

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

22130 Ottawa Rd. Apple Valley, CA. 92308
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1645, Apple Valley, CA 92307
Phone: (760) 247-7392, FAX: (760) 247-9014
Pastor@ascensionav.org; office@ascensionav.org
Website: www.ascensionav.org
Rev. James Harris. Pastor

HOLY CROSS DAY 9:00 a.m. September 14, 2025 DIVINE SERVICE SETTING THREE: Page 184

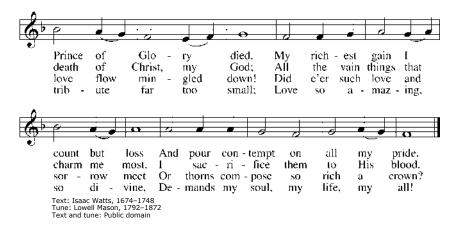
New Common Element The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

"Sir, we wish to see Jesus" (John 12:21). Then look to His holy cross. For just as Moses lifted up the bronze serpent in the wilderness, so Jesus, when He is "lifted up from the earth, will draw all people" to Himself (John 12:32). "He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" to save us (Phil. 2:8). "Everyone who is bitten" by the ancient serpent's venom of sin, "when he sees" Christ "shall live" (Num. 21:8). The true holy cross is lost to history, and we cannot return to Calvary to find our salvation. So, Christ brings the New Testament in His blood to us. "We preach Christ crucified the power of God and the wisdom of God," though foolishness to the unbelieving world (1 Cor. 1:23–24). It pleases God, "through the folly" of the cross we preach, "to save those who believe" (1 Cor. 1:21). We find the fruit and benefit of this holy cross poured out in Holy Baptism, spoken in the preaching of Holy Absolution, and delivered in the body and blood given and shed there for us. Thus are we strengthened to take up our crosses, sanctified by His (John 12:25–26).

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross





Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** who made heaven and earth.
- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- **P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the
 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 98:1, 4, 6; antiphon: v. 2

The LORD has made known His salvation;

He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations. Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

With trumpets and the sound of the horn

make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

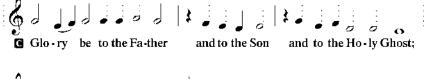
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

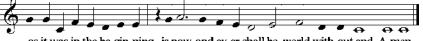
as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

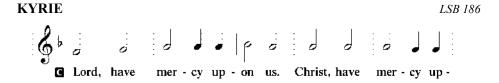
The LORD has made known His salvation;

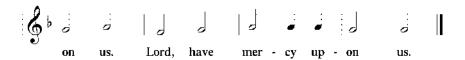
He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.





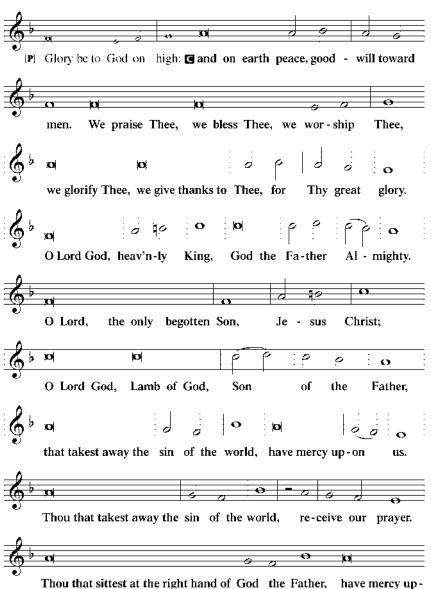
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.





GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

LSB 187





SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



P Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." ⁶Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." ⁹So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 40:1–11; antiphon: v. 13

¹I waited patiently for the LORD;
He inclined to me and heard my cry.

²He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.

³He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in the LORD.

⁴Blessèd is the man who makes the LORD his trust,

who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie!

⁵You have multiplied, O LORD my God, Your wondrous deeds and Your thoughts toward us; none can compare with You!

I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.

⁶Sacrifice and offering you have not desired, but You have given me an open ear.

Burnt offering and sin offering You have not required.

⁷Then I said, "Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me:

⁸I desire to do Your will, O my God; Your law is within my heart."

⁹I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation;

behold, I have not restrained my lips, as You know, O LORD.

¹⁰I have not hidden Your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of Your faithfulness and Your salvation;

I have not concealed Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness from the great congregation.

¹¹As for You, O LORD, You will not restrain Your mercy from me;

Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness will ever preserve me!

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 1:18–25

¹⁸The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

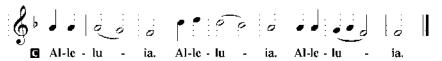
"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

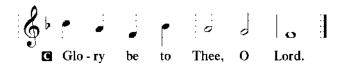
Stand

ALLELUIA LSB 190



HOLY GOSPEL John 12:20–33

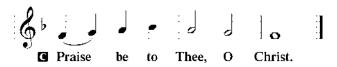
P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.



²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

²⁷"Now is My soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not Mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself." ³³He said this to show by what kind of death He was going to die.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

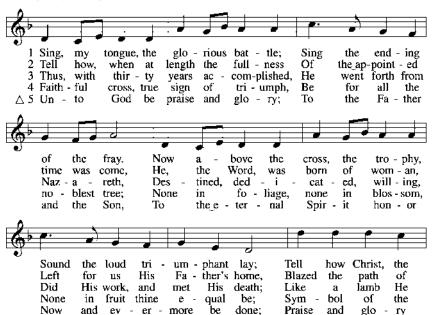
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell.

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.

Sit

454 Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle



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As
                                                                        the
                                                                               day.
world's re - deem - er,
                                           a
                                                   vic - tim
                                                                 won
                   be - dience, Shone as
                                                  light
                                                           a - midst the gloom.
          0
                  yield - ed
                                  On
                                           the
                                                  cross
          bly
                                                          His
                                                                  dy - ing breath.
world's re -
                 demp - tion,
                                  For
                                           the
                                                weight that
                                                                hung on
          the
                  high - est
                                  While the
                                                  time - less
Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, c. 530–609; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: Carl F. Schalk, 1929–2021
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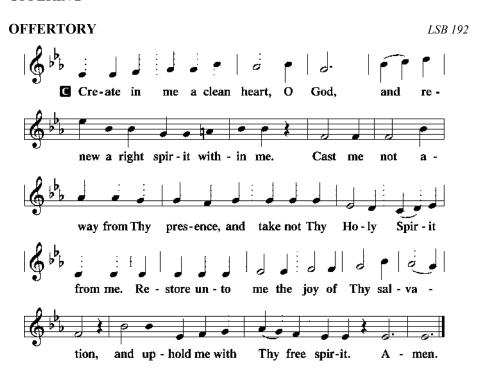
Tune: © 1967 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000276

Sit

SERMON

- The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- \mathbf{C} Amen.

OFFERING



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- **P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For grace to proclaim the triumph of the cross throughout the world, so all would rejoice in the victory of that love which hate could not destroy and that life which death could not overcome, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- For the continued proclamation of the cross's power, that from this life-giving tree we would receive the gifts that preserve faith, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For all pastors and servants of the Church, that they may be enabled by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the wisdom of the cross before the world, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For the households of this congregation, that all may live in love that issues from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For the nations, that war, hate and bloodshed would be overcome by peace, love and justice; and for all who serve in our armed forces, that God would protect those who labor to protect us, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For all who have requested our intercession, [especially ______,] that our loving Father would be near to them and grant them a happy issue out of their troubles, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For worthy reception of the fruit of the cross this day, that through Christ's death we may walk the path to paradise and receive forgiveness, life and salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.

- P For the whole Christian Church on earth, in thanksgiving for all the faithful who have gone before us, that God would bring us to share at last with them in the unending joy of His kingdom, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Through Him, with Him and in Him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is Yours, forever and ever.
- C Amen.

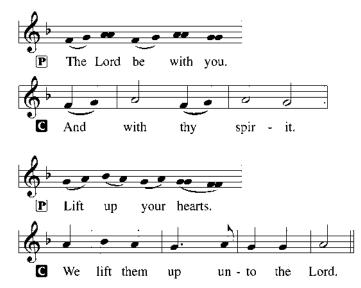
SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

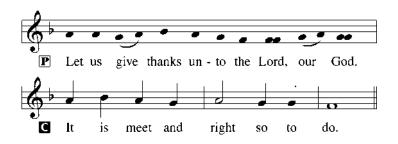
Communion Statement

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

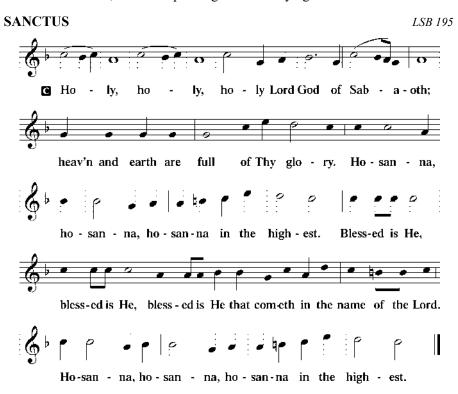
Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor or an Elder.

PREFACE LSB 194





It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



LORD'S PRAYER LSB 196

P 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.



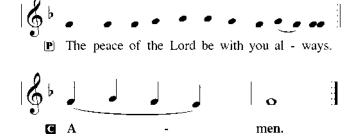
THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB 197

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 LSB 197

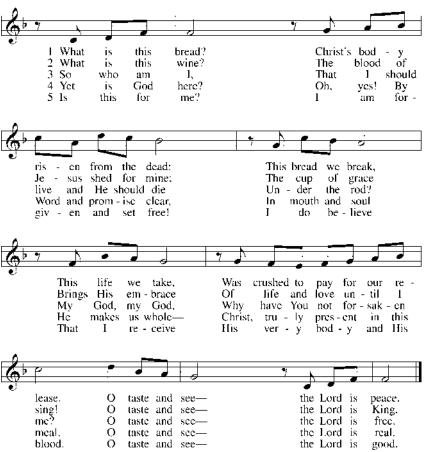


AGNUS DEI LSB 198



DISTRIBUTION

629 What Is This Bread



Text: Frederic W. Baue, 1946 Tune: Jean Neuhauser Baue, 1951 Text and tune: © 1991 Fred and Jean Baue. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000276

641 You Satisfy the Hungry Heart



Stand

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

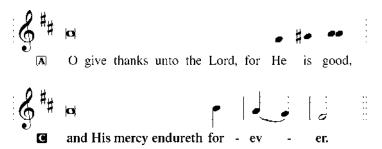
- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart + in peace.
- \mathbf{C} Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS LSB 199



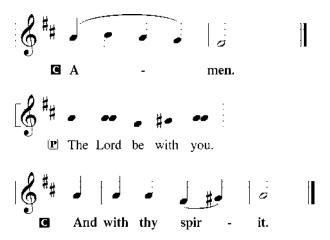
is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

THANKSGIVING LSB 200

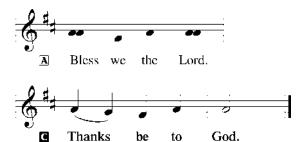


P Let us pray.

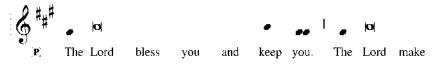
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

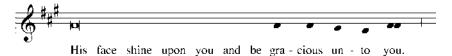


BENEDICAMUS LSB 202

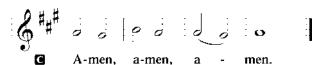


BENEDICTION LSB 202



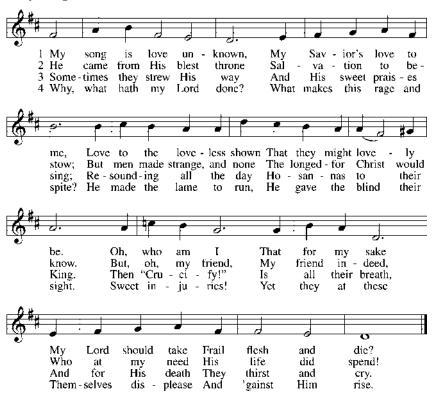






Sit

430 My Song Is Love Unknown



5 They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He
To suff'ring goes
That He His foes
From thence might free.

6 In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might have; In death no friendly tomb But what a stranger gave. What may I say? Heav'n was His home But mine the tomb Wherein He lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine! Never was love, dear King, Never was grief like Thine. This is my friend, In whose sweet praise I all my days Could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683 Tune: John N. Ireland, 1879–1962 Text: Public domain Tune: © John Ireland Trust. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000276

Acknowledgments

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SERVING SERVICE TODAY:

ELDER Ken Porter **HEAD USHER** Bruce Benson

SUNDAY READINGS

The readings for Sunday, September 21, 2025 are:

Amos 8:4-7 Psalm 113 (antiphon: v. 3) 1 Timothy 2:1-15 Luke 16:1-15

September 14 – Proper 19

Luke 15:2 – "And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, 'This Man receives sinners and eats with them." Thanks be to God: Jesus receives us sinners! What the Pharisees can't understand, we praise with all our being. We give thanks for the grace of God, and we live by that grace. The more of it we receive, the more we will want to conform ourselves to the image of our generous and gracious Lord. Knowing the Lord and trusting Him come first, and the desire to imitate Him can't help but follow.



- Craft Fair October November (Sundays after church service) – check bulletin for actual dates
- Oktoberfest Sunday, October 19th at 1:00pm
- Voter's Assembly Sunday, November 9th at 1:00pm
- Congregational Fall Potluck Sunday, November 16th at 12:00pm
- Advent by Candlelight "The King Shall Come" -Saturday, November 29 at 1:00pm
- Thanksgiving Food Collection for aCORE Solution dates and more details coming soon
- Congregational Christmas Party Sunday, December 14th at 12:00pm
- Christmas Toy Drive for the Fire Department's 'Spark of Love Program' – dates and more info coming soon

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Sun. (09/14)	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Service Bible Study Potluck
Mon. (09/15)	4:00 p.m.	Youth Confirmation Class
Wed. (09/17)	11:30 a.m.	Bible Study
Sat. (09/20)	8:30 a.m.	Men's Club
Sun. (09/21)	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Service Bible Study
ATTENDANCE:		
09/07/2025	9:00 a.m.	766

OFFERING:

Needed weekly:	\$ 4,197.00	Needed YTD	\$ 1	51,092.00
Rec'vd. 09/07/2025	\$ 8,126.66	Rec'vd YTD	<u>\$ 1</u>	50,549.19
Over Weekly	\$ 3,929.66	Short YTD	\$	(542.81)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome you and invite you to join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall after service. Be sure to check in with Debbie in the Narthex before service. Visitors are asked to sign the guest book in the Narthex, please include your address and home church. If this is your first time attending Holy Communion at Ascension, please speak with the Pastor or an Elder prior to the service.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

There will be NO Adult Confirmation Class tomorrow.

YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASS

Youth Confirmation Class will be meeting on Monday, September 15 at 4:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER POTLUCK

We are having a special potluck today after Church and Bible Study at 12:00 p.m.. Just bring your favorite dish you had sometime during your childhood. This should be lots of fun. Hope to see you all there

MEN'S CLUB

The next meeting of the Men's Club is scheduled for Saturday, September 20 at 8:30 a.m. All men are welcome.

FROM THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees need volunteers from the congregation to assist on different projects. Please prayerfully consider offering some of your time!

Also—Anyone that is willing and able, please help during our absence—weeding back field, removing pine needles or any other general clean up you happen to see. Bring your own tools. Can be done anytime the office is open.

Prayer and Praises" is your personal invitation to join with the Prayer Ministry of our church in daily prayer. If you would like someone to stay on the prayer list, please call the church office at 760-247-7392, put your request on the prayer cards in the church, or go on-line at www.ascensionav.org. Otherwise, names will be removed after two months.

ACCORDING TO THEIR NEED:

Angela Alder Tricia Blake Durfee Family Gaylon Pastella Gwen Strasburg All who have sorrows/problems Andrea Red & MaryAnn Beck Billie & Eric Grayson Blomberg Vanessa Brown Gabrielle Butcher Renee Cates David Chavez Pearl Coole Della Cowie John Davis Samuel & Sean Detwiler Christine & Christopher Dunne

Rosie Fernandez Christian Frash Faigie Gawn Grace Glass Roger Hall Jace Haynes Harry Heike Bill Huff Avery Jamison Jacob Jones Chris Kelly Steve Kuhn Debbie Lange James & Leota Lewis Pete Maaske Dave Mever Grace Miskimen Cesar Morales Herbert & Elaine Moran Lauren Newmann Donna Park Richard & Alice Pastella Esperanza Perez

Protection of pregnant women

Marilyn Quade

Penny Reese

Bill Kobertson

Marge Edwards

Heidi Evans

Carla Rosen Josh Seau Noreen Selle Bea Shelby Shirley Smith Richard Souza Carol Thomas Matthew & Tina Thorn Randy Tilson Fran Truslow Stan Vacek Tammy Wall Melanie Waters Nancy Williams Wilma Wilson Ray Zayas

Mary Beuerle Devin Coole Jennifer Millgate Mildred Sears Rory Tighe Leeta Amaro Averv Marilyn Belka Vivian Bingnam Sue Boers Karrie Burke Marcia Byron Lane Ceballos Tracy Cole Robert Coole Larry Cramins Kathy Davis Matt DeWitt Kelley Dunne Egger Family

Sam Fagan George & Vonnie Filkins Don Garcia Brielle Gondola Raquel Gudino Jerry & Emilie Harding Jeanne Hecksel Karlee Henson Dawn Husel

Norma Jenkins John & Connie Kavs Emma Kraus Anthony Kwesie Jeannette Lawler Erin Liedtky David McDonald Daniel Midgely Debbie Moore Justin Morales Dennis & Lee Nelson Michelle Nichol David Parker Seunghee Pastella Jose Perez Kelley Pulone

Randi
Christian Rhoades
Crystal Roblero
Beth Rubio
Chris Segard
Loretta Severson
Diane Short & Short Family
Manuel Sousa

Vanessa Sowders Sarah Thomas Diana Thornbury Joshua Todd Sue Twarowski Blaise & Lisa Vasey Rosa & Paul Wallace Sharon Waters Beverly Wilson

Judy Winkler

Charles Blake Judy Cutler Beverly Moglich Kevin Smith Bob Albert Brendan Anderson Mark Baker Ilona Berecki Bill & Jan Blanton Tiffany Brown Kyle Burton Mari Caroland Carolyne Chaney Connie Elizabeth Collins William Creek Julie DeRose Mary Diaz John & Ann Duran Janice Estrick Lynn Fairgrief Shaunah Forrest Chrissie Gates Government Marty Hall Pastor Harris

Hunter & Justin Hedden Mike Holtgrefe Maggie Ivy Eric Jones David & Natalie Kellev Dorothy Krentz Addison Lange Melody LeGray Anthony Lopez Linda Merkle Military Renee Moore Violet Morales Amanda Netzell Lori O'Neil Glenn & Nancy Pastella Tim & Marguerite Pastella

Heidi Perry Sue Purhaugh Michele Rawlins Dave Riffel Linda Roque Ernie Schmidt Margi Segnari Ray Shaffer Ed Scott Smith Barbara Souza Janet Surber Larry & Robin Thompson Stan Thorne Denise Turner Mitch & Casidy Tyska Brandon Vess Wendy Walsh Charlie West Stacy Wilson

Cynthia Yancho

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About the Cover: The crucifix can bring about many different reactions. On the one hand, it reminds us of the suffering and death that Jesus encountered upon that Roman form of execution, the horror of our sin, and God's wrath poured out upon it. On the other hand, the crucifix is, above all, a reminder of the lengths to which Jesus was willing to go to have us as His own forever. It is a symbol of His outstretched love, as He shed His own blood to forgive and save sinners.