

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

God or Money?

August 3, 2025 • Proper 13 C • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

As We Gather

"If I only had enough money, then things would be great." It's so easy to think that way. After all, money (and material things) is a blessing from God. And money seems to solve any number of problems. With enough money, you can travel first class instead of being cramped in the economy seats. With enough money, you can enjoy the finest cuisine and stay at the best resorts. With enough money, you can buy whatever your heart desires. Many of us spend our adult lives accumulating "stuff". We seem to have bought into the popular saying "He who dies with the most toys wins."

But in reality, "He who dies with the most toys" still dies. And then what? Jesus told people about a fool who struck it rich but was unprepared to die (Luke 12:13-21). Ecclesiastes (chapters 1 and 2) declares that running after material things and physical wealth is meaningless and useless. Riches don't satisfy (you always want more) and they don't last.

So what can we do? Colossians 3:1-11 tells us to set our minds on things above, not earthly things. Put Jesus first! Rely on Jesus for forgiveness and live for him. Then money and material things will not be our gods but our servants. With Jesus' help we will be able to use them as blessings from God rather than being slaves to them.

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)

1. To God be the glory – great things he hath done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
And opened the lifegate that all may go in.

Refrain: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!
Oh, come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory – great things he hath done!

2. Oh perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God. The vilest offender who truly believes
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives. (Refrain)
3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son.
But purer and higher and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (Refrain)

Invocation (Lutheran Service Book 167)

- 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** Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us draw near to God now, with a humble heart. Let us leave behind all our excuses and acknowledge before God that we have often failed to live like Jesus; and ask him to forgive us and help us to do better.
- A** **Oh Lord our God, you created us in love; you keep us and help us in love; and you want us to live in love. However, all too often we have failed in our love toward you and toward others. We have very little faith and often break your commandments. These things are symptoms of the sin in us. Forgive us, Lord, and change our lives by your Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

- P** God is good, and always ready to forgive us. Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose again to give us new life. To you who trust in Jesus as your Savior, I assure you that your wrongdoing is forgiven, because God himself says this in his Word. In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Psalm 100

- P** Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
- C** **Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!**
- P** Know that the Lord, he is God!
- C** **It is he who has made us, and we are his.**
- P** We are the his people,
- C** **And the sheep of his pasture.**
- P** Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!
- C** **Give thanks to him; bless his name!**
- P** For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,
- C** **And his faithfulness to all generations.**
- A** **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.**

Prayer for this Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.
- C** **Lord God, thank you for the many material blessings you give us. However, you are much more important than any earthly things. Help us not to make money and possessions our gods, but rather to always put you first. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Ecclesiastes 1:2 and 12-14; 2:18-26

(It is useless to crave material things.)

Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. . . .

¹²I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹⁴I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind. . . .

¹⁸I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, ¹⁹and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²²What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? ²³For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

²⁴There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, ²⁵for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? ²⁶For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Colossians 3:1-11

(Set your minds on things above, not earthly things.)

¹If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷In these you too once walked, when you were living

in them. ⁸But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

Lutheran Service Book 173



The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a C-clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains a whole rest followed by a half note G, a half note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note A, a quarter note G, a quarter note F#, and a quarter note E. Below the staff is a C-clef time signature and the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?". The second staff begins with a C-clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains a half note G, a half note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note A, a quarter note G, a quarter note F#, a quarter note E, a quarter note D, a half note C, and a whole note B. Below the staff are the lyrics "You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia."

Reading from the Holy Gospel

Luke 12:13-21

*(Leave behind your anxiety for things that pass away;
don't be like the fool, rich in money but poor before God.)*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 12th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus], "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." ¹⁴But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

¹⁶And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' ¹⁸And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

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: Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings


Lutheran Service Book 782



1 Gra - cious God, You send great bless - ings
2 By Your Word You formed cre - a - tion
3 In His earth - ly life, our Sav - ior
△ 4 Heav'n - ly Fa - ther, may our car - ing



New each morn - ing all our days. For Your mer - cies
Filled with crea - tures large and small; As we tend that
Knew the care of faith - ful friends; May our deeds of
Bear the im - print of Your grace; With the Son and



nev - er end - ing, For Your love we of - fer praise.
end - less trea - sure May our care en - cir - cle all.
ded - i - ca - tion Of - fer love that nev - er ends.
Ho - ly Spir - it, Praise be Yours in ev - 'ry place!

