

# Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

## Stand Firm in the Truth

August 17, 2025 • Proper 15 C • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

---

### As We Gather

Have you ever run a marathon or half marathon? It takes perseverance. When you hit the “wall,” when your whole body just feels like quitting and resting, you keep your eyes on the goal and push through – and you get your second wind and reach the end.



Hebrews 12:1-3



Life as a Christian is like that. Through good times and bad times, when we see wonderful miracles or when we have to face terrible tragedies, we fix our eyes on Jesus and he gives us strength to go on and to reach the end (Hebrews 12:1-3). Remember, so many people have gone before us and are cheering us on (Hebrews 11)!

Unfortunately, there are many distractions and obstacles in our way as we follow Jesus. There are “false prophets” who tell lies in God’s name (Jeremiah 23:16-29). Some of them are very popular. Sometimes members of our own family do not share our faith or may even make fun of us for our faith. Carmen, a deaconess in Venezuela, faced that. Her son and daughter constantly complained about her church commitments. Jesus said that all too often families would be divided because of him (Luke 12:49-53). Some would believe and others would not.

Today God is calling us to remain firm and run the race with perseverance in spite of the obstacles. Are we following Jesus or following the crowd? Are we firm in the truth or easily swayed by lies? Are we running or quitting? We need Jesus’ help to stand firm and to run with our eyes on him.

### 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: Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

Lutheran Service Book 660



1 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, Ye sol - diers of the cross.  
2 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The trum - pet call o - bey;  
3 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; Stand in His strength a - lone.  
4 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The strife will not be long;



Lift high His roy - al ban - ner; It must not suf - fer loss.  
Stand forth in might - y con - flict In this His glo - rious day.  
The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own.  
This day the din of bat - tle, The next the vic - tor's song.



From vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry His ar - my He shall lead  
Let all His faith - ful serve Him A - gainst un - num - bered foes;  
Put on the Gos - pel ar - mor; Each piece put on with prayer.  
The sol - diers, o - ver - com - ing, Their crown of life shall see



Till ev - 'ry foe is van - quished, And Christ is Lord in - deed.  
Let cour - age rise with dan - ger And strength to strength op - pose.  
Where du - ty calls or dan - ger, Be nev - er want - ing there.  
And with the King of Glo - ry Shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

Text and tune: Public domain

## 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** Now, at the beginning of the worship service, we bring all our sins, our wrongdoing, to the Lord and ask for his forgiveness. Today especially we

acknowledge that we have not always stood firm in the truth and love of Jesus. We have not always followed his example. We have often caved in to the pressure of the people around us instead of loving God with our whole heart and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

**P** We pray together:

**C** **Lord our God, you created us in love; you saved 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 often have very little faith and break your commandments. These things are symptoms of the sin in us. Forgive us, Lord, and by your Holy Spirit change us and help us to do better. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **Song: Change My Heart**

(Song from Venezuela)

Change my heart and make it new, oh Lord!  
Give me a heart that loves to praise you,  
A heart that always wants to serve you.  
Change my heart to be like yours! //

(Let it be) Clean as a mountain stream, Sweet as a honeycomb.  
Lord, let my heart become Just like your heart! //

### **Words of Forgiveness**

**P** God is good and he is always ready to forgive us. Jesus died on the cross for all of us. Even more, he rose from the dead to give eternal life to all of us. It is my privilege to announce to you what God says in his Word: all of us who trust in Jesus are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## **Service of the Word**

### **Kyrie** (sung responsive prayer)

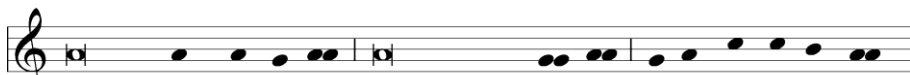
Lutheran Service Book 168



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



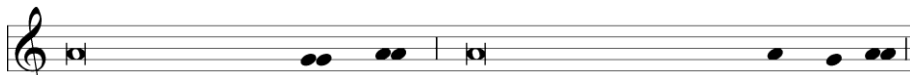
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



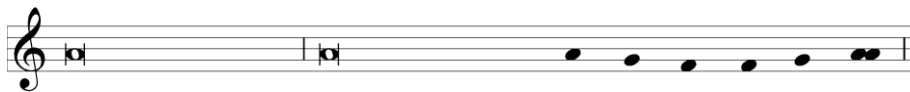
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



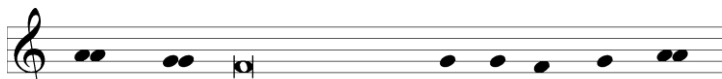
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise

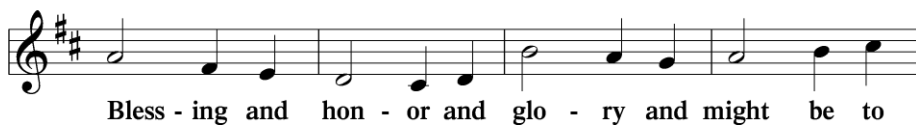


let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.





### Prayer for this Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **Lord Jesus, you are the way and the truth and the life. Help us to set aside everything that hinders us from following you with all our**

**heart and give us strength and courage to remain firm in your truth. In your own name we pray. Amen.**

Sit

## **Old Testament Reading**

Jeremiah 23:16-29

*(Stand firm in the truth – do not follow the lies of false prophets.)*

<sup>16</sup>Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord. <sup>17</sup>They say continually to those who despise the word of the Lord, 'It shall be well with you'; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, 'No disaster shall come upon you.'"

<sup>18</sup>For who among them has stood in the council of the Lord to see and to hear his word, or who has paid attention to his word and listened? <sup>19</sup>Behold, the storm of the Lord! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked. <sup>20</sup>The anger of the Lord will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his heart. In the latter days you will understand it clearly.

<sup>21</sup>"I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. <sup>22</sup>But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds.

<sup>23</sup>"Am I a God at hand, declares the Lord, and not a God afar off? <sup>24</sup>Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord. <sup>25</sup>I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' <sup>26</sup>How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, <sup>27</sup>who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? <sup>28</sup>Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the Lord. <sup>29</sup>Is not my word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## New Testament Reading

Hebrews 11:17 – 12:3

*(Stay on the straight path, like so many who have gone before us.)*

<sup>17</sup>By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, <sup>18</sup>of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." <sup>19</sup>He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. <sup>20</sup>By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. <sup>21</sup>By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. <sup>22</sup>By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

<sup>23</sup>By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. <sup>24</sup>By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, <sup>25</sup>choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. <sup>26</sup>He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. <sup>27</sup>By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. <sup>28</sup>By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

<sup>29</sup>By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as if on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. <sup>30</sup>By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup>By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

<sup>32</sup>And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— <sup>33</sup>who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup>quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup>Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. <sup>36</sup>Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup>They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— <sup>38</sup>of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

<sup>39</sup>And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup>since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>3</sup>Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

**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#). The melody consists of the following notes: a whole rest, a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a half note B, a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, and a half note F#. 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 continues the melody with the notes: a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, a half note F#, and a whole note G. 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 12:49-53

*(Stay firm in the truth, even if your own family is against it.)*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>49</sup>[Jesus said:] "I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup>I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! <sup>51</sup>Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. <sup>52</sup>For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. <sup>53</sup>They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

**Children's Song:** I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus (Little Ones Sing Praise # 24)

1. I am trusting you, Lord Jesus. You have died for me.  
All my sins have been forgiven. I am free!
2. I am trusting you, Lord Jesus, as you guide my way.  
In your loving arms you hold me night and day.

### Children's Message

**Hymn: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word**

Lutheran Service Book 655

1 Lord, keep us stead-fast in Your Word; Curb those who  
2 Lord Je-sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are  
3 O Com-fort-er of price-less worth, Send peace and  
by de- ceit or sword Would wrest the king-dom from Your  
Lord of lords a-lone; De-fend Your ho-ly Church that  
u-ni-ty on earth; Sup-port us in our fi-nal  
Son And bring to naught all He has done.  
we May sing Your praise e-ter-nal-ly.  
strife And lead us out of death to life.

