

*The one
who hears you
hears Me*

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. James Harris, Pastor

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 a.m. Service July 3, 2022

93.5 FM

DIVINE SERVICE SETTING THREE Page 184

Thoughts as we gather:

The Lord Grants Peace and Life to His Church

The Lord restores Jerusalem, His Church, because she is the mother of His children, whom He comforts *“as one whom his mother comforts”* (Is. 66:13). We are *“satisfied from her consoling breast”* with the pure milk of the Word, and we *“drink deeply with delight from her glorious abundance”* (Is. 66:11). The messengers of Christ bestow such gifts upon His Church. For He sends them out *“as lambs in the midst of wolves”* (Luke 10:3), bearing in their bodies the sacrifice of His cross, by which *“the kingdom of God has come near”* (Luke 10:9, 11). Wherever He enters in with this Gospel, Satan is cast out and falls *“like lightning from heaven”* (Luke 10:18). Thus, we do not *“boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (Gal. 6:14). Rejoicing in this Gospel, we *“bear one another’s burdens”* in love, according to *“the law of Christ”* (Gal. 6:2).

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

606 I Lay My Sins on Jesus



1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less Lamb of God;
2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; All full - ness dwells in Him;
3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, This wea - ry soul of mine;



He bears them all and frees us From the ac - curs - ed load.
He heals all my dis - eas - es; My soul He does re - deem,
His right hand me em - brac - es; I on His breast re - cline.



I bring my guilt to Je - sus To wash my crim - son stains
I lay my griefs on Je - sus. My bur - dens and my cares;
I love the name of Je - sus. Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;



Clean in His blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.
He from them all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.
Like fra - grance on the breez - es His name a - broad is poured.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-89
Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

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

A In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

A If we say 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.**

Kneel/Stand

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

A Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

A In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 19:2, 4-6; antiphon: v. 1

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.

**Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.**

Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

**In them He has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.**

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them,

and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

**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 heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.

KYRIE

LSB 152

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from above and for our salvation 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 unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



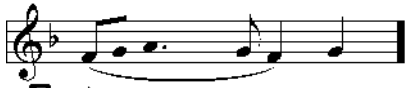
C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise
let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

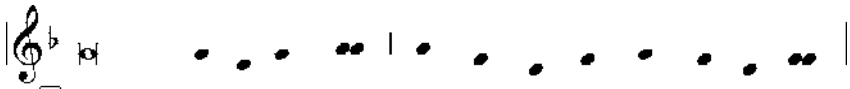
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

LSB 154



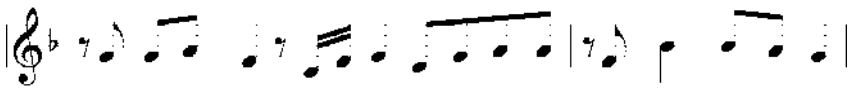
A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



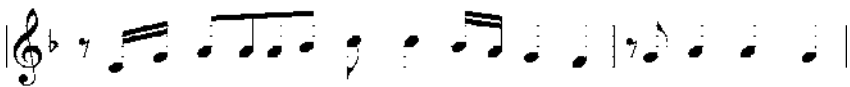
We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.

For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,

You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

A The Lord be with you.

C And al - so with you.

A Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have built Your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. Continue to send Your messengers to preserve Your people in true peace that, by the preaching of Your Word, Your Church may be kept free from all harm and danger; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Sit

¹⁰“Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,
 all you who love her;
 rejoice with her in joy,
 all you who mourn over her;
¹¹that you may nurse and be satisfied
 from her consoling breast;
 that you may drink deeply with delight
 from her glorious abundance.”

¹²For thus says the LORD:
 “Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river,
 and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream;
 and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip,
 and bounced upon her knees.

¹³As one whom his mother comforts,
 so I will comfort you;
 you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

¹⁴You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice;
 your bones shall flourish like the grass;
 and the hand of the LORD shall be known to His servants,
 and He shall show His indignation against His enemies.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 66:1–7; antiphon: vv. 8–9

¹Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
²sing the glory of His name;
 give to Him glorious praise!

³**Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds!
 So great is Your power that Your enemies come cringing to
 You.**

⁴All the earth worships You
 and sings praises to You;
 they sing praises to Your name.”

⁵**Come and see what God has done:
 He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man.**

⁶He turned the sea into dry land;
 they passed through the river on foot.

There did we rejoice in Him,
⁷**who rules by His might forever,
 whose eyes keep watch on the nations—
 let not the rebellious exalt themselves.**

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

¹Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. ⁵For each will have to bear his own load.

⁶One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches. ⁷Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. . . .

¹⁴But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. ¹⁶And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

¹⁷From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.

¹⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

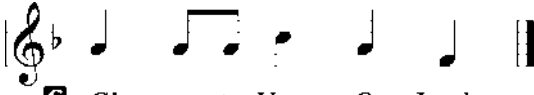
ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 156

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

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

A The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the tenth chapter.



G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of Him, two by two, into every town and place where He Himself was about to go. ²And He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. ³Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’ ⁶And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. ⁷And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. ⁹Heal the sick in it and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ ¹⁰But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, ¹¹‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.’ ¹²I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

¹³“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴But it will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ¹⁵And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades.

¹⁶“The one who hears you hears Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me, and the one who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me.”

¹⁷The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name!” ¹⁸And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. ²⁰Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

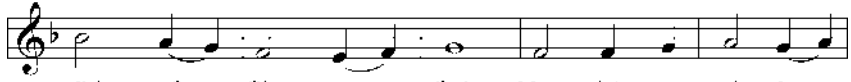


G Praise to You, O Christ.

425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine. That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most. I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872
Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON TEXT: Luke 10:1-20

SERMON THEME: The Mission and Ministry of the Seventy

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

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

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

OFFERTORY

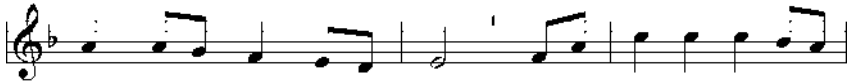
LSB 159



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For laborers in God's kingdom, that the Lord of the harvest would send them into His vineyard to proclaim peace and the coming of His kingdom, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For all pastors, that they would faithfully deliver the Word of God without fear of the wolves who threaten to devour them, continuing in the footsteps of the apostles and the 72 and trusting at all times that in the Lord their labor is not in vain, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For Christian homes, that the proclamation of peace would take root therein, so that all husbands and wives would love and honor one another and all children would be nurtured in fear and faith toward God's name, so that the kingdom of God would indeed draw near to us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For civic leaders and the citizens whom they serve, that the Lord would extend peace to this sin-sick world, and that violence, injustice and wrongdoing would be undone as the will of God is carried out upon the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For [*and for*] all who have any need, that even as Jesus has borne the burdens of all mankind, He might likewise look upon them in mercy and grant them healing now and patience to await the resurrection on the Last Day, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For our hearts and minds as we bring our tithes and offerings to the Lord this day, that He would keep us from greed and pride of heart and accept our gifts together with our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For all who dine at the Lord's altar this day, that they may receive the abundant comfort and satisfaction God promised to His people of old in Jerusalem and fulfilled in our Lord's body and blood, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A How awesome are Your deeds, O Lord. You have planted us and directed us to pray that You would send workers into Your vineyard. You have answered that prayer through Your Son and His Church. As Your kingdom draws nