

Love Without Limits

September 20, 2026 • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas • Proper 20 A

As We Gather:

God is not like us. We find it hard to forgive others, but God invites us to seek him “for he will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55:6-9). We want what we think is “fair” but God generously gives us what we don’t deserve (Matthew 20:13-15). We want to be first, but God says that the “last” shall be first (Matthew 20:16). We love people who are nice to us; God loves people in spite of their sins. Our love always has conditions; Jesus’ love is unconditional and limitless.

Because of God’s unconditional love, for the Christian “to live is Christ and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21). When Paul wrote the book of Philippians, he was in prison because of preaching about Jesus. For most of us, having to go to prison would be just horrible, without any bright spot at all. For Paul, going to prison meant an opportunity to talk about Jesus to every single person in the imperial guard (Philippians 1:12-14). Paul’s testimony encouraged other Christians to boldly speak up about their faith in Jesus. Paul figured that, even if his imprisonment resulted in his execution, he would just go to be with Jesus in heaven. God’s unlimited love changed Paul; he no longer thought about his situation the way people usually think.

What Paul wrote in Philippians reminds me of Gretchen Schmalz, whose funeral was yesterday. Gretchen too was changed by God’s unlimited love and forgiveness. For her, as with Paul, “to live is Christ”. She lived for Jesus and was generous just as God is generous with us. And now she has gone to be with the Lord. For Gretchen, “to die is gain”. She leaves an example for us to follow. To leave behind our human inclinations and to be like Jesus, generous, forgiving, and loving without limits.

Prelude: Recitative and Aria – Wayne Wold

Words of Welcome

Stand

Sharing God’s Peace with One Another

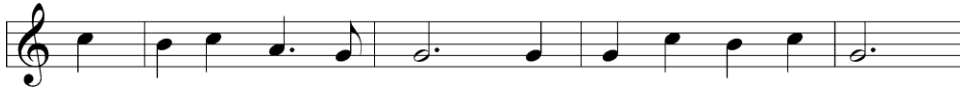
We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying “Peace be with you” as a sign of our unity and reconciliation in the Holy Spirit. As we are forgiven by God, so we forgive each other. (Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3)

Hymn: When Morning Gilds the Skies

Lutheran Service Book 807



1 When morn-ing gilds the skies, My heart, a - wak - ing, cries,
4 Ye na - tions of man - kind, In this your con - cord find:
5 Sing, suns and stars of space, Sing, ye that see His face,



"May Je - sus Christ be praised!" When eve - ning shad - ows fall,
"May Je - sus Christ be praised!" Let all the earth a - round
Sing, "Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,



This rings my cur-few call: "May Je - sus Christ be praised!"
Ring joy - ous with the sound: "May Je - sus Christ be praised!"
Both now and ev - er - more Shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

Lutheran Service Book 203

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**
P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **Who made heaven and earth.** (Psalm 124:8)
P If you, oh Lord, kept a record of sins, oh Lord, who could stand?
C **But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.** (Psalm 130:3-4)

Prayer of Confession

- P** Jesus commanded us: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength... and love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12:30-31, ESV) We have not always loved God with everything we are, and we have not always loved others the way we should. We need God's forgiveness each day.
- A** **Lord God, you know that our hearts all too easily wander from your ways. But out of your love for us, and for the sake of Jesus our Savior, forgive us and renew us. Keep us from falling into the same old sins; rather, help us to love you, worship you, and glorify you in everything we think, say, or do. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

- P** The Bible tells us that "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8, NIV) Jesus did die for our wrongdoing and he rose again to give us a new life. As pastor, I therefore proclaim to you by God's authority what Jesus says here in his Word: through faith in Jesus all our sins and wrongdoing have been forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- A** **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Psalm 27:1, 5, 7

- P** The Lord is my light and my salvation;
C **Whom shall I fear?**
P The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
C **Of whom shall I be afraid?**
P For he will hide me in his shelter
C **In the day of trouble.**
P Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;
C **Be gracious to me and answer me!**

Gloria Patri (traditional words of praise)

- 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 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:6-9

(God is not like us; he is generous to forgive even though we don't deserve it.)

Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts. (ESV)

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle (New Testament Reading)

Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

(Thanks to God's limitless love, for the Christian to live is Christ and to die is gain.)

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴ And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear...

¹⁹ For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have. (ESV)

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

Lutheran Service Book 205



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

*(God is generous way beyond what is fair;
he gives eternal life even to those who are "last".)*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter 20.

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

[Jesus said,] "The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.'

⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.'

⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they

grumbled at the master of the house, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.'

¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last." (ESV)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Salutation and Prayer for This Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P We pray together:

C **Lord God, thank you for your love without limits! You are so generous that you forgive us and accept us in the kingdom of heaven even though we do not deserve it. Please help us to be more like you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Sit

Children's Song: Amigos de Cristo

Little Ones Sing Praise # 23

Amigos de Cristo, we're friends of the Lord.
Amigos de Cristo, we're friends of the Lord.
For we've been forgiven and we've been restored.
Amigos de Cristo, we're friends of the Lord.

Story Time

Sermon Hymn: How Great Thou Art

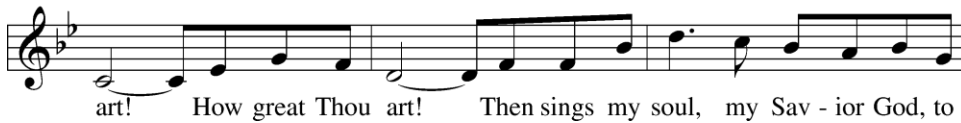
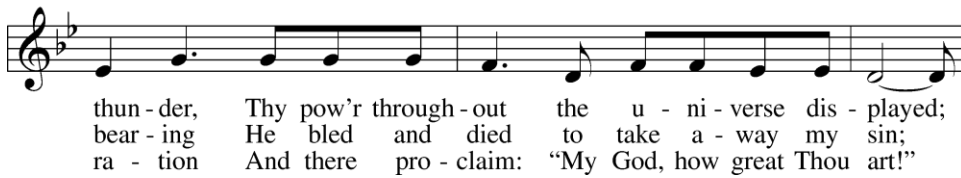
Lutheran Service Book 801



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er
3 But when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y
die, I scarce can take it in— That on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



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Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed (Public declaration of our faith)

Lutheran Service Book 206

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

We pray for all the people of God and for the world around us.

- L** Lord God, we ask that you bless and protect all of us in our work and daily lives. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- L** Heavenly Father, we pray for this city, for our country, and for the whole world, that there may be peace and justice and mercy. Lord in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- L** Holy Spirit, we pray for our leaders, that they may have wisdom and that their decisions may be in accordance with your will. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- L** Lord Jesus, we ask for your comfort and help for those who are anxious and worried. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- L** Almighty God, we pray for those who are sick or who are in need, especially those who are facing situations that are more than they can handle. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- L** Heavenly Father, please grant your comfort and strength to those who are missing a family member or friend who has passed away. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- L** Holy Spirit, we ask that you would guide and help us in the church and in the preschool, that there may be love and unity and joy in your mission. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- L** Lord Jesus, just as you gave yourself for us on the cross, help us to dedicate our lives to serving you each day. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- L** Thank you, Lord, for hearing all of our concerns, even those which are in our hearts which we have not expressed aloud. We love you and praise you forever! In Jesus' name.
- C** **Amen.**

Sit

Offering

Jesus gave everything for us. In gratitude, we give a portion of our material blessings so that others may also know his love. The Bible says, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." (2 Corinthians 8:9)

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.

Ascension Lutheran Church is a non-profit organization. Donations to Ascension qualify as charitable donations for tax purposes.



Special Music during the Offering: Listen to My Word (Bryan Perdue)

Come to the waters, all you that have thirst.
You need no money to receive your full worth.
Come, drink with me, now, this wine I give free.
Listen to my Word and come live with me.

Seek out the Lord now, while he can be found.
Lay down your burdens and seek out new ground.
I long to love you in my heart you will be.
Listen to my Word and come live with me.

Rain falls from heaven to water earth's land.
The seed springs to blossom; bread comes from my hand.
This bread that I give you is life you can't see.
Listen to my Word and come live with me.

When this life is over, with me you belong.
The mountains around you will sing a new song.
For the love that I offered has come back to me.
Listen to my Word and come live with me.

Stand

Offering Prayer

A **Almighty God, these offerings are but a tiny part of the many blessings you have given us. Please use these gifts to extend your kingdom throughout the earth, and help us to use all of your blessings in ways that glorify your name. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Offertory: May Our Love For Others Be Sincere

Hymnal We Pray in Song 776

1. May our love for others be sincere, shown in deeds, not merely spoken.
May our love for others be sincere, shown in deeds, not merely spoken.
Then when Christ returns in glory, when Christ returns in glory,
He will find us all united.
Then when Christ returns in glory, when Christ returns in glory,
He will find us all united.

✠ 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 adults who are not communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing. To indicate this, please cross your arms when the elders or pastor come by. 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.

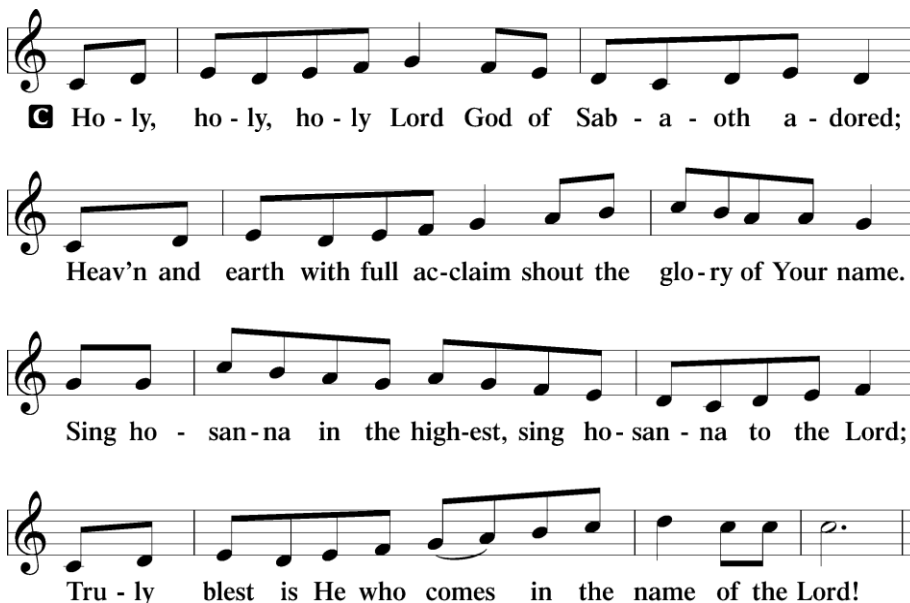
If you have any questions, please see the Pastor or one of the elders.

Preparation for Communion

LSB 208

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**
- P** Lord God, it is truly good and right that we give you thanks and praise at all times and in all places, for all the countless blessings that you have showered upon us! Above all, we thank you for your incredible, undeserved love for us, which you showed by sending Jesus to bear our sins and suffer and die for us. As we celebrate Communion today, we remember his death and also his resurrection to give us eternal life. For this reason we lift up our voices to you today, together with all Christians in heaven and on the earth, to sing your praises!

Sanctus (Song of Praise – Lutheran Service Book 208)



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
 Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
 Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;
 Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

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 ("The Peace of the Lord" – John 20:19)

Lutheran Service Book 209

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei ("Lamb of God" – John 1:29)

Lutheran Service Book 210

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true us, Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Hymns during Communion

Choir: Lord of All Hopefulness

Lutheran Service Book 738

1. *Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.*
2. *Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labors and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.*
3. *Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.*
4. *Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.*

Jesus Loves Me

Lutheran Service Book 588



1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, For the Bi - ble tells me so.
2 Je - sus loves me! He who died Heav-en's gates to o - pen wide.



Lit - tle ones to Him be-long; They are weak, but He is strong.
He has washed a - way my sin, Lets His lit - tle child come in.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

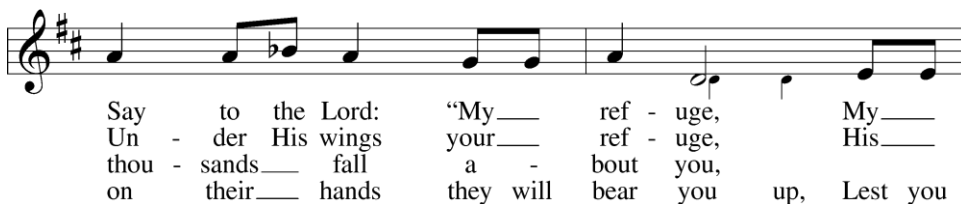
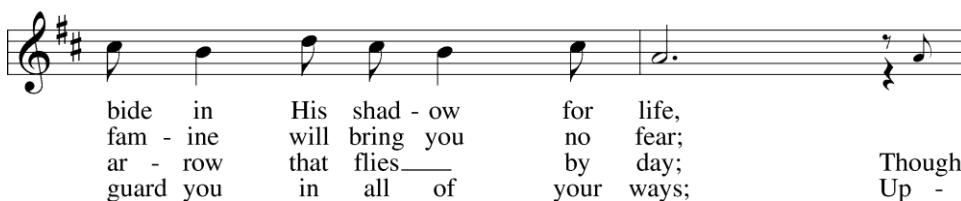
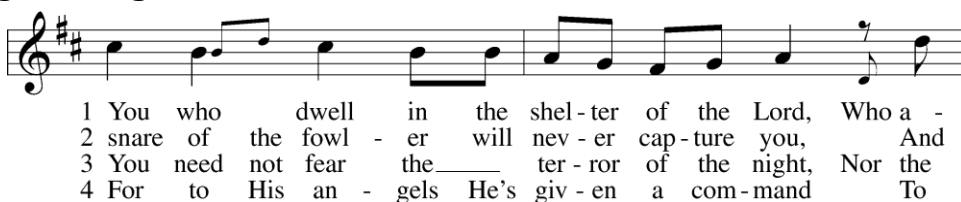


3. Jesus loves me. He will stay
Close beside me all the way.
He's prepared a home for me
And some day his face I'll see. (Refrain)

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On Eagles' Wings

Lutheran Service Book 727



Refrain

And He will raise you up on ea - gles' wings,
 Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the
 sun, And hold you in the palm of His hand. 2 The

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Your Table I Approach

Lutheran Service Book 628

1 Your ta - ble I ap - proach; Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer.
 2 Lord, I con - fess my sins And mourn their wretch - ed bands;
 3 Your bod - y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
 4 Search not how this takes place, This won - drous mys - ter - y;
 Let not an un - re - pen - tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there.
 A con - trite heart is sure to find For - give - ness at Your hands.
 Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty.
 God can ac - com - plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be.

- 5 O grant, most blessed Lord, That earth and hell combined
 May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.
- 6 Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night
 For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

Text and tune: Public domain

Closing Prayer

- P** Let us pray.
C **Holy Spirit, help us to trust in Jesus more and more each day. Encourage us to keep sharing Jesus' love. Make us all one as we serve you together as your church. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Benediction

Lutheran Service Book 212

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God!**
- 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. (Numbers 6:24-26)
C **Amen.**

Hymn: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

Lutheran Service Book 821, stanzas 1-2



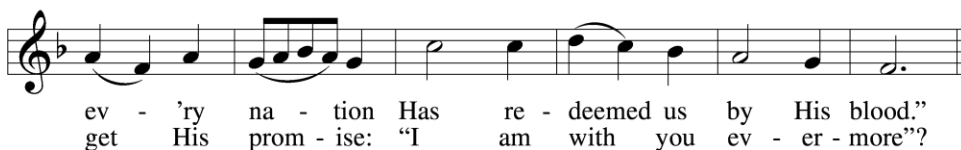
1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we

scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the
left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! He is

tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.
near us; Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.

Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der
Though the cloud from sight re - ceived Him When the

like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out hearts of
for - ty days were o'er, Shall our hearts for -



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Sending

- P** Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
C **Thanks be to God!**

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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Worship Leaders

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Organist:	Ruth Ann Ostergren
Elders:	Mike Mielke/Steve Behl
Acolyte:	Gabby Karl
Reader:	Mike Mielke
Greeters:	Mike & Charlene Radach
Ushers:	Team 1
Altar Care:	Werner
Projectionist:	Jacob Canada
Sound/Camera:	Mike Mielke/Ron Seiders

Prayer Ministry Philippians 4:6-7

Please fill out the blue friendship card or call the church office @ 915-833-1009 to include a prayer request or an update for the prayer list. If you have a prayer request or update for the prayer chain, please e-mail Jan Schlak at oveja6925@aol.com.

The prayer list can be picked up alongside the basket of bulletins in the entrance. It is also available to view in the weekly email sent out on every Friday.

Ascension News & Notes

Donation envelopes are in the pews and can be dropped into the offering plate.



Giving in September 2026 Utah Mission



Rocky Mountain District's focused outreach effort 2025–2028

Mission

- Supporting established congregations and faithful pastors/teachers
- Encouraging Godly laity in the field
- Partnering with local churches to strengthen witness and ministry

*"Freely you received, Freely give"
Matthew 8:10*



"In Utah the proclamation of the Truth faces more opposition than in most areas of our country"



Operation Christmas Child

It's almost Shoebox Collection Time!!!

Start collecting treasures to include in the shoeboxes you'll be packing in October.

- School Supplies
- Toys
- Hats & gloves
- Hair & grooming accessories
- Coloring books
- And lots more!

Points of Contact: Melanie Gallagher
& Charlene Radach



Ronald McDonald House: Please save the **aluminum pull tabs** from canned drinks & bring them to the kitchen area or the church office. They are used by the Ronald McDonald House to provide a home away from home for hundreds of families with seriously ill children.

Bible Studies (Sunday)

Sunday School & Adult Bible Study:

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 worship service on Sundays!

We meet from 9:00 to 10:00 AM.



Sunday
Adult Bible Study
9 to 10 AM
in the Fellowship Hall



The Book of Isaiah

Nursery Care

available for 2 & under

Pre-K to 6th grade:

Kids meet in the Preschool Library

7th grade to 12th grade:

Youth meet in the Church Library

Adults: Meet in the Fellowship Hall

Bible Studies During the week:

Tuesday Men's Bible Study meets in the fellowship hall at **7 PM**. Currently studying "Myth or Faith/Clearing up Common Misconceptions about Christianity." Contact Elliott Werner for more information: 915-603-7497.

Tuesday Nights Ladies Bible Study via Zoom (6:30-8 pm). The group is studying "12 Daring Women of the Bible." (Order book directly from Amazon.com). It is a twelve session video Bible study, with 12 between sessions of personal study. Contact Anita Werner for more information: 915-494-2335 or awerner@elp.rr.com. (Zoom link is provided by Anita).

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study meets in the fellowship hall. The women **gather at 9:45 am** and **begin at 10 am**. The group is completing its study of the book of Matthew. For more information, contact Jan Schlak: oveja6925@aol.com.

Thank you to everyone for contributing to our bible studies and our worship service.

Sunday Snacks, Altar flowers, & Altar Care:

Sunday Snack Refreshments: Oct. 4th & 25th are open. Next to the kitchen counter, there is a sign-up sheet that also includes November and December.

Altar flowers: October 4th, 18th, & 20th are OPEN. Also, November, & December have many openings. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

LWML:

The **LWML Rio Grande Zone Fall Rally** will be on **September 26th** at **Trinity Lutheran Church** in **Alamogordo, NM**, beginning at **8:30 a.m.** (Be at the church by 7:30 AM to meet with Anita Werner if you would like to get a ride with her. Please let Anita know in advance, so that she does not come up to the church if it is not necessary. **Anita's cell phone # is 915-494-2335.**) There is an ingathering of adult sizes of socks & underwear for Runner's Refuge (ministers to the homeless of Alamogordo); and RMD Delegate dues will be collected.

Next **LWML** meeting at Ascension will be on **October 17th at 10 am** in Ascension's church library. (Meeting will be brief due to Pastor's celebratory service and luncheon at 12 pm.)

LOW IMPACT MARTIAL ARTS CLASS

Lower intensity class:
Focus on wellness, increased
mobility & better balance,
and learn self protection.

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP HALL



Instructor:
DAVID BARTON
520-548-9080

**EVERY
SUNDAY
5:30PM:**
Begins on
Oct. 4th



Congregational Meeting Oct. 11th, 2026



Please join us immediately after the worship service.

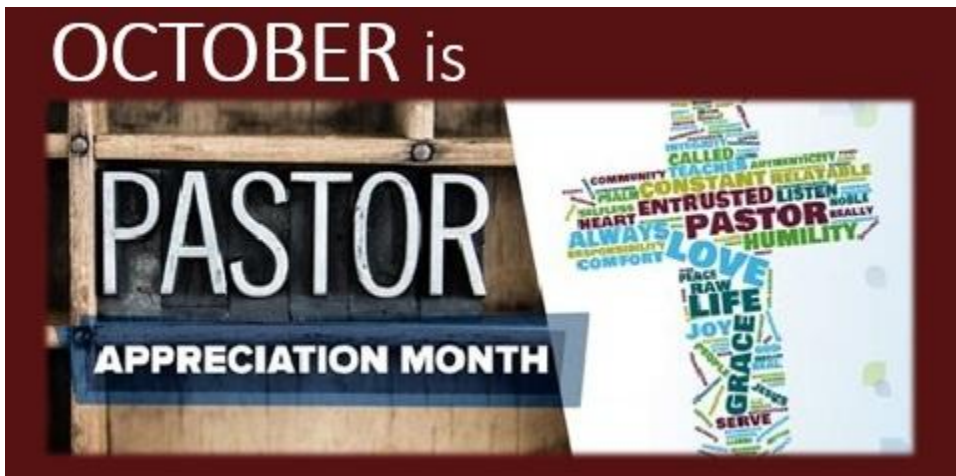
*The following items are available in both weekly Friday email
& the church office to be printed upon request:

Congregation Agenda for Oct. 11th, 2026 meeting

Proposed Church Budget for 2027

Proposed Council Elders Slate for 2027-2028

Congregation Minutes for prior meeting on July 12th, 2026



**There is a sign up sheet for specific sides to bring to the luncheon.
Also, please sign your name on the RSVP sheet next to the sign-up sheet.
The sheets are on the A-frame board at the entrance.**



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH



*"Great is Thy faithfulness."
Lamentations 3:23*

FORTY YEARS OF GRACE & SERVICE

*Celebrating the 40th Ordination Anniversary of
REV. RICHARD SCHLAK*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026 • 12:00 NOON

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Service of Thanksgiving begins in the sanctuary,
followed by fellowship and lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

BRISKET & SIDES

*Sign up sheets to RSVP and to bring SIDE DISHES
are on the A-frame board at entrance. (Please RSVP by Oct. 7th.)*

6520 Loma de Cristo • El Paso, Texas • 915 833 1009

September 2026 Calendar, Monthly Newsletter, and Portals of Prayers (October— December 2026) are all available for pick-up in the narthex entrance of the church.

Be sure to pick up your September calendar in the narthex entrance.

September 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug 30 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship After service: Church Potluck (P)	Sept 1 Church Office Closed	Sept 2 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)	Sept 3 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)	Sept 4 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)	Sept 5 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)	Sept 6 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)
Sept 7 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)	Sept 8 Church Office Closed Labor Day	Sept 9 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)	Sept 10 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)	Sept 11 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)	Sept 12 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)	Sept 13 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)
Sept 14 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)	Sept 15 Church Office Closed	Sept 16 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)	Sept 17 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)	Sept 18 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)	Sept 19 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)	Sept 20 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)
Sept 21 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)	Sept 22 Church Office Closed	Sept 23 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)	Sept 24 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)	Sept 25 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)	Sept 26 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)	Sept 27 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)
Sept 28 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)	Sept 29 Church Office Closed	Sept 30 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)	Oct 1 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)	Oct 2 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)	Oct 3 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)	Oct 4 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Lunch and Dev (P)

Connections

Newsletter of Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas • August 2026

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

Ascension Lutheran Church Newsletter
August 2026

Pastor's Desk

Begin the Right Way

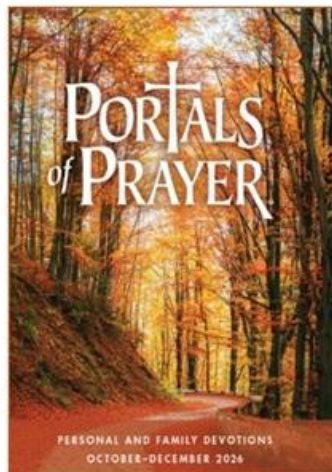
*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
(Genesis 1:1, NIV)*

"All I really needed to know, I learned in kindergarten." You've probably heard that phrase before. It's the title of a famous book by Robert Fulghum. Like most pithy phrases, it exaggerates, but there's still a kernel of truth in it. What we learn as children serves as the foundation for everything that we do and say and think for the rest of our lives. This, by the way, is one of the reasons why our preschool is so important. This is why God calls us to pray for all the children in our church, to give them a good example, to sacrifice to have Sunday School and "story time" during the worship service, to be patient whenever a kid cries in church.

Whenever we launch a new project or a new program or a new mission, the beginning is very important. The famous preacher Charles H. Spurgeon said, "Begin as you mean to go on, and go on as you began, and let the Lord be all in all of you." That means that whenever we start something new, we need to begin with the mindset and discipline and habits that we intend to sustain. Lay a good foundation and the house will stand strong.

In the Bible, the beginning is the book of Genesis. This book lays the foundation for everything that follows. And according to Genesis, the beginning of everything, the solid foundation, is God. God was there before the universe existed. God created everything. If we want to begin anything in life the right way, we need to begin with God.

Portals of Prayer AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX ENTRANCE Oct.-Dec. 2026



NEW

Be refreshed daily in God's living Word!

This Week @ Ascension

Sunday (September 20th)

9:00 AM Adult Bible Study & Sunday School
10:00 AM Fellowship
10:30 AM Worship w/ Holy Communion
12:00 PM Confirmation (PO)



HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Monday (September 21st)

Church Office Closed

Tuesday (September 22nd)

6:30 PM Boy Scouts (L)
6:30 PM Ladies' Bible Study via Zoom
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study (FH)

Wednesday (September 23rd)

9:00 AM Preschool Chapel
10 AM-1 PM Sit-N-Sew group (FH)

Thursday (September 24th)

9:45 AM Women's Bible Study (FH)
6:30 PM Choir Practice (S)

Friday (September 25th)

12-2:30 PM Preschool Extended Care

Saturday (September 26th)

8:30 AM **LWML Rio Grande Zone Fall Rally at Trinity Lutheran Church in Alamogordo, NM.** (Be at the church by 7:30 AM to meet with Anita Werner if you would like to get a ride with her. Please let Anita know in advance, so that she does not come up to the church if it is not necessary. **Anita's cell phone # is 915-494-2335.**)