Refrain



Lord, we pray that we, Your peo - ple Who Your gifts un - num - bered claim,



Through the shar - ing of Your bless - ings May bring glo - ry to Your name.

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Sermon: Stuck on Material Things (Luke 12:16-21)

Stand

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

Baptism

Scripture Reading

- P** Jesus Christ says in the last chapter of Matthew: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." In the last chapter of Mark, Jesus promises: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved."
- P** Henri, receive the sign of the cross upon your forehead and upon your heart, to mark you as one rescued by Christ the crucified.

Prayer

- A** **Almighty God, we bring Henri before you. We pray that you give him your Holy Spirit, so that he will have faith in Jesus as his Savior all the days of his life. Wash him from all evil, forgive him and help him to live as a new person. Let him know that he is your child. Give him your love every day and in the end, bring him to eternal life with you. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Words to the Parents and Godparents

- P** A little child is not able to take care of himself, but depends on his parents for everything. Henri depends on you, not only for his physical food and care, but also with regard to his faith. It is good that you have brought him to be baptized! But afterwards you must raise him up in the Christian faith. Jesus said to make disciples by baptizing and also teaching. God is calling you to pray for Henri, to teach him about Jesus, to show him how to follow Jesus, how to pray, how to understand the Bible. God wants you to encourage Henri and bring him to join with other Christians in worship. Will you commit to doing this? If so, say, "I will, with the help of God."

Parents and Godparents: I will, with the help of God.

- P** God enable you to do this faithful and loving work and with his grace fulfill what we are unable to do.

Parents and Godparents: Amen.

- P** Hear the Gospel according to Mark: "They brought young children to [Jesus] that he might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was greatly displeased and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.' And he took them

up in his arms, put his hands on them, and blessed them.” This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Baptism Questions

P We believe that God can work faith in the hearts of little children just as much, if not more, than in older people. Nevertheless, very little children cannot yet express what is in their hearts. Therefore I ask you parents and godparents to answer for Henri just as you speak for him and protect him in many other ways.

Do you renounce all the devil’s works and ways?

Parents and Godparents: Yes, Henri and we renounce them.

P Do you believe in God? I invite the whole congregation to join in this response, in the words of the Apostle’s Creed:

C 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. On 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. And 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.

P This is the Christian faith. Do you wish to baptize Henri in this faith?

Parents and Godparents: Yes.

Baptism

P Henri Robert Reulet, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blessing

Parents and Godparents: *(placing hands on child)* **May God bless you and keep you strong in faith. Amen.**

Congregation: *(extending hands towards the newly baptized)* **May Almighty God, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you, strengthen you in faith until Jesus comes again. Amen.**

Baptismal Candle

- P** (*lighting the baptismal candle and giving it to the parents or the godparents*)
Receive this burning light to show that you belong now to Christ, the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ. Amen.

You may extinguish the candle now, to take it home. May I suggest that you keep the candle in a special place and take it out and light it on special occasions such as Henri' birthday, or on the anniversary of his baptism. Light it with him and remind him that God loves him, that he is baptized, that he belongs to the Lord, and that Jesus wants him to live in the light, in faith and love. Amen.

