,
And our hearts confess Him
King of glory now.

△ 7 Glory then to Jesus,
Who, the Prince of light,
To a world in darkness
Brought the gift of sight;
Praise to God the Father;
In the Spirit's love
Praise we all together
Him who reigns above.

POSTLUDE

Invention in C Major

J.S. Bach

*The altar flowers are given today by
Ted Cash in honor of Verna's birthday.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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.
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Vicar Andrew Cole is from Williamston, SC. He is 27, and four years married to his greatest earthly blessing, Hailey. He was raised by servants to be a servant to others, his father being a deputy sheriff and his mother being a schoolteacher. He joined the Army National Guard at 17, transitioned to full-time active duty service and served as an Intelligence Analyst at the rank of Sergeant. While on active duty Andrew completed his B.A. in Theological Studies at Concordia University Wisconsin, afterward returning to reserve status to attend seminary in St. Louis. In 2024, a catastrophic injury to his right leg precipitated his separation from the National Guard and set Andrew back one year in required classes. This means he studied for two years next to our former vicar, Andrew Borseth, who he looks forward to following here at Ascension. Andrew sang in the seminary choir and has recently taken up bass guitar. Hailey is a first-grade teacher by trade and hopes this year to learn quilting, sewing and any other textile crafts that folks at Ascension might be able to show her. Today we praise God for His Grace on their time at Ascension!

PRAYERS FOR THE VICARAGE

Prayers from God's Word: Psalms 5, 71, 112.

Lord God, Heavenly Father, we thank You for establishing Your Church to bless the nations and direct all people to salvation in Your Son. Grant that we may ever benefit from the faithful pastors You raise up to equip and sustain Your people in holy faith and in love and service to all, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Gracious Father, we thank You for hearing our prayers and granting our congregation a vicar. Grant that we may be fully prepared to welcome and bless Andrew as he assists our pastor in the work of pastoral ministry. By Your Holy Spirit, grant him ready diligence in his tasks, continually direct his attention to Your aims, and let him rejoice in all Your Word, that he may learn here to proclaim the Gospel more ably, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Dear Lord, you have blessed this vicar with a family. Show Your kindness and care especially to Hailey, his wife, and prepare them well here for their future together. Increase them in love and appreciation for each other and for Your Church and, establishing them on a firm foundation of faith, affirm for them every gracious promise of Your Word by all they experience, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Almighty and Gracious God, you commanded us to pray that You would send laborers into Your harvest. Put the saving Gospel in the hearts and on the lips of Your ministers and teachers that they might proclaim nothing contrary to Your Holy Word, and that we, being warned, instructed, nurtured, comforted and strengthened by Your Spirit, may do all that is pleasing to You and profitable in love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, who stand by night in the house of the Lord!

Lift up your hands to the holy place and bless the Lord!

May the Lord bless you from Zion, he who made heaven and earth! (Psalm 134)

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Steven Newberg

Assistant: Vicar Andrew Cole

Organist: Eric Hauck

Worship Assistant: Rainer Blessing

Communion Assistant: Tammy Blessing

Crucifer: Easton Nash

Acolyte: Jaxon Nash

Altar Guild: Natalie Broome, Sarah Buser

Reader: Rainer Blessing

Greeter: Luellen Stine

Ushers: Valerie Clark, Soren Knutson, Wade Knutson, Laura Kendall-Zacharczyp

Sound & Video: Simon Buser

ASCENSION SOUP KITCHEN

Served lunch to 94 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 35 families, 75 family members on 7/31 & 8/3.

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

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704-372-7317 MAIN NUMBER

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Rev. Steven Newberg, Pastor
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Vicar Andrew Cole
vicar@ascensioncharlotte.org

www.ascensioncharlotte.org

Welcome!

WORSHIP BROADCAST

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

ASCENSION LUTHERAN SOUP KITCHEN

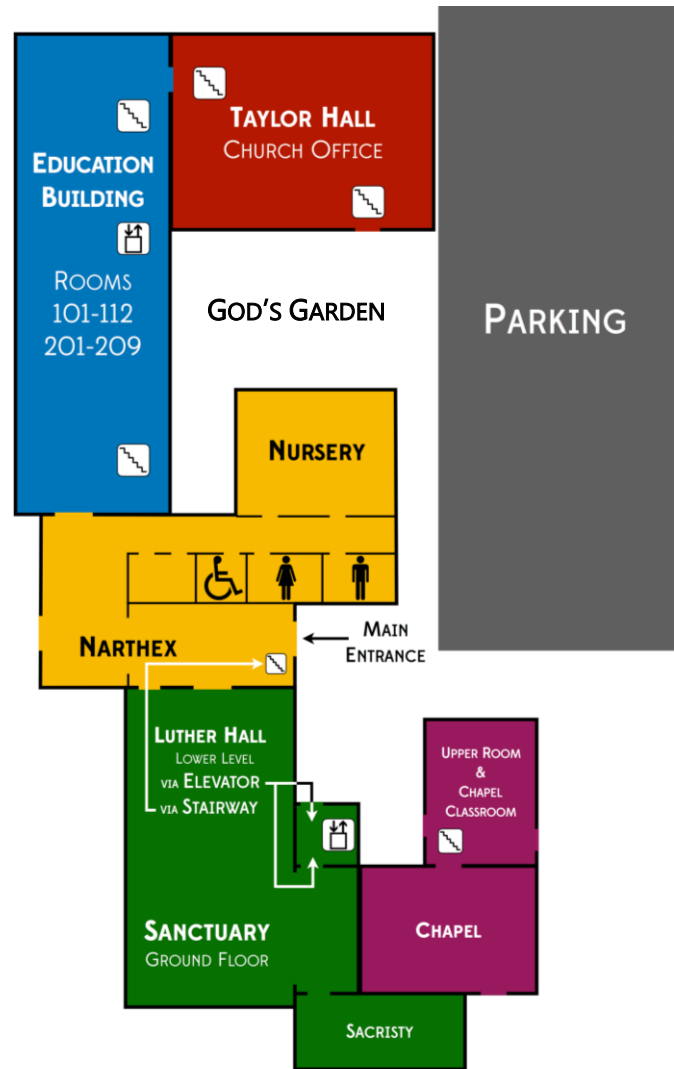
Every Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Serving to-go lunches in the parking lot.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

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



ALCcharlotte



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



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



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

THOSE IN CRITICAL NEED

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