

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

True Greatness

August 31, 2025 • Proper 17 C • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

As We Gather

"Humble in victory, gracious in defeat." Years ago, those words were painted on the wall of the gym at Concordia Seminary. Some people attribute that quote to Christopher Earle. But what does that mean?

"Being humble when we falter is expected, but being humble in victory is less common. More typical, especially among our leaders, is winners who are boastful and self-aggrandizing." (Susan Haworth, Cambios Coaching, November 16, 2020)

Mother Teresa considered humility to be the "mother of all virtues". Being humble does not mean being down on yourself and your abilities, nor does it mean letting people step all over you. Being humble means not looking down on others and not stepping all over them to get what you want. It means not being arrogant. It means not putting "me first" all the time. The world does not revolve around me.

True greatness in the sight of God is not exalting ourselves (Proverbs 25:6-8, Luke 14:7-14). True greatness is to be like Jesus (Hebrews 13:1-17) who did not use his status as God to put others down, but took the attitude of a servant and humbled himself to the point of dying on the cross for us (Philippians 2:5-11). So what's it going to be? Me first, or Jesus first?

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: Oh Worship the King

Lutheran Service Book 804



1 O wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.
2 O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
5 Frail chil - dren of dust and fee - ble as frail,
6 O mea - sure - less Might, in - ef - fa - ble Love,



O grate - ful - ly sing His pow'r and His love;
Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space;
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail.
While an - gels de - light to hymn Thee a - bove,



Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
Thy mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,
Thy hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their lays,



Pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.
Our mak - er, de - fend - er, re - deem - er, and friend!
With true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to Thy praise.

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 followed Jesus' example of a humble attitude of service. Rather, in our pride we often put ourselves first.

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.**

Humble Yourselves in the Sight of the Lord (Choir – James 4:10, 1 Peter 5:6)

Men: Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord...

Women: Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord

Men: Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord...

Women: Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord

Men: And he...

Women: And he...

Men: Will lift...

Women: Will lift...

Both: You up, higher and higher.

Men: And he...

Women: And he...

Both: Will lift you up.

Words of Forgiveness

P Jesus Christ, out of his love, died and rose for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. Micah 7:18-19 in the Bible states: "Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea." Today I have the privilege to announce to you what God says in his Word: You who believe in Christ are forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Song: A Look to Jesus with Faith

(Song from Venezuela)

A look to Jesus with faith, to Jesus high on the cross
And God forgives all our sins forevermore.

A look to Jesus with faith, to Jesus high on the cross
And God forgives all our sins forevermore.

And if you trust in Christ Jesus our Lord,
He will forgive your sins.

The vict'ry won for us high on the cross
In heaven's light we forever will live. //

Service of the Word

Psalm 131 (True greatness is being content and not proud.)

P My heart is not proud, Lord.

C **My eyes are not haughty.**

P I do not concern myself with great matters

C **Or things too wonderful for me.**

P But I have calmed and quieted myself; I am like a weaned child with its mother.

C **Like a weaned child I am content.**

P Israel, put your hope in the Lord

C **Both now and forevermore.**

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.**

Kyrie (sung responsive prayer)

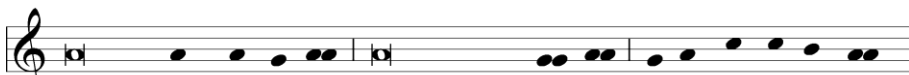
Lutheran Service Book 168



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.



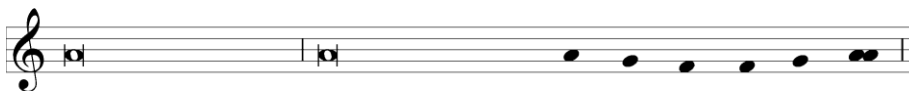
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



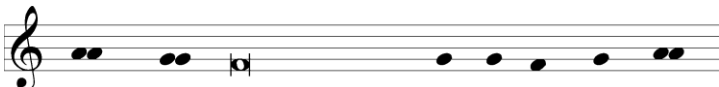
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Hymn of Praise: Praise to the Lord

Lutheran Service Book 790



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,
5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your
made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly
dore Him! All that has life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His
fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has
prais - es be - fore Him! Let the A - men Sound from His



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.
peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him!

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer for this Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray together:

C **Lord Jesus, thank you for humbling yourself to die on the cross for us! Forgive our own pride, and help us to be more like you. Help us to be sincere, full of love, and ready to serve others. Help us to find true greatness in you. In your own name we pray. Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Proverbs 25:2-10

(True greatness is not exalting yourself – everything does not revolve around you.)

²It is the glory of God to conceal things,
but the glory of kings is to search things out.

³As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth,
so the heart of kings is unsearchable.

⁴Take away the dross from the silver,
and the smith has material for a vessel;

⁵take away the wicked from the presence of the king,
and his throne will be established in righteousness.

⁶Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,

⁷for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

What your eyes have seen

⁸do not hastily bring into court,
for what will you do in the end,
when your neighbor puts you to shame?

⁹Argue your case with your neighbor himself,
and do not reveal another's secret,

¹⁰lest he who hears you bring shame upon you,
and your ill repute have no end.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 13:1-17

(True greatness is loving others like Jesus did, who sacrificed himself to save us.)

¹Let brotherly love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and

adulterous. ⁵Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ⁶So we can confidently say,

"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ⁹Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. ¹⁰We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. ¹¹For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. ¹²So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. ¹³Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. ¹⁴For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. ¹⁵Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

¹⁷Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

Lutheran Service Book 173

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Reading from the Holy Gospel

Luke 14:1-14

(The one who humbles himself will be exalted.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 14th chapter.

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

¹One Sabbath, when [Jesus] went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. ²And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. ³And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" ⁴But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. ⁵And he said to them, "Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?" ⁶And they could not reply to these things.

⁷Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, ⁸"When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, ⁹and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. ¹¹For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

¹²He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. ¹³But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

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: Take My Life and Let it Be

Lutheran Service Book 784



- 1 Take my life and let it be Con - se - crat - ed,
2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse
3 Take my voice and let me sing Al - ways, on - ly
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would



Lord, to Thee; Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them
of Thy love; Take my feet and let them be Swift and
for my King; Take my lips and let them be Filled with
I with - hold; Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry



flow in cease-less praise, Let them flow in cease-less praise.
beau - ti - ful for Thee, Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
mes - sag - es from Thee, Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.
pow'r as Thou shalt choose, 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,
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,
Ever, only, all for Thee.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon: "True Greatness"

Stand

Apostles' Creed (Public declaration of our faith)

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

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Offering

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

Offering Options

You can contribute offerings using any of the following methods:

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

On-line Banking donations: You can utilize the on-line bill pay option at your financial institution to donate to Ascension Lutheran Church, 6520 Loma de Cristo, El Paso, TX 79912.

Mail donations: Mail your check to the church office: Ascension Lutheran Church, 6520 Loma de Cristo, El Paso, TX 79912. The mail is checked daily.

Other Electronic donation option: You can make a secure contribution from your credit card or bank account at 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.



Choir anthem during the Offering: All Are Welcome (Marty Haugen)
(Tune "Two Oaks")

1. *Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live.
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace,
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*
2. *Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true.
Where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus;
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*
3. *Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;
A banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space,
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us;
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*
4. *Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone,
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face,
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*
5. *Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace.
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place*

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.

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

Lord's Prayer

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

Closing Prayer

P Let us pray.

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: Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service Lutheran Service Book 848



1 Lord, whose love through hum - ble ser - vice Bore the weight of
2 Still Your chil - dren wan - der home - less; Still the hun - gry
3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, Till Your love's re -
4 Called by wor - ship to Your ser - vice, Forth in Your dear



hu - man need, Who up - on the cross, for - sak - en,
cry for bread; Still the cap - tives long for free - dom;
veal - ing light In its height and depth and great - ness,
name we go, To the child, the youth, the a - ged,



Of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed, We, Your ser - vants, bring the
Still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, Your deep com -
Dawns up - on our quick - ened sight, Mak - ing known the needs and
Love in liv - ing deeds to show; Hope and health, good - will and



wor - ship Not of voice a - lone, but heart, Con - se -
pas - sion Healed the sick and freed the soul, Use the
bur - dens Your com - pas - sion bids us bear, Stir - ring
com - fort, Coun - sel, aid, and peace we give, That Your



crat - ing to Your pur - pose Ev - 'ry gift that You im - part.
love Your Spir - it kin - dles Still to save and make us whole.
us to tire - less striv - ing, Your a - bun - dant life to share.
ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom May Your mer - cy know and live.

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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Worship Leaders

Pastor:	Richard Schlak
Organist:	Ruth Ann Ostergren
Elder:	Dave Tuchenhausen
Acolyte:	Nedavia Meraz
Reader:	Ron Seiders
Ushers:	Team 2
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:

Reina, the sister-in-law to **Mamabella** (Maritza Leon, who is Maritza Schlak's mother), passed away (in Venezuela). Please pray for peace and comfort for her family.

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 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.

Illness and Recovery:

Judith Moreno, (pray for recovery from a recent surgery); **Bruce Walker**, **Daren Walker's** father, has Parkinson's disease & is not doing well (please pray for both Bruce & for Daren who has gone to North Dakota to visit his father); **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 & is still awaiting to see a specialist for various health issues causing her to go in & out of the hospital (pray for a correct diagnosis & effective treatment plan); **Becca**, daughter of **Marjy Brady**, had knee surgery, (pray for successful recovery from surgery); **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) & for his wife, **Suzette Barber** (pray for her as she copes with OCD & anxiety as a result of her condition); **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 Kwiatakowski**, 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); **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:

Bryan Perdue, had outpatient neck surgery (give thanks and praise for successful surgery & pray for healing and recovery with no complications); **Jessica Moran**, the younger daughter of Jeanne, daughter of Jan Schlak, delivered a healthy baby boy named **Bennett Robert**. 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



01 Sept. — Cheryl Canada-Karl
— Kent Kaneer
— Billie Meitler



04 Sept. — Al & Sylvia Diaz



August 31st: Lessons Resume

(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.

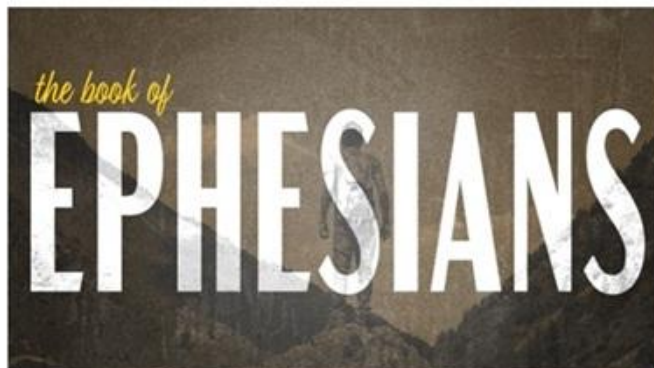
Kids meet in the Preschool Library

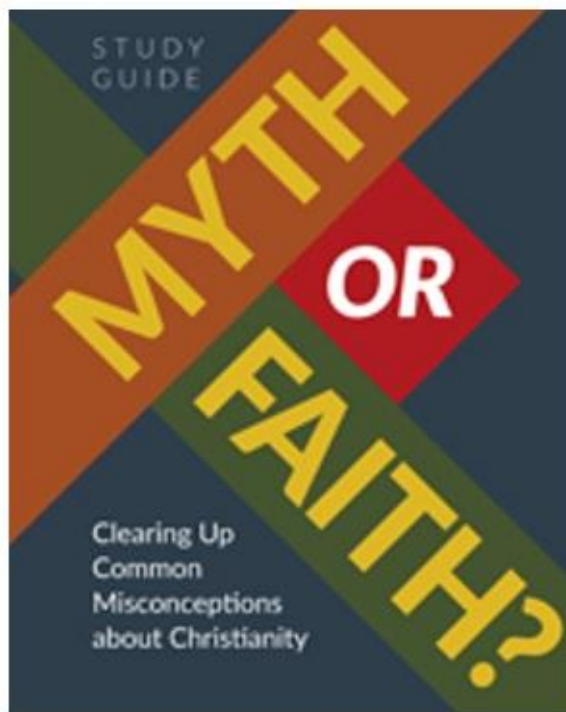
Youth meet in the Church Library

Adults meet in the Fellowship Hall

Adult Bible Study

9 to 10 am in the Fellowship Hall



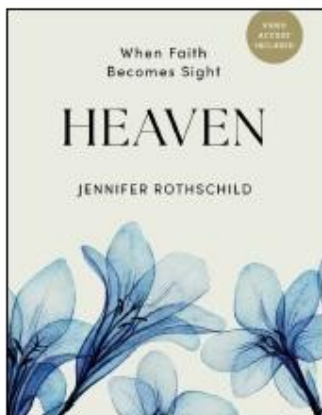


Myth or Faith? *There is a limit to God's forgiveness.*

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

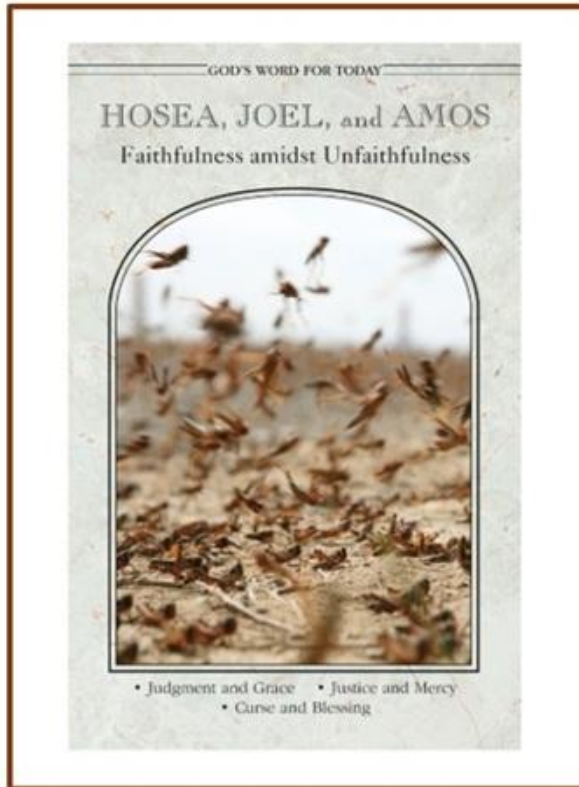
Please RSVP your attendance to Anita Werner by August 31st (awerner@elp.rr.com)

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

Resuming Sept. 11th.

**The Thursday morning Women's Bible study
is studying the 3 books of**

**Hosea, Joel, & Amos:
"Faithfulness amidst Unfaithfulness"**



**We meet at the church on Thursday mornings.
We gather in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 and begin
the lesson at 10:00 and end at 11:00.**

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

LWML Rio Grande Fall Zone Rally



SAVE THE DATE

September 13, 2025

Zion Lutheran Church

2800 Pershing Dr , El Paso, TX 79903

9:30am - Registration

10:00am - Opening

Ingathering items will be
collected for YLM
Coats & Jackets for children
ages 5-12



“Give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

- 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Attention!! All Ladies of Ascension

Ladies Night Out: September 17th, 2025

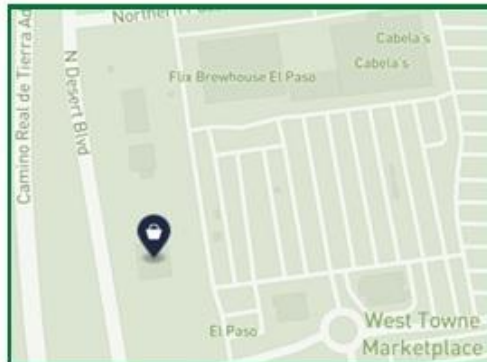
All ladies of Ascension are welcome.

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



Cheddar's
SCRATCH  KITCHEN

September 17th
we will be meeting at:
Cheddar's
at 6460 N. Desert Blvd.



Ladies Night Out

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

Be sure to pick up your calendar in the narthex.

 September 2025 						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug. 31 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Confirmation	1 Labor Day Church Office Closed No School	2 9:00 am Prayer Breakfast 10:00 pm Women Action Team Meeting (PH) 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Ladies Bible Study (S & Zoom) 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study (PH)	3 9:00 am Preschool Chapel (S) 9:00 am St and Sew (PH)	4 6:30 pm Choir (S)	5 Preschool Extended Care 12:00-2:30pm (PH)	
7 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Confirmation	8 Church Office Closed	9 9:00 am Preschool Board Meeting 9:00 pm Board of Elders (PH) 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Ladies Bible Study (S & Zoom) 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study (PH)	10 9:00 am Preschool Chapel (S) 9:00 am St and Sew (PH)	11 6:30 pm Choir (S) 9:45 am Women's Bible Study (PH)	12 Preschool Extended Care 12:00-2:30pm (PH)	13
14 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Confirmation	15 Church Office Closed	16 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting (PH)	17 9:00 am Preschool Chapel (S) 9:00 am St and Sew (PH) 6:00 pm Ladies' Night Out at Cheddar's Seafood Grill (S&D)	18 6:30 pm Choir (S) 9:45 am Women's Bible Study (PH) 3:00pm - October newsletter due in office.	19 Preschool Extended Care 12:00-2:30pm (PH)	20 5:00 pm Sunday School Teachers' Meeting (PH)
21 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Confirmation	22 Church Office Closed	23 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Ladies Bible Study (S & Zoom) 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study (PH)	24 9:00 am St and Sew (PH) No School for Ascension Preschool (Professional Development)	25 6:30 pm Choir (S) 9:45 am Women's Bible Study (PH)	26 No Preschool Extended Care 5:00-7:30 pm Preschool Fall Festival	27
28 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Confirmation	29 Church Office Closed	30 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Ladies Bible Study (S & Zoom) 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study (PH)	Oct. 1 9:00 am Preschool Chapel (S) 9:00 am St and Sew (PH)	Oct. 2 6:30 pm Choir (S) 9:45 am Women's Bible Study (PH)	Oct. 3 Preschool Extended Care 12:00-2:30pm (PH)	Oct. 4



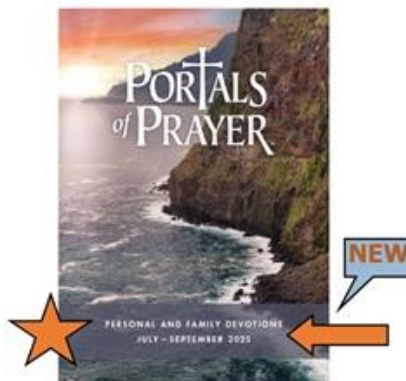
Cheryl Canada-Karl 9/01
 Kent Koser 9/01
 Billie Moller 9/01
 Celest Salgemann 9/13
 Richard Schick 9/18
 I praise You because I am heavenly and wonderfully made.
 Psalm 139:14a



Alfonso & Sylvia Diaz 9/4
 Mike & Christy Melke 9/6
 Dave & Donna Tuchenkagen 9/8
 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.
 1 Corinthians 13:13

Liturgy
 (PH) - Fellowship Hall
 (S) - Sanctuary
 (PO) - Pastor's Office

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 31)

9:00 AM Adult Bible Study & Sunday School
10:00 AM Fellowship
10:30 AM Worship
11:45 AM Confirmation Begins

Monday (September 1)

Labor Day No School
Church Office Closed

Tuesday (September 2)

9:00 AM Pastors' Winkler (Local Circuit Pastors' Meeting)
3:30 PM Worship Action Team Meeting (FH)
6:30 PM Boy Scouts
6:30 PM Ladies' Bible Study (L & Zoom)
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study Resumes (FH)

Wednesday (September 3)

9:00 AM Preschool Chapel (S)
11:00 AM Sit and Sew (FH)

Thursday (September 4)

6:30 PM Choir Practice (S)

Friday (September 5)

12:00-2:30 PM Preschool Extended Care (FH)

Saturday (September 6)