Text and tune: Public domain

**Sermon: "Fix Your Eyes on Jesus"**

(Based on the New Testament Reading from Hebrews 12:1-3)

Stand

## Nicene Creed

**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](http://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:** Be Thou My Vision (Evelyn Karl)  
Hymnal "With One Voice" 776)

1. *Be thou my vision, oh Lord of my heart.  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought by day and by night,  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*
2. *Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word,  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower,  
Raise thou me heavenward, oh Power of my power.*
3. *Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always.  
Thou, and thou only, first in my heart,  
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.*
4. *Light of my soul, after victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, oh heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, oh Ruler of all.*

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.

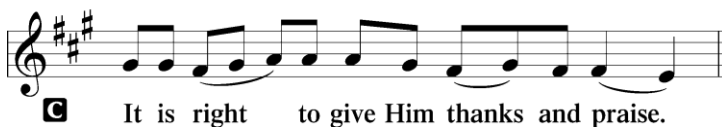
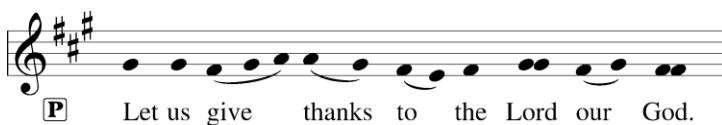
- If you are unable to go to the altar, please let an usher know and the Pastor will bring the Lord's Supper (Communion) to your pew. Please sit close to any of the three aisles in the church.
- During Communion, gluten-free communion wafers (bread) are available. Just ask the Pastor when he comes to 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)

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of  
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your  
glo - ry. 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**

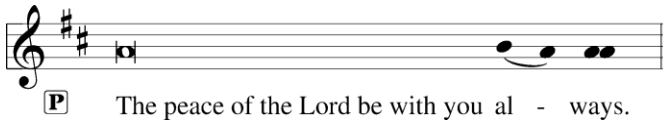
- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said:

"Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  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  $\text{✝}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

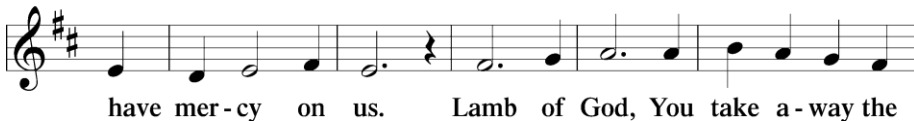
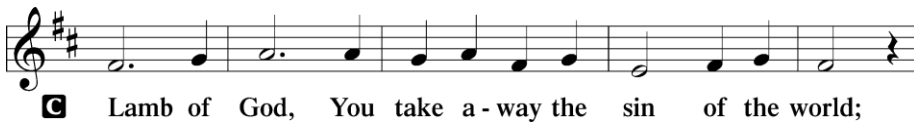
## Pax Domini (John 20:19)

LSB 180



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

LSB 180



## Hymns during Communion

**Special Music:** Lament for Jerusalem (Bryan Perdue)

1. *Lord, I was your bride (Lamentations 1:2). But you have left my side.  
Alone, I sit and cry. My tears flood from my eye.  
You brought me to this land, my love held in your hand.  
But Lord, I was untrue (Lam. 1:19). And now I cry, "What will I do?"*
2. *Lord, I let them in (Lamentations 1:9) to take me in my sin.  
My sin brought me despair. Oh Lord, please hear my prayer.  
You sent down your fire (Lam. 1:13, 4:11). Inside, my shame blazed higher.  
My sins you bound to me, and left me faint for all to see.*
3. *Lord, your children cry (Lamentations 1:11). My sin caused them to die.  
No comfort can I find, no one to soothe my mind.  
And through your holy eyes (Lam. 3:43), you see what you despise.  
The veil you have torn down, and then you broke my golden crown  
(Lamentations 4:1).*
4. *Lord, my wounds you mend (Lam. 3:55-57) with love that never ends.  
And like the new-born day, your light shows me the way.  
Be glad, dance and rejoice! The Lord has heard my voice.  
No more am I alone. My loving God has brought me home!*

# I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Lutheran Service Book 411

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.  
 3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.

I want to fol - low Je - sus.  
 I want to look at Je - sus.  
 I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.  
 Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,  
 When we have run with pa - tience the race,

The star of my life is Je - sus.  
 And show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
 We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*  
 In Him there is no dark - ness at all.  
 The night and the day are both a - like.  
 The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.  
 Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text and tune: © 1970, 1975 Celebration. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005074

# Thy Strong Word

Lutheran Service Book 578



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy  
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as  
 5 Give us lips to sing Thy glo - ry, Tongues Thy  
 △ 6 God the Fa - ther, light - cre - a - tor, To Thee



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed  
 night and deep as death, Broke the light of  
 mer - cy to pro - claim, Throats that shout the  
 laud and hon - or be. To Thee, Light of



light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.  
 Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - breath - ing breath.  
 hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy ho - ly name.  
 Light be - got - ten, Praise sung e - ter - nal - ly.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! May the  
 Ho - ly Spir - it, light - re - veal - er, Glo - ry,



Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 light which Thou dost send Fill our songs with  
 glo - ry be to Thee. Mor - tals, an - gels,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ias, Al - le - lu - ias with - out end!  
 now and ev - er Praise the ho - ly Trin - i - ty!

Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005074

Tune: Public domain



1 On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, March - ing as to war,  
 2 Like a might - y ar - my Moves the Church of God;  
 3 Crowns and thrones may per - ish, King - doms rise and wane,  
 4 On - ward, then, ye faith - ful, Join our hap - py throng,



With the cross of Je - sus Go - ing on be - fore.  
 Broth - ers, we are tread - ing Where the saints have trod.  
 But the Church of Je - sus Con - stant will re - main.  
 Blend with ours your voic - es In the tri - umph song:



Christ, the roy - al mas - ter, Leads a - gainst the foe;  
 We are not di - vid - ed, All one bod - y we,  
 Gates of hell can nev - er 'Gainst that Church pre - vail;  
 Glo - ry, laud, and hon - or Un - to Christ, the king;



For - ward in - to bat - tle See His ban - ners go!  
 One in hope and doc - trine, One in char - i - ty.  
 We have Christ's own prom - ise, And that can - not fail.  
 This through count - less a - ges Men and an - gels sing.



*Refrain*  
 On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, March - ing as to war,



With the cross of Je - sus Go - ing on be - fore.

Text and tune: Public domain

## I'm But a Stranger Here

Lutheran Service Book 748



1 I'm but a strang - er here, Heav'n is my home;  
2 What though the tem - pest rage, Heav'n is my home;  
3 There - fore I mur - mur not, Heav'n is my home;



Earth is a des - ert drear, Heav'n is my home.  
Short is my pil - grim - age, Heav'n is my home;  
What - e'er my earth - ly lot, Heav'n is my home;



Dan - ger and sor - row stand Round me on ev - 'ry hand;  
And time's wild win - try blast Soon shall be o - ver - past;  
And I shall sure - ly stand There at my Lord's right hand;



Heav'n is my fa - ther - land, Heav'n is my home.  
I shall reach home at last, Heav'n is my home.  
Heav'n is my fa - ther - land, Heav'n is my home.

Text and tune: Public domain

# Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

Lutheran Service Book 685



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -  
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus And with pa - tience  
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He  
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en



am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to  
 bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He  
 con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to  
 from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,



sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,  
 is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter,  
 us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion  
 You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;



Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and  
 We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts  
 That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that  
 Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful  
 that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,  
 shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,  
 con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,



Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.  
 here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.  
 here with You I die, There to live with You on high.  
 let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005074  
 Tune: Public domain

## After Communion:

**Thank the Lord** (Song at the close of communion)

Lutheran Service Book 181

**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what  
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -  
joyce 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 -  
giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

## 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** (*Numbers 6:24-26*)

Lutheran Service Book 183

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** **Amen.**

## **Closing Hymn: Oh Jesus, I Have Promised**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 810

(Tune of "Angel's Story" LSB 527)

1. Oh Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end.  
Remain forever near me, my Master and my Friend.  
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.
2. Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near.  
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.  
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
But, Jesus, then draw nearer to shield my soul from sin.
3. Oh let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still  
Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.  
Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control.  
Now speak and make me listen, oh Guardian of my soul.
4. Oh Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you  
That where you are in glory, your servant shall be too.  
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end.  
Oh, give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.

Text and tune: Public domain

## **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.

## **Worship Leaders**

Pastor:	Richard Schlak
Organist:	Ruth Ann Ostergren
Elders:	David DeMartelaere/Russ DeWitt
Acolyte:	Rudy Valdes
Reader:	Bryan Perdue
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](mailto: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:

Please pray for peace and comfort for **Melanie Gallagher & all of the family** of her brother, **Terry Appleton** & his wife, **Peggy**, who both passed away this past week after a tragic car accident.

For the **Perdue family** as they grieve the loss of **Ann Perdue**, **Bryan Perdue's** wife. Please pray for peace & comfort for Bryan and his whole family.

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:**

**Bryan Perdue**, will be having outpatient neck surgery this upcoming Tuesday (pray for successful surgery and a good recovery); **Gretchen Schmalz**, struggling with a recurring UTI that interrupted her weekly injections for her bladder cancer (pray she will feel better, and for a successful treatment regime over the next weeks); **Dorothy Lenz**, recently had an MRI and will receive results in September (pray for a correct diagnosis & effective treatment); **Sandy Spott**, daughter-in-law of **Barb Spott**, her breast cancer has returned after a 20 year remission & she had a successful lumpectomy this past week (please pray for peace and comfort for Sandy, her husband **Tim**, & all of the **Spott family** as they await the pathology report this upcoming week); **Cynthia**, Kristal Wade's sister, has a complicated medical history & will see a gastroenterologist for various health issues causing her to go in & out of the hospital (pray for a correct diagnosis & effective treatment plan); **Troy**, Kristal Wade's brother, has been suffering from critically low potassium & elevated liver enzymes (pray for good doctors to diagnose & treat his

issue(s), & that he will follow the doctor's orders for the treatment prescribed); **Becca**, daughter of **Marjy Brady**, had knee surgery, (pray for successful recovery from surgery & for Marjy who is in San Diego to help her); **Cindy & Don Ensworth**, friends of former Ascension members **Cathy & Randy Engel**; Cindy has been battling lung cancer for five years, & is close to being called home by God (pray for a peaceful release for Cindy, & for peace and comfort for both Don & the Engel's); **Martha Neal**, at home, continued recovery 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); **Rose**, Mary Lou Provencio's sister, had emergency surgery for diverticula and possible sepsis (please pray for a successful surgery and healing); **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); **Mary Iwen Hansen**, former Ascension member, (pray for effective treatment for her heart issues); **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); **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); **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, Brian Stickney** (pray for continuing health issues that are keeping them at home); **Kathy Kiphart, John Weiske, Linda Seiders** (pray for continuing health issues); **Daniel Mendoza** (rapidly losing kidney function); and **Angel Hill** (recently diagnosed with three tumors, one of which is Stage 2).

### **Praise and Thanksgiving:**

Give thanks and praise to God that **Jessica Moran**, the younger daughter of Jeanne, daughter of Jan Schlak, delivered a healthy baby boy named **Bennett Robert** last week. Mother and baby are both doing well.

Grateful that **Katherine, Yves, & the whole family**, Jan Schlak's granddaughter, Pastor Rick's & Maritza's daughter, arrived safely to Yves' new Air Force assignment in England. Please pray that the family will make a good adjustment to this huge change in their lives.

**Mark Pfeifer**, nephew of Vicki Pfeifer, (thankful for improvement, now breathing on his own & doing better overall); **Sherri Pfeifer Wilson**, niece of Vicki Pfeifer (completed chemotherapy radiation treatment for cancer & is doing well, thanks be to God); **Dick Seiders**, father of Ron Seiders (thanksgiving for continued improvement in recovery after hip surgery).

