

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

In God's Presence

July 20, 2025 • Proper 11 C • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

As We Gather

What would you do if God himself appeared right in front of you? What would you say? King David thought that being in God's presence would be the best thing in the world. He said, "One thing have I asked of the Lord, this I will seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple." (Psalm 27:4)

We don't really deserve to be in God's presence. Our wrongdoing alienates us from God. But Jesus died for us and he reconciles us with God – and through faith in Jesus we are "holy and blameless and above reproach" in God's presence (Colossians 1:21-22).

As we gather together for worship today, God is with us. Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." (Matthew 18:20) Like Mary, today we sit at Jesus' feet to learn from him (Luke 10:18-42). Like Abraham, today we receive God's blessing (Genesis 18:1-14). Like Paul, the author of the book of Colossians, today we go out ready to sacrifice our own comfort so that others may come to faith in Jesus and come into be in the presence of God as well (Colossians 1:21-28).

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: God Himself is Present

Lutheran Service Book 907



1 God Him - self is pres - ent: Let us now a - dore Him
 2 God Him - self is pres - ent: Hear the harps re - sound - ing;
 3 Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Pu - ri - fy my spir - it,



And with awe ap - pear be - fore Him. God is in His
 See the hosts the throne sur - round - ing. "Ho - ly, ho - ly,
 Trust-ing on - ly in Your mer - it. Like the ho - ly



tem - ple; All with - in keep si - lence; Hum - bly kneel in
 ho - ly!" Hear the hymn as - cend - ing, Songs of saints and
 an - gels, Wor - ship - ing be - fore You, May I cease-less -



deep - est rev - 'rence. He a - lone On His throne
 an - gels blend - ing. Bow Your ear To us here:
 ly a - dore You. Let Your will Ev - er still



Is our God and Sav - ior; Praise His name for - ev - er!
 Hear, O Christ, the prais - es That Your Church now rais - es.
 Rule Your Church ter - res - trial As the hosts ce - les - tial.

Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (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


Hymn: The Lord is My Light and My Salvation (Psalm 27)

LSB 723

Refrain




The Lord is my light and my sal-va - tion, The Lord is the




strong-hold of my life. Since the Lord is my life, my

To Stanzas



strength, and my all, Whom then shall I fear?

Stanza



1 There is one thing I ask of the Lord: To dwell in His

house for - ev - er, To gaze on the beau-ty of the

Lord All the days of my life. *Refrain*

2 Do not hide Your face, O Lord; Ev - 'ry day I will

seek Your face. Though my fa - ther and moth-er may for -

sake me, The Lord will re - ceive me. *Refrain*

3 Teach me, Lord, and keep me on Your paths; Guide me, Lord, a -

long a lev - el way. I will gaze on the good - ness of the

Lord In the land of all the liv - ing. *Refrain*

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Prayer for this Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

C **Lord Jesus Christ, you visited Abraham and came to the home of Mary and Martha. Open our homes and hearts to see that you are with us, to welcome you in faith, and to listen to you and learn from you. We pray this in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 18:1-14

(God himself visits Abraham and blesses him and his wife Sarah.)

The Lord appeared to [Abraham] by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth and said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes." And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." The Lord said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Reading

Colossians 1:21-28

(By faith Christ saves us and brings us into the presence of God.)

You, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Reading from the Holy Gospel

Luke 10:38-42

(Martha is distracted but Mary sits and learns in the presence of Jesus.)

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁸Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. ³⁹And she had a sister called Mary, who

sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, ⁴²but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C 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

Hymn: Seek Ye First

Lutheran Service Book 712

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!
2. Ask and it shall be given unto you. Seek and ye shall find.
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!
3. Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord. Allelu, alleluia!

