Fifth Sunday After Pentecost Love Your Neighbor

July 13, 2025 • Proper 10 C • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

As We Gather

William Blake said, "I sought my soul, but my soul I could not see. I sought my God, but my God eluded me. I sought my brother, and found all three."

The Bible says, "We cannot love God, whom we have not seen, if we do not love others, whom we have seen. The command that



Christ has given us is this: whoever loves God must love others also." (1 John 4:20b-21, GNT) But it's not easy to love others! Sometimes they are so unlovable. Unpleasant. Even hurtful. It's only when we turn our eyes to Jesus, and think about his great love for us (which we don't deserve!) that we begin to be able to truly love our neighbor – whoever they may be.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Stand

Sharing God's Peace with One Another

We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying "Peace be with you" as a sign of our unity and reconciliation in the Holy Spirit. As we are forgiven by God, so we forgive each other. (Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3)

Hymn: Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

(Lutheran Service Book 851)



Invocation

- In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

Prayer of Confession

- **P** We begin our worship by confessing our sins and failures before the Lord.
- A Heavenly Father, open my eyes so that I can see where I have done wrong. Before you I acknowledge and confess that I have sinned, that I have on many occasions failed to obey your command to love. Give me your sweet forgiveness for the sake of Jesus my Savior. Give me a fresh start again today and help me to love others more, just as you love me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, out of his great love, died and rose again for us, and for his sake God forgives us completely. Today I have the privilege to announce to all of you who trust in Jesus, what God declares in his Word: we are forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the +↓ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit (Bible verses at the beginning of worship): Psalm 41:1, 4, 13

- P Blessed is the one who considers the poor!
- **G** In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him.
- P As for me, I said, "Oh Lord, be gracious to me.
- G Heal me, for I have sinned against you!"
- **P** Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
- **G** From everlasting to everlasting! Amen and amen.
- ▲ Glory be to the Father and to the + Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Kyrie (sung responsive prayer)





For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise









Gloria in Excelsis





Prayer for this Day

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **G** And also with you.
- **P** Let us pray.
- C Lord Jesus Christ, in your deep compassion you rescued us and gave us eternal life in spite of our many failures and wrongdoing. Teach us to have that same compassion for others and to share with them your love. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Leviticus 18:1-5, 19:9-18

(God commanded the Israelites to love their neighbor as themselves.)

¹ The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²"Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, I am the Lord your God. ³You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived, and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you. You shall not walk in their statutes. ⁴You shall follow my rules and keep my statutes and walk in them. I am the Lord your God. ⁵You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the Lord....

⁹ When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. ¹⁰And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God.

¹¹"You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. ¹²You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.

¹³"You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning. ¹⁴You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the Lord.

¹⁵"You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord.

¹⁷ You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord."

R This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Colossians 1:1-14

(Like Paul did, we should give thanks for each other and pray for each other because Jesus has rescued us.)

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ²to the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, ⁷just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. ¹¹May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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

Stand



Reading from the Holy Gospel

(Jesus tells us to imitate the Samaritan who had compassion on a Jew in spite of the fact that the Jews and the Samaritans hated each other.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 10th chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁵Behold, a lawyer stood up to put [Jesus] to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" ²⁷And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

²⁹But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" ³⁷He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Song: My God is So Great (Little Ones Sing Praise # 64) My God is so great, so strong and so mighty, There's nothing my God cannot do. My God is so great, so strong and so mighty, There's nothing my God cannot do. The mountains are his, the rivers are his. The stars are his handiwork too. My God is so great, so strong and so mighty,

There's nothing my God cannot do.

Children's Message



Sermon: Love Like a Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

Special Choir Music: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (St. Francis' Prayer)

- 1. Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love. Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, And where there's doubt, true faith in you.
- 2. Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope. Where there is darkness, only light, And where there's sadness, ever joy.
- 3. Oh Master, grant that I may never seek So much to be consoled as to console, To be understood as to understand, To be loved as to love with all my soul.
- 4. Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, In giving of ourselves that we receive, And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Apostles' Creed (Public declaration of our faith)

A I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

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. 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.

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.

Offering

The Bible says, "Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness." (Psalm 96:8-9a, NIV) Our offerings are part of our worship, part of our response to God's love. We give because Jesus gave everything for us. We give to help share Jesus' love with others.

Offering Options

You can contribute offerings using any of the following methods:

In-Person donations: You can place your donation in the offering plate as it is passed during the service.

On-line Banking donations: You can utilize the on-line bill pay option at your financial institution to donate to Ascension Lutheran Church, 6520 Loma de Cristo, El Paso, TX 79912. **Mail donations:** Mail your check to the church office: Ascension Lutheran Church, 6520 Loma de Cristo, El Paso, TX 79912. The mail is checked daily.

Other Electronic donation option: You can make a secure contribution from your credit card or bank account at <u>www.alconnect.faith</u> or by scanning the QR code below. We use Vanco, a reputable agency which specializes in donations to churches and nonprofit organizations. Your contribution can be set up to be recurring, such as each week or month, or as a one-time donation.

Donations via an app: If you prefer using your phone or tablet, you can download the Vanco Mobile app. You can easily set up an account and donate through the app.

The ministries of Ascension are supported by the love, generosity and sacrificial giving of our members and friends. As a guest, please do not feel obligated in any way to make a contribution. We believe that any gift to the Lord should be uncoerced and from the heart — as a loving response to God's grace.



Special Music during the Offering

Stand

Offering Prayer

A Heavenly Father, fill us anew with your Holy Spirit, and help us to live for you. Bless these offerings and use them to bring others to faith and to help those in need. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Prayer of the Church

- Lord, thank you for saving us, for forgiving us, for giving us eternal life and for being with us when we struggle. Help us to love others as you have loved us. Lord, in your mercy,
- G Hear our prayer.
- Lord, fill us with your Holy Spirit so that our faith may be strong and so that we can walk in your ways without faltering. Lord, in your mercy,
- Hear our prayer.

Help us to take advantage of the opportunities you give us to share Jesus' love with others. Lord, in your mercy,

G Hear our prayer.

Thank you for the many material blessings you have given us. Guide us so that we use them for your glory, for the good of our families and for your mission here on this earth. Lord, in your mercy,

G Hear our prayer.

Lord, protect your church throughout the world, that we may be bold in our witness and ready to serve others. Strengthen and defend those who are suffering persecution for their faith. Lord, in your mercy,

G Hear our prayer.

■ Help those who are sick or hurt or recovering from illness. Have mercy on them and heal them according to your will. Lord, in your mercy,

G Hear our prayer.

Comfort those who are grieving. Help those who are struggling. Grant us your peace in the midst of trouble and save us from the problems that seem impossible. Lord, in your mercy,

G Hear our prayer.

▶ Lord, send your Spirit to the hearts and minds of those who are far from you. By your Word of truth, help them to understand and to repent and to come to faith in you. Lord, in your mercy,

• Hear our prayer.

- We thank you, Lord, because we know you hear all of our concerns, even those which are in our hearts which we have not spoken aloud. In Jesus' name.
- G Amen.

Lord's Prayer

A 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.

Closing Prayer

- **P** Let us pray.
- Lord God, thank you for your forgiveness, for your love, for your promises of eternal life. Go with us as we leave this place, and help

us to worship you with our lives and to share your love with everyone that you put in our path. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Benediction

- The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. (1 Corinthians 13:14)
- **C** Amen.



Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Worship Leaders

Pastor:	Rev. Richard Schlak
Organist:	Ruth Ann Ostergren
Elder:	Mike Mielke
Acolyte:	Elizabeth Valdes
Reader:	Kristal Wade
Ushers:	Team 2
Altar Care:	BJ Schwab
Projectionist:	Jacob Canada
Sound/Camera:	Mike Mielke

Prayer Ministry Philippians 4:6-7

Please call the church office @ 915-833-1009 to include a prayer request or update for the bulletin. If you have a prayer request or update for the prayer chain, please e-mail Jan Schlak at <u>oveja6925@aol.com</u>.

Grieving the Loss of Loved Ones:

We pray for all those who may be grieving or mourning the loss of loved ones, especially remember these who loss is most recent:

Samuel Meraz; please pray for peace for the **Meraz family**, as they grieve the recent loss of **Jacob Meraz's** father.

Ken Steelhammer, former Ascension member. Please pray for peace & comfort for the family & friends.

Richard Neal; please pray for peace for his wife, **Martha**, his son, **Rich**, & all of his family and friends.