Presentation

- P** I present to you Henri Reulet, new-born in the Lord, our brother in Jesus' name!
- C** **Amen. We welcome you in the name of the Lord. May God bless you always!**
- P** Peace be with you all.
- C** **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 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: Baptism and Affirmation (Bryan Perdue)

1. *When you called me by name, my life filled with joy,
And when I answered, I knew your love.
When you reached out your hand and gave the sign of your life,
In this water I was reborn.*
2. *And I know you, my Father, my brother the Son,
As the Spirit, you entered my heart.
Through this water I live, through this living I die,
And through your grace, I am reborn.*
3. *You have called me to the water of life. Here am I!
You renewed me and cleansed me of sin.
Now the key to the kingdom, it lives in my heart.
I'm an heir to your grace and your truth.*
4. *Now I ask you, my family, who stand with me now
To embrace me and lead me in truth.
For my Father who called me into his light
Gave me the key to his door.*

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 (Song of Dedication)

Lord, you are more precious than silver.
Lord, you are more costly than gold.
Lord, you are more beautiful than diamonds.
Nothing I desire compares with you.

✠ 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:

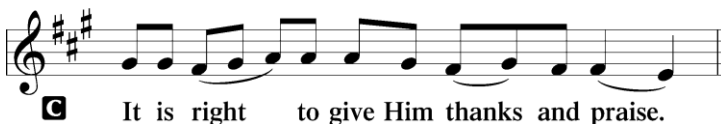
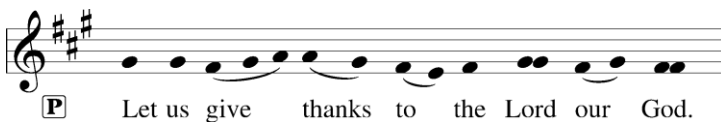
- Children and those who are not communing are welcomed to come forward for a blessing. Children do not commune until they have completed basic instruction classes about the Christian faith.
- If you are unable to go to the altar, please let an usher know and the Pastor will bring the Lord's Supper (Communion) 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

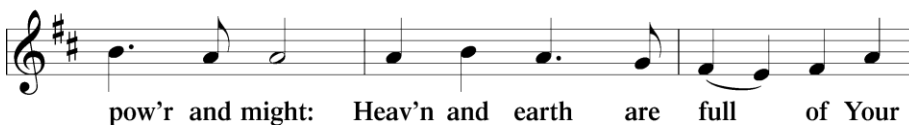
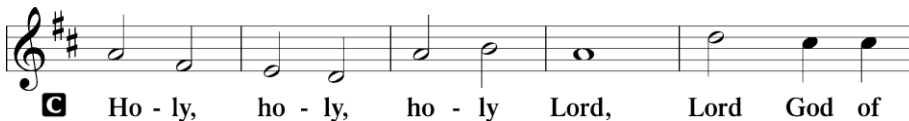
LSB 177





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 – Lutheran Service Book 178)



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.

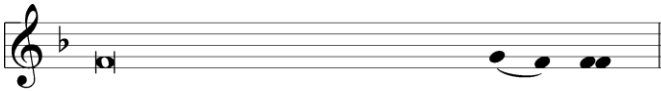
The Words of Our Lord

- 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 180



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



- C** A - men.

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

LSB 180



- 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



Hymns during Communion

Special Choir Music: All Good Things (Douglas E. Wagner)

1. *Lord, all good things come from above:
All truth, all strength, all joy and love.
My comfort and my guiding sun,
Blest be my God while ages run.*
2. *When my soul cries for help, oh Lord,
Why do you seem so far away?
When things just seem to turn out right,
Why share I not my joy with you?
Lord, all good things come from above:
All truth, all strength, all joy and love.
My comfort and my guiding sun,
Blest be my God while ages run.*
3. *When I am weak, no strength I find.
When I feel strong, I need you not.
When I am sad and troubled, Lord,
Where is that joy yet promised us?
Lord, all good things come from above:
All truth, all strength, all joy and love.
My comfort and my guiding sun,
Blest be my God while ages run.*

We Give Thee But Thine Own

Lutheran Service Book 781



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



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

5. The captive to release,
To God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace,
It is a Christ-like thing.
6. And we believe Thy Word,
Though dim our faith may be:
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,
We do it unto Thee.

Text and tune: Public domain

We Praise You, Oh God

Lutheran Service Book 785



1 We praise You, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship You, God of our fa - thers, we bless You;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



In grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
Through tri - al and tem - pest our guide You have been.
And glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore You, we kneel and a - dore You;
When per - ils o'er - take us, You will not for - sake us,
With You, Lord, be - side us, Your strong arm will guide us.