Sermon: One Thing Needed (Luke 10:38-42)

Nicene Creed (Public declaration of our faith)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

- P** 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,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** 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,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Help us to take advantage of the opportunities you give us to share Jesus' love with others. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** 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,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** 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,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**

- P** 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,
- C Hear our prayer.**
- P** 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,
- C Hear our prayer.**
- P** 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,
- C Hear our prayer.**
- P** 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.
- C Amen.**

Sit

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 www.alconnect.faith 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: When Peace Like a River (LSB 763)
(Solo by Ron Seiders)

1. *When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."
It is well with my soul. It is well, it is well with my soul.*
2. *Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control:
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
It is well with my soul. It is well, it is well with my soul.*
3. *He lives – oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, oh my soul!
It is well with my soul. It is well, it is well with my soul.*
4. *And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll.
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend.
Even so it is well with my soul!
It is well with my soul. It is well, it is well with my soul.*

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.

Offertory



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

Invitation and Preparation for Communion

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, one of the precious gifts that God gives to His people. In Communion, God wants to assure us that we have been forgiven through faith in Jesus who gave his body and blood for us on the cross.

To prepare for Communion, we follow what 1 Corinthians 11:28 says: "*Let each man examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks the cup.*" Therefore, if you wish to participate in Communion today, we ask that you review and affirm the following questions:

1. Do I believe I am a sinner, that is, that I have failed to keep God's commands as I should, and that I need forgiveness?
2. Do I trust in Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior, who died and rose for me?
3. Do I believe as I eat the bread and drink the cup, that I also receive the true body and blood of Jesus that He gave for me on the cross – even though I can't fully explain it?
4. Do I intend, with the help of God, to follow Jesus more closely and obey him more faithfully?

If you answer "yes" to these questions, then you share a common faith with our Christian congregation and you are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. Our common faith is expressed in more detail in the Creed that we confess together during the worship service.

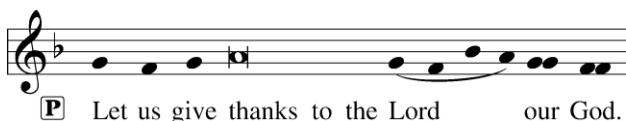
Special Instructions for Communion:

- Children and those who are not communing are welcomed to come forward for a blessing. Children do not commune until they have completed basic instruction classes about the Christian faith.
- If you are unable to go to the altar, please let an usher know and the Pastor will bring the Lord's Supper (Communion) to your pew. Please sit close to any of the three aisles in the church.
- During Communion, gluten-free communion wafers (bread) are available. Just ask the Pastor when he comes to give you the bread.
- During Communion, you may take one of the small communion cups from the tray, or you may wait and drink from the common cup.

- On the tray of small communion cups, those cups in the center of the tray have light-colored, non-alcoholic grape juice. The other cups have wine.

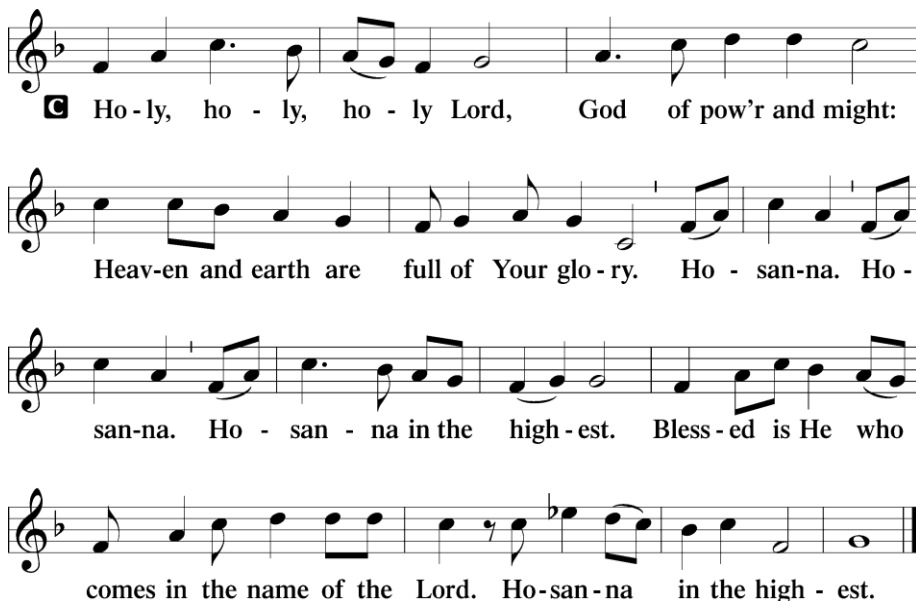
If you have any questions, please see the Pastor or one of the elders.