## **Ascension News & Notes**



**22 August — Alvin Downey**

**23 August — Bryan Perdue**



**Refreshments Needed**

**Sunday Morning Snacks Sign Up**

**Blessed**

**Blessed**

**OPEN**

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!**



### **August 17th: Lessons Begin**

(Two classes: Pre-K to 6th grade & 7th grade to 12th)

Sunday School: God calls us to encourage each other in studying His Word and putting it into practice. A great way to do this is to come and join us for Sunday School and Bible Study right before church on Sundays! We meet from 9:00-10:00 am.

**Kids meet in the Preschool Library**

**Youth meet in the Church Library**

**Adults meet in the Fellowship Hall**

## 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)



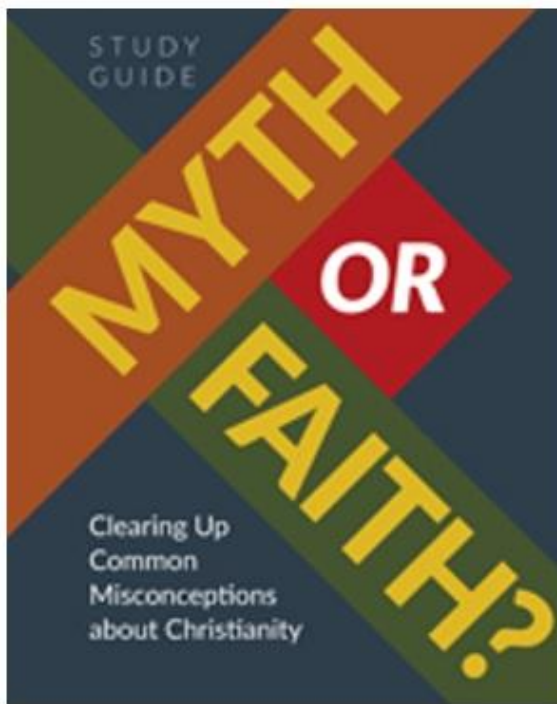
**August 20th** we will be meeting  
at:

### **The Greenery Restaurant**



## *Ladies Night Out*

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

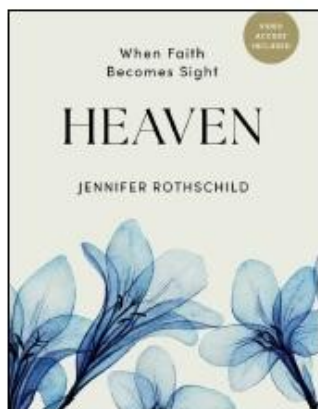


**Myth or Faith?** *There is a limit to God's forgiveness.*

**Myth or Faith?** *If we take Communion too often, it will become less meaningful for us.*

There are plenty of misconceptions about Christianity in today's society. From false rumors to biblical teachings that are heavily distorted from their subject matter, there's no lack of myths to find. Do you know how to respond to them? More importantly, do you know the **truth** backed up by God's Word and teachings?

**Ascension Men's Tuesday Night Bible Study  
will resume on August 26, 2025 at 7 p.m. in the  
Fellowship Hall.**



HEAVEN | When Faith Becomes Sight  
By Jennifer Rothschild

## Tuesday Night Ladies Bible Study Fall 2025

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. gather, visit, share prayer requests  
[Video rolls at 7 p.m.]  
**Place:** HYBRID! Ascension Church Library OR via Zoom\*  
**Date:** First session is Tuesday, September 2, 2025  
(proposed schedule below)  
**Cost:** Order Heaven (with video access)  
directly from Lifeway.com or Amazon.com

\*Zoom link is the same as always, email Anita (awerner@elp.rr.com) if you need the Zoom link.

Heaven. Who goes there? Where is it? What will we do there? Questions like these arise when we consider an eternal future beyond this physical life. How can we know the truth about what comes next?

In this 7-session video-based study, Jennifer Rothschild explores the subject of Heaven from a biblical perspective. She will separate what's true about Heaven from what's based on legend, media depictions, and hopeful guesses. As you walk through the study, you'll not only gain a deeper understanding of what God has prepared for His children, but also learn how to live with confidence today as you look forward to the glorious unending that awaits. Don't just wonder about Heaven—embrace it with a faith that turns anticipation into excitement and peace.