Illness and Recovery:

Bryan Perdue, had neck surgery (pray for good recovery); Gretchen Schmalz, had her first injection for her bladder cancer (pray for a successful treatment regime over the next six weeks); Mary Iwen Hansen, former Ascension member, (pray for effective treatment for her heart issues); Dorothy Lenz, recently had a thyroid scan (pray for a correct diagnosis & effective treatment); Dave Behl, Steve Behl's brother, declined after heart surgery but has improved some within past weeks, (please continue to pray for his recovery with no further complications); Elizabeth Hinson, Mary Lou Provencio's daughter, discovered a thyroid nodule (please pray for good test results, that it's not malignant, & for effective treatment); Gilbert Provencio, Mary Lou's husband, has not improved since the shunt placement, (pray for the neurologist treating him to be able to increase the cerebrospinal fluid to improve his walking gait & balance); Diana Holguin, out of rehabilitation & now at home, (pray for healing & comfort for her & her husband, Tito); Jennifer Solich, past Ascension administrative assistant, diagnosed with a brain tumor, (please pray for successful treatment & strength to tolerate the medication); Kirstin Hervin, daughter of Mike & Christy Mielke, experiencing a recurrence of lupus affecting her kidneys & will be having injections, (please pray that the treatment is effective with no side effects); Sophia, the former caregiver to Concepcion Arellanes, mother of Lorena Rodriguez, our church custodian (Sophia has terminal cancer, prayers for peace & comfort); Melissa Reddick, friend of Barbara Lewis (thanksgiving that brain cancer is gone & continue to pray for complete recovery); Maritza Leon, Maritza Schlak's mother (for continued recovery from surgery & successful rehabilitation at home); Mark Pfeifer, nephew of Vicki Pfeifer, (for healing & that he be able to leave the hospital); Deb Sullivan & her brother, Anthony (for guidance & strength in handling parents' estate

as they mourn); **Diana and sister Dayna**, students where Maritza Schlak teaches, orphaned & living with their aunt (for protection & comfort in their loss); Maddy, student where Mari teaches (for safety from gang violence); Andy Barber (for pain relief radiating from neck to hands); Gloria Voge (for successful leg therapy & healing from spine fracture); **Aubrey McDermett** (for 15-year-old with MS in hospital due to stroke); Barb Spott (for no further medical issues & for relief from vertigo); Abigail Kailukatis, friend of Jan Schlak's daughter Elizabeth (for effective treatment); David **Kwiatakowski**, friend of Connie Swinney (recovery & treatment for brain cancer); **Brian** Stickney (continuing health issues); Rebekah Livesay (for healing and correct diagnosis); Dick Seiders, Ron Seiders' father (continued cancer recovery); Mary Spott, Barb Spott's niece, Keighley Spott's mother, (heart related issues); Ann Perdue (relief from osteoarthritis); Patty Jones, Martha Neal's sister (stage 4 breast cancer); Robert & Karin Gaudet, (restoring relationships); Sean Sweeney, (brain tumor); Laurie Sterling, (colon cancer); Bruce Walker, (being treated for Parkinson's); Coby Clark and family, (continued cancer recovery); Ryan Walker, (cancer is in remission); Mariella Kraus, (cancer); Bob Gallagher (grateful no cancer was found, but he is still fragile with many health issues); Kathy Kiphart, John Weiske, Linda Seiders.

Praise and Thanksgiving:

Jennifer De La Cruz, Pastor & Maritza Schlak's daughter, (praise to God for the successful delivery of a healthy baby girl, Liliana Rae; thanksgiving for all the prayers, & overjoyed that mother, father, & baby are all doing well); Kalysta Greene, granddaughter of Tito & Diana Holguin, (grateful for her return home & that she is doing well); Dick Seiders, father of Ron Seiders (thanksgiving for continued recovery after hip surgery); Sherri Pfeifer Wilson, niece of Vicki Pfeifer (completed chemotherapy radiation treatment for cancer & is doing well, thanks be to God); Jaques Reulet, the father of Yves Reulet, Pastor Rick & Maritza's son-in-law's father (thanks that he is home & doing well).

Special Prayer Requests:

Jacob Meraz is asking that we would pray for the San Pablo youth group's fundraisers' success. Also, pray for the financial help that will provide for the needs of both Ascension & San Pablo youth groups planning to go to the LCMS Endure Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Please pray for the spiritual well-being and safety of all participants involved.

Ascension News and Notes

Flowers for today's service are provided by the Werner's in celebration of Anita Werner's birthday.



BOTH SETS OF FLOWERS ARE \$60.00. NOTE: CONSIDER SHARING THE COST WITH SOMEONE ELSE. THEN YOU EACH PAY \$30.00 PLEASE PLACE YOUR CHECK IN THE OFFER-ING PLATE OR DROP IT OFF IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.