Service of the Sacrament: Preparation for Communion



- P** Lord God, it is indeed good and right that we give you thanks and praise, today and every day, here and in every place! For you are the only true God and Lord, and in your love you have saved us. For this reason we lift up our voices to you today, together with all Christians in heaven and on the earth, to praise your name and sing to you!

Sanctus (Song of Praise)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

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.

The Words of Our Lord

- 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)

LSB 163



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God, John 1:29)

LSB 163



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

Hymns during Communion

Special Music: Come to My Table (Bryan Perdue)


1. Come to my table; come, eat my bread.
Manna from heaven, my life in your stead.
Come to my table. This flesh is my own.
Eat of my body. Your sins I atone.

Refrain: The feast, it has ended. In peace let us pray.
Know I am with you, all of your days.


2. Come to my table; come, drink my wine.
Gift given freely, to last through all time.
Come to my table. My blood, shed for you,
Life from this body, was given for you. (Refrain)
3. Come to my table. Your love, it is known.
The Father in heaven, he calls you his own.
The Father in heaven, he calls you his own.

I Come, Oh Savior, to Thy Table


Lutheran Service Book 618



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and
2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners
3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I
4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my
5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in
have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt
soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -
bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.
ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:
ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.

Refrain



Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

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As the Deer

Make a Joyful Sound (white booklet) 31

1. As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after You.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship You.

Refrain: You alone are my strength, my shield. To you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship You.

2. You're my friend and You are my brother, even though you are a King.
I love You more than any other, so much more than anything. (Refrain)
3. I want You more than gold or silver. Only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy giver and the apple of my eye. (Refrain)

Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

Lutheran Service Book 637



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,
2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;
To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;
And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.



Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,
With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,
O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow



Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.
Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Text and tune: Public domain

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

Lutheran Service Book 851



1 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your
2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Glad - ly,
3 Won - drous hon - or You have giv - en To our
4 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your



life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the
free - ly of Your own. With the sun - shine of Your
hum - blest char - i - ty In Your own mys - te - rious
life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the



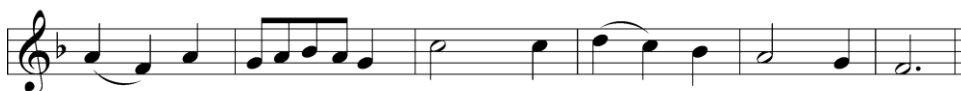
lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;
good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone
sen - tence, "You have done it all to Me."
lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.



And with that have free - ly giv - en Bless - ings
Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by
Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, That You
Give us faith to trust You bold - ly, Hope, to



count - less as the sand To the un - thank - ful
You, at length be - lieve That more hap - py
deign for alms to sue, Say - ing by Your
stay our souls on You; But, oh, best of



and the e - vil With Your own un - spar - ing hand.
and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.
poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?
all Your grac - es, With Your love our love re - new.

Text and tune: Public domain

Come Unto Me, Ye Weary

Lutheran Service Book 684



- 1 "Come un - to Me, ye wea - ry, And I will give you rest."
- 2 "Come un - to Me, ye wan - d'ers, And I will give you light."
- 3 "Come un - to Me, ye faint - ing, And I will give you life."
- 4 "And who-so - ev - er com - eth, I will not cast him out."