### Proposed Schedule:

#### Features:

- Biblically-rooted and gospel-centered content
- Interactive teaching videos  
(approximately 25-30 minutes per session)
- 7 group sessions (6 weeks of homework, optional)

#### Benefits:

- Stay connected with your sisters in Christ with weekly fellowship, encouragement and prayer either *in person* at Ascension Lutheran Church Library (6520 Loma de Cristo, El Paso) or from the comfort and convenience of your own home (via Zoom).

Date	Lesson #
Sept. 2, 2025	#1
Sept. 9	#2
Sept. 16	Break-Church Council Meeting
Sept. 23	#3
Sept. 30	#4
Oct. 7	#5
Oct. 14	Break-Anita Out of Town
Oct. 21	Break-Church Council Meeting
Oct. 28	#6
Nov. 4	#7 (Final)
Nov. 11	Dinner/Fellowship/Location TBD

Please RSVP your attendance to Anita Werner by August 31st (awerner@elp.rr.com)

Please visit Lifeway.com or Amazon.com and  
order Heaven (with video access)  
prior to our first session.

## **THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

**will resume on September 11th, 2025.**

**In September, we will meet at the church on Thursday mornings.  
We gather at 9:45 and begin the lesson at 10:00 and end at 11:00.**

**All women are welcome to join us as we study. If you have any  
questions, contact Gretchen Schmalz or Jan Schlak.**



# 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-Buy Scouts	July 30 9:00 am 3rd and 5th (PH)	July 31	1 9:00-9:50 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) 8:30 pm Boy Scouts	6 9:00 am 3rd and 5th (PH)	7	8 9:00 am 3rd and 5th (PH)	9
10 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship (Preschool & Sunday School Begins)	11 Church Office Closed	12 8:00 pm Board of Elders (PH) 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	13 9:00 am 3rd and 5th (PH)	14 10:00 am Preschool Board Meeting 3:00 pm September conference due in office.	15 9:00 am 3rd and 5th (PH)	16 9:00 am 3rd and 5th (PH)
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 9:00 am 3rd and 5th (PH) 6:00 pm Ladies' Night Out in the Greenery Restaurant	21	22 9:00 am 3rd and 5th (PH)	23
24/31 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 No School for Ascension Preschool (Professional Development)	28	29 9:00 am 3rd and 5th (PH)	30

- Local Phone Meetings 001
- Catholic Missions 002
- Stony Hillside 003
- Stony Hillside 004
- Stony Hillside 005
- Stony Hillside 006
- Stony Hillside 007
- Stony Hillside 008
- Stony Hillside 009
- Stony Hillside 010
- Stony Hillside 011
- Stony Hillside 012
- Stony Hillside 013
- Stony Hillside 014
- Stony Hillside 015
- Stony Hillside 016
- Stony Hillside 017
- Stony Hillside 018
- Stony Hillside 019
- Stony Hillside 020
- Stony Hillside 021
- Stony Hillside 022
- Stony Hillside 023
- Stony Hillside 024
- Stony Hillside 025

I prefer the format I am in and  
wonderfully ready.  
Psalms 139:1-2

And now these three remain: faith,  
hope and love. But the greatest of  
these is love.  
1 Corinthians 13:13

PH: Fellowship Hall  
St: Narthex  
St: Narthex

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

Be refreshed daily in God's living

## **This Week @ Ascension**



### **HAPPENING THIS WEEK**

#### **Sunday (August 17)**

9:00 AM Bible Study &  
Sunday School Begins  
10:00 AM Fellowship  
10:30 AM Worship w/ communion

#### **Monday (August 18)**

Church Office Closed

#### **Tuesday (August 19)**

6:30 PM Boy Scouts (L)  
7:00 PM Church Council Meeting (FH)

#### **Wednesday (August 20)**

11:00 AM Sit and Sew (FH)  
6:00 PM Ladies' Night Out (at The Greenery Restaurant)

#### **Thursday (August 21)**

#### **Friday (August 22)**

#### **Saturday (August 23)**