13 July — Anita Werner



13 July — Joshua & Valerie Fredericksen



The Congregational meeting is TODAY, July 13th, 2025 Immediately after the service in the FELLOWSHIP HALL.

Voting on the PRESCHOOL BUDGET

Hard copies of the following are available in the office and pdf copies are available in the weekly email:

- Congregational Meeting Minutes for May 18th, 2025
- Ascension Lutheran Preschool Budget
- Congregation Agenda for July 13th, 2025 meeting

Attention!! All Ladies of Ascension

Ladies Night Out: July 16th, 2025

All ladies of Ascension are welcome.

Once a month on the 3rd Wednesday @ **6:00 PM** we meet at a restaurant and enjoy food and fellowship. (Dutch treat)



July 16th we will be meeting at:

Red Lobster Restaurant

800 Sunland Park Dr.



Ladies Night Out

For information call Robin Wiegert at (915) 581-5566 I hope you can join us.

LCMS Youth Gathering ENDURE July 19-23, 2025; New Orleans, LA





- Youth Gatherings celebrate the meaning of Christian joy in all of life's situations, including transitions and crisis.
- Youth Gatherings recognize and affirm the diversity of God's people.
- Participants ENDURE faithfully no matter what they encounter
- Participants cling to and share the good new of God's faithfulness in Christ that ENDURES forever

3%	30	5%			20 30		2020
Accession July 2025							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
June 29	June 30	1	2	3	4	5	C. C. Salis
900 am Bible Study 1000 am Fellovship 1030 am Worship	Church Office Closed	No Boy Scouts	1100 am Sit and Sew (FH)		Fourth of July Holiday CLOSED		33235
			9				Tito Holguin 7/02 Anita Werner 7/14
6	7	8		10	п	12	Valerie Fredericksen 7/20
9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship w/Communion	Church Office Closed	5.00pm Board of Elders Dinner Outing No BoyScouts	160 am Scand Sew (Fr)				Jake Walker 7/21 Daren Walker 7/28 Judie Pinal 7/30 Norma Rust 7/31
13	34	15	16	17	18	19	I praise You because I am
9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Feilowship 10:30 am Worship After church: Congregational/Voters Meeting (Hrstchool	Church Office Closed	No Boy Scouts 3:30 Worship Action Team Meeting (FH)	100 am Stand Sew (FH) 600 pm Ladies' Night Out at Hed Looster (500 Sunland Hark LK)	3:00pm- August newsletter due in office.		LCMS National Youth Gathering in New Orleans "Endure" (Mch-25")	fearfully and wonderfully made Psalm (33)Ka
Budged) 20	21	22	23	24	25	26	- Josephine
900 am Bible Study 1000 am Fellowship 1030 am Worship	Church Office Closed	Tioo am Preschool Board Meeting			Ð	40	Joe & Cheryl Canada-Karl 7/10
witemmunion		No Boy'scouts					Joshua & Valerie Fredericksen 7/13 And now these three remain faith, hope and love. But the
27	28	29	30	31	August 1	August 2	greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13
900 am Bible Study 1000 am Fellowship 1030 am Wonship	Church Office Closed 5:00 am Ascension Preschool Staff Returns	No Boy Scouts	100 am Sit and Sew (FH)				(74)-televalue (15)-televalue (15)-televalue

NOW AVAILABLE PICK UP YOUR FREE COPY TODAY IN THE NARTHEX.



Be refreshed daily in God's living



Sunday Morning Snacks Sign Up



Sign-up sheet on the kitchen wall next to counter



Monetary donations are also appreciated!

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink...

Matthew 25: 35

God's blessings as we serve each other!

Update on Roof Leaks

Grateful for rain; but our nursery, narthex, and tech room saw lots of water collection in the last two weeks of June.













Thankful for help from Ron Seiders, Tom Karl, & Jacob Canada for help in building basin to catch water leakage in tech room.

This Week @ Ascension

Sunday (July 13)

9:00 AM	Bible Study
10:00 AM	Fellowship
10:30 AM	Worship
11:45 AM	Congregational/Voters' Meeting (Preschool Budget)

Monday (July 14)

Church Office Closed

Tuesday (July 15)

No Boy Scouts

Wednesday (July 16)

11:00 AM Sit and Sew (FH) 6:00 PM Ladies' Night Out (at Red Lobster: 800 Sunland Park Dr.)

Thursday (July 17)

Friday (July 18)

Saturday (July 19)

LCMS National Youth Gathering in New Orleans "Endure"