O bless - ed voice of Je - sus, Which comes to hearts op-pressed!
O lov - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to cheer the night!
O cheer-ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to aid our strife!
O pa - tient love of Je - sus, Which drives a - way our doubt,



It tells of ben - e - dic - tion, Of par-don, grace, and peace,
Our hearts were filled with sad - ness, And we had lost our way;
The foe is stern and ea - ger, The fight is fierce and long;
Which, though we be un - wor - thy Of love so great and free,



Of joy that hath no end - ing, Of love that can - not cease.
But Thou hast brought us glad - ness And songs at break of day.
But Thou hast made us might - y And strong - er than the strong.
In - vites us ver - y sin - ners To come, dear Lord, to Thee!

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

After Communion:

Thank the Lord (Song at the close of communion)

Lutheran Service Book 164



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



Text and tune: Public domain

Closing Prayer

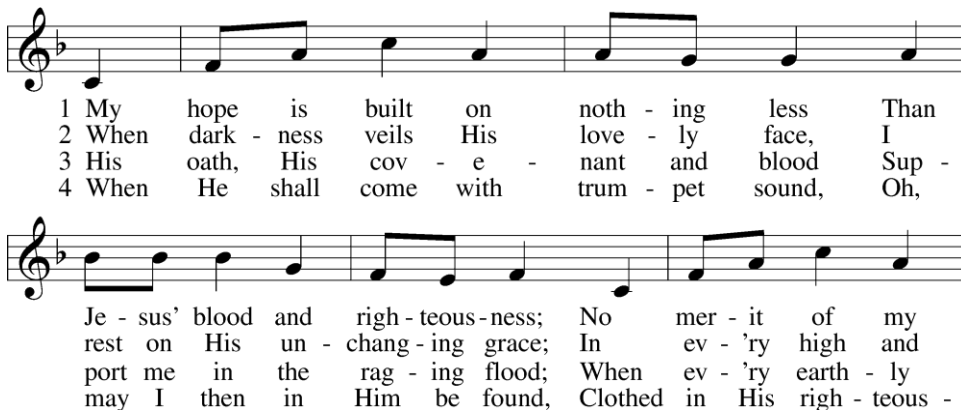
- P** Let us pray.
- C** **Lord God, thank you for your forgiveness, for your love, for your promises of eternal life. Go with us as we leave this place, and help us to worship you with our lives and to share your love with everyone that you put in our path. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Benediction

- P** 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.**

Closing Hymn: My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

Lutheran Service Book 576



own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.
prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

Refrain

On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; All oth - er ground is
sink - ing sand, All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Worship Leaders

Pastor:	Rev. Richard Schlak
Organist:	Ruth Ann Ostergren
Elders:	Ron Seiders/ Dave Tuchenhagen
Acolyte:	Jake Walker
Reader:	Barbara Lewis
Ushers:	Team 1
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 oveja6925@aol.com.

Grieving the Loss of Loved Ones:

We pray for peace, comfort, and hope for all those who are grieving from the loss of loved ones, especially these whose loss is most recent:

For the **Meraz family** as they grieve the loss of **Samuel Meraz**, Jacob Meraz's father.

For the family and friends of **Ken Steelhammer**, former Ascension member.

For the family and friends of **Richard Neal**, especially his wife **Martha** and son **Rich**.

Special Prayer Requests:

Please pray for the people affected by the **flooding in Ruidoso and in central Texas**. Pray for peace and hope in Christ for those who are coping with the loss of loved ones, especially for the **Trotter family** from Ft. Bliss who lost their four-year-old daughter, **Charlotte**, and their seven-year-old son, **Sebastian**, in the Ruidoso flooding; and for the families of the **Camp Mystic counselors and children**. Continue to pray for strength for all the **hard-working volunteers** helping to search for missing persons.

Please pray for the LCMS Endure Youth Gathering:

Please pray for Ascension's members, **Phyllis Meraz** & her father **Jacob Meraz**; and for **San Pablo's youth and mentors** who are attending the **LCMS Endure Youth Gathering** in New Orleans July 19-23. Please pray for the spiritual well-being & safety of all participants.

Illness and Recovery:

Pray for healing for **Elizabeth Hinson**, Mary Lou Provencio's daughter, who was rushed to the hospital this past week after having a seizure; she is experiencing bad side effects from new medications and not eating or drinking fluids; pray for strength for **Rachel**, Elizabeth Hinson's daughter, who is struggling with her car breaking down in addition to the stress of her mother's health; pray for peace and strength for **Mary Lou Provencio**, understandably upset for both her daughter and granddaughter; **Gilbert Provencio**, Mary Lou's husband, who 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); **Gretchen Schmalz**, receiving weekly injections for her bladder cancer (pray for a successful treatment regime over the next 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, physical health declined after heart surgery but has improved some within past weeks, (please continue to pray for his recovery with no further complications); **Diana Holguin**, out of rehabilitation & now at home, (pray for continued healing); **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 & is receiving 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 successful rehabilitation after knee surgery); **Mark Pfeifer**, nephew of Vicki Pfeifer, (thanks for improvement, prayer for continued healing); **Andy Barber** (for pain relief radiating from neck to hands); **Gloria Voge** (for successful leg therapy & healing from spine fracture); **Aubrey McDermott**, a 15-year-old with MS, in hospital due to stroke (for healing); **Barb Spott** (for no further medical issues & for relief from vertigo); **Abigail Kailukatis**, friend of Jan Schlak's daughter Elizabeth (for effective treatment); **David Kwiatkowski**, friend of Connie Swinney (for recovery & treatment for brain cancer); **Brian Stickney** (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** (continuing health issues); **Kathy Kiphart**, **John Weiske**, **Linda Seiders** (continuing health issues).

Praise and Thanksgiving:

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 improvement in recovery after hip surgery); **Sherri Pfeifer Wilson**, niece of Vicki Pfeifer (completed chemotherapy radiation treatment for cancer & is doing well, thanks be to God).

Ascension News & Notes



20 July — Valerie Fredericksen

21 July — Jake Walker

Please keep our youth that are currently in New Orleans this week in your prayers.

LCMS Youth Gathering

ENDURE

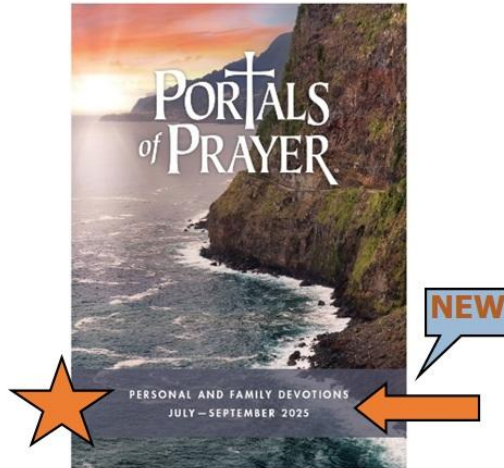
July 19-23, 2025; New Orleans, LA



- 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 news of God's faithfulness in Christ that **ENDURES** forever

NOW AVAILABLE

PICK UP YOUR FREE COPY TODAY IN THE NARTHEX.



Be refreshed daily in God's living

Be sure to pick up your calendar in the narthex.