We bless Your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
And with Your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
To You, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Text and tune: Public domain

All Depends On Our Possessing

Lutheran Service Book 732



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's a - bun - dant
 2 He who to this day has fed me And to man - y
 3 Man - y spend their lives in fret - ting O - ver tri - fles
 4 When with sor - row I am strick - en, Hope a - new my



grace and bless - ing, Though all earth - ly wealth de - part.
 joys has led me Is and ev - er shall be mine.
 and in get - ting Things that have no sol - id ground.
 heart will quick - en; All my long - ing shall be stilled.



They who trust with faith un - shak - en By their God are
 He who ev - er gent - ly schools me, He who dai - ly
 I shall strive to win a trea - sure That will bring me
 To His lov - ing - kind - ness ten - der Soul and bod - y



not for - sak - en And will keep a daunt - less heart.
 guides and rules me Will re - main my help di - vine.
 last - ing plea - sure And that now is sel - dom found.
 I sur - ren - der, For on God a - lone I build.

5. Well He knows what best to grant me; All the longing hopes that haunt me,
 Joy and sorrow, have their day.
 I shall doubt His wisdom never; As God wills, so be it ever;
 I commit to Him my way.
- 6 If my days on earth He lengthen, God my weary soul will strengthen;
 All my trust in Him I place.
 Earthly wealth is not abiding, Like a stream away is gliding;
 Safe I anchor in His grace.

Text and tune: Public domain



1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the
 2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or
 3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not



dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my
 doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though
 hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor



fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.
 shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.
 sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

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 Tune: Public domain

After Communion:

Thank the Lord (Song at the close of communion)



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



He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -



joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re - calls His prom - is -



es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -



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: Take My Life and Let It Be

Lutheran Service Book 783



- 1 Take my life and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee;
 2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse of Thy love;
 3 Take my voice and let me sing Al-ways, on - ly for my King;
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with - hold;



Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them flow in cease - less praise.
 Take my feet and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
 Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.
 Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

5. Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine;
 Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.
6. Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store;
 Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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Worship Leaders

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Pastor: | Rev. Richard Schlak |
| Organist: | Ruth Ann Ostergren |
| Elders: | Mike Mielke/Andy Barber |
| Acolyte: | Aden Morales |
| Reader: | Barbara Lewis |
| Ushers: | Team 1 |
| Altar Care | Wiegert |
| 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 & friends of **Richard Neal**, especially his wife **Martha** & son, **Rich**, both suffering from emotional and physical distress. Please pray that God will comfort them during this time of grief, & that they will be strengthened through their faith in Jesus.

Special Prayer Requests:

Please pray for the people affected by the **flooding in Ruidoso & in central Texas**. Pray for peace & hope in Christ for **those who are coping with the loss** of loved ones & property.

Illness and Recovery:

Cindy & Don Ensworth, friends of former Ascension members **Cathy & Randy Engel**; Cindy has been battling lung cancer for five years, and is now close to being called home by God (pray for a peaceful release for Cindy, and for peace and comfort for Don and the Engels); **Ann Perdue**, Bryan Perdue's wife, who continues to be hospitalized in the ICU for low oxygen levels due to pneumonia, (pray for improvement & healing); **Martha Neal**, at home now, recovering from surgery on her leg to improve blood circulation, but more surgery will be required before the doctors can begin on the other leg (pray for pain relief & that she will benefit from the surgery to improve her quality of life, healing quickly without complications); **Ruth Ann Ostergren**, recovering after being hospitalized last week for a UTI (pray for continued improvement and strength); **Dorothy Lenz**, had more testing this past week (pray for a correct diagnosis & effective treatment); for **Elizabeth Hinson**, Mary Lou Provencio's daughter, who has made some improvement after being hospitalized because of a seizure, but is still not tolerating the seizure medication that will be a lifelong necessity (thankful for the church's prayers this past week, & asks for continued prayers to improve, & for an appointment with a neurologist); pray for strength for **Rachel**, Elizabeth's daughter, who is struggling with personal challenges in addition to the stress of her mother's health; pray for peace & strength for **Mary Lou Provencio**, understandably upset for both her daughter & 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); **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); **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, (thankful 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 McDermett**, 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 & correct diagnosis); **Dick Seiders**, Ron Seiders' father (continued cancer recovery); **Mary Spott**, Barb Spott's niece, Keighley Spott's mother, (heart related issues); **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**, **Kathy Kiphart**, **John Weiske**, **Linda Seiders** (pray for continuing health issues).

Praise and Thanksgiving:

Grateful for the safe return of the adults & youths back from the recent **LCMS Endure National Youth Gathering participants** in New Orleans. Ascension's members, **Phyllis Meraz** & her father **Jacob Meraz**; & **San Pablo's youth (Mia Barrientos, Samantha Enriquez, Jezelle Foster, Danny Madriz, Jr.) & their mentors** who attended the gathering in New Orleans. Also, thankful for the other people from El Paso who helped with the event (**Luz Soto, & members of the Mariachi San Pablo**).

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 and Notes

**Flowers for today's service are provided by
B.J. Mason in celebration of
Elliott and Anita Werner's 50th Anniversary.**



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.**

(Apologies, because the following notations are this past week's birthdays and anniversary that were mistakenly left out of last Sunday's bulletin. There are no celebrations to list for the upcoming week.)



01 August — Luca Primo Martinez

**02 August — Darlene Willadsen
& Romy Willadsen**



**02 August — Elliott & Anita Werner
50th Anniversary**

Be sure to pick up your calendar in the narthex.

|  August 2025 | | | | | | |  |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|----------|--|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | |
| July 27 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship | July 28 Church Office Closed 9:00 am Ascension Preschool Staff Returns | July 29 No Boy Scouts | July 30 10:00 am St and Sew (PH) | July 31 | 1 9:00-11:00 am Ascension Preschool Open House | 2 |  |
| 3 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship w/Communion | 4 Church Office Closed 8:30 am Ascension Preschool Begins | 5 3:30 pm Worship Action Team Meeting (PH) 6:30 pm Boy Scouts | 6 10:00 am St and Sew (PH) | 7 | 8 | 9 | |
| 10 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Preschool & Sunday School Teacher Installation | 11 Church Office Closed | 12 5:00 pm Board of Elders (PH) 6:30 pm Boy Scouts | 13 10:00 am St and Sew (PH) | 14 10:00 am Preschool Board Meeting 3:00 pm-September newsletter due in office. | 15 | 16 |  |
| 17 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship w/Communion | 18 Church Office Closed | 19 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting (L) | 20 9:00 am Preschool Chapel Begins 10:00 am St and Sew (PH) 6:00 pm Ladies Night Out in The Greenery Restaurant | 21 | 22 | 23 | |
| 24/1 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship | 25 Church Office Closed | 26 6:30 pm Boy Scouts (PH) | 27 1:00 am St and Sew (PH) No School for Ascension Preschool (Professional Development) | 28 | 29 | 30 |  |
| | | | | | | | |

|  Connections Newsletter of Ascension Lutheran Church • St. Paul, MN • July 2025 | |
|--|--|
| Table of Contents Page 3-2 Pastor's Desk Page 3-5 Preschool News Page 3-7 Sunday School News Page 3-9 Ascension Events Confirmation Family Page 10-12 Ascension Bible Service Pastors & Volunteer List Page 13 Love Treasurer's Report & Congregational Values Meeting (Director's Report) Page 14 Ladies on Board Leads Page 15 Ladies' Night Out Page 16 LUMS Youth Gathering Page 17 Prayers of Prayer Page 18-19 Sunday Snack Sign-Up After Flower Sign-Up Page 20 Forward McDonald House Values Youth Shop Page 21 Anniversary & Anniversaries Page 22-23 July Calendar Events Serving Calendar | "Sharing God's Love By Connecting People To Christ" Pastor's Desk Children in Church <i>(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)</i> 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 the 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 nice 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 the mother 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 hiding each other with the humbals!" Kids are not born knowing how to behave in church. Sometimes they cry or they mess up things. Sometimes they show up on the outside. Sometimes they change a pencil and leave shavings on the carpet. What do we do when kids misbehave in church? Tell at them? Exclude them from church until they're older? In churches I once a Presbyterian pastor who left his congregation because he wanted to reach out with programs for children and youth and his action kept shutting him down. They complained that the church was not at heart and close when the kids were there. But God loves kids. He wants kids in church - even kids that sometimes have sticky noses and dirty diapers. Even kids that sometimes get distracted. Remember that God loves us exactly who we are, with all our flaws. God forgives us because of Jesus and he helps us do a little better. Children 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 month |

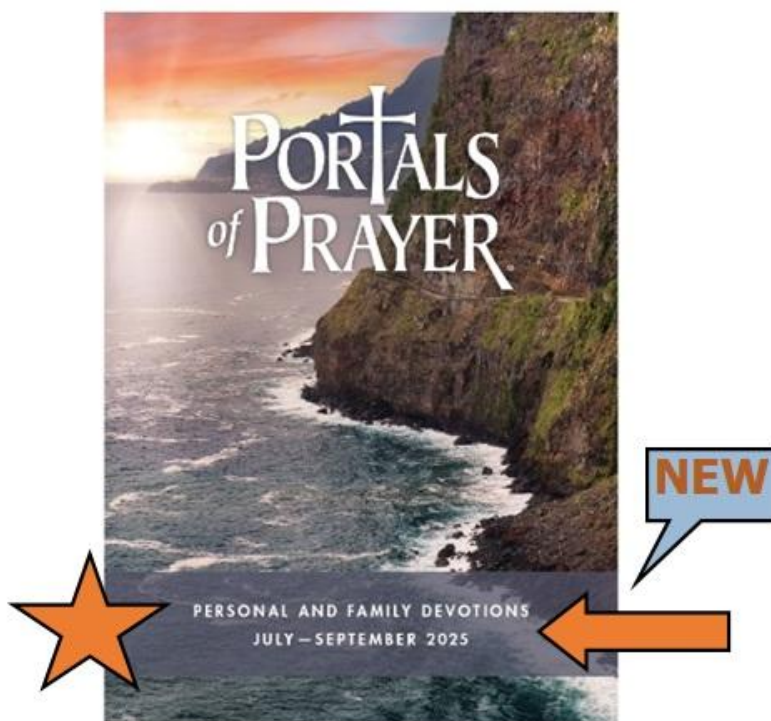
Pick up your **July** newsletter in the narthex.

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 the newsletter to your email.

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



Be refreshed daily in God's living

Attention!! All Ladies of Ascension

Ladies Night Out: August 20th, 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)



August 20th we will be meeting at:

The Greenery Restaurant

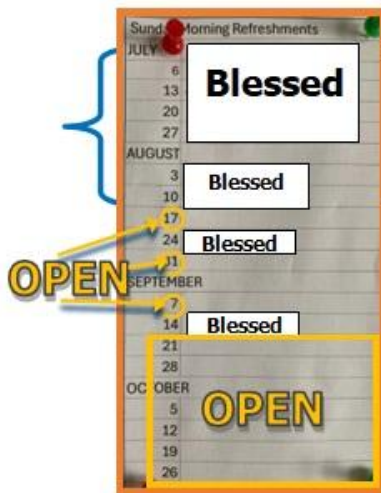


Ladies Night Out

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



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!

This Week @ Ascension



HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Sunday (August 3)

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

Monday (August 4)

Church Office Closed
8:30 AM Ascension Preschool Begins

Tuesday (August 5)

3:30 PM Worship Action Team Meeting (FH)
6:30 PM Boy Scouts (L)

Wednesday (August 6)

11:00 AM Sit and Sew (FH)

Thursday (August 7)

Friday (August 8)

Saturday (August 9)