July 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Ascension 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship	2 Church Office Closed	3 No Day Scouts	4 9:00 am St and Sea (F18)	5 Fourth of July Holiday CLOSED	6 Fourth of July Holiday CLOSED	7 The Holy Spirit 7:02 Archie Vener 7:14 Valerie Fredericksen 7:20 Janae Walker 7:27 Danae Walker 7:33 Julia Ford 7:40 Norma Rust 7:51
8 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:00 am Prayer	9 Church Office Closed	10 8:00 pm Board of Elders General Meeting	11 9:00 am St and Sea (F18)	12 9:00 am St and Sea (F18)	13 9:00 am St and Sea (F18)	14 L'Chai National Youth Conference in New Orleans 7:00 am - 7:30 pm
15 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:00 am Prayer 11:30 am Church Office Meeting	16 Church Office Closed	17 No Day Scouts	18 9:00 am St and Sea (F18)	19 9:00 am St and Sea (F18)	20 9:00 am St and Sea (F18)	21 L'Chai National Youth Conference in New Orleans 7:00 am - 7:30 pm
22 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:00 am Prayer	23 Church Office Closed	24 No Day Scouts	25 9:00 am St and Sea (F18)	26 9:00 am St and Sea (F18)	27 9:00 am St and Sea (F18)	28 L'Chai National Youth Conference in New Orleans 7:00 am - 7:30 pm
29 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:00 am Prayer	30 Church Office Closed	31 No Day Scouts	1 9:00 am St and Sea (F18)	2 9:00 am St and Sea (F18)	3 9:00 am St and Sea (F18)	4 L'Chai National Youth Conference in New Orleans 7:00 am - 7:30 pm



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Newsletter of Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas • July 2025

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6520 Loma de Cristo Drive
El Paso, TX 79912-7301
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Fax: (915) 581-3216
Preschool: (915) 691-4472

"Sharing God's Love By Connecting People To Christ"

Pastor's Desk

Children in Church

[Jesus said,] "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Mark 10:14, NIV)

This past week several people have said to me, "It's so good to see more kids in church!" It is good! Not just because we like kids but because for God they are important. In the Old Testament God commanded the Israelites to teach their children about him. "These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." (Deuteronomy 6:6-7, ESV) The Bible tells us that "Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him." (Psalm 127:3, NIV)

Of course, it's easy to welcome kids to church when they behave, when they look at you with a smile and say nice things or come and give you a hug from the heart. But they don't always behave nicely! I'm writing this at the District convention in Denver. This morning a lady on the hotel staff told me that she is a Lutheran and in fact was an organist for many years. She said that when her two sons were little, she would play the organ and they would sit behind her while a friend watched them. One Sunday she finished the worship service and turned around, only to find that her sons and her friend were not there. She found them in the hall outside. Her friend told her, "They were hitting each other with the hymnals!"

Kids are not born knowing how to behave in church. Sometimes they cry or they interrupt things. Sometimes they draw on the visitors' cards! Sometimes they sharpen a pencil and leave shavings on the carpet. What do we do when kids misbehave in church? Yell at them? Exclude them from church until they're older? In Venezuela I knew a Presbyterian pastor who left his congregation because he wanted to reach out with programs for children and youth but the elders kept shutting him down. They complained that the church was not as neat and clean when the kids were there.

But God loves kids. He wants kids in church – even kids that sometimes have snotty noses and dirty diapers. Even kids that sometimes get distracted. Remember that God loves us adults also, with all of our flaws. God forgives us because of Jesus and he helps us do a bit better. Children also are not perfect – but they are forgiven and loved by Jesus.

And kids also learn. Come to our preschool chapel service at the beginning of the school

Connections • 1

Pick up your **July** newsletter in the narthex.
OR
You can also receive your newsletter by
email.

If you do prefer email delivery, either call (915-833-1009) or email
(alc6520@swbell.net) the office to subscribe our newsletter to your email.

This Week @ Ascension



HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Sunday (July 20)

9:00 AM Bible Study
10:00 AM Fellowship
10:30 AM Worship w/ Communion

Monday (July 21)

Church Office Closed

Tuesday (July 22)

No Boy Scouts

Wednesday (July 23)

11:00 AM Sit and Sew (FH)

Thursday (July 24)

9:30 AM Preschool Board Meeting

Friday (July 25)

Saturday (July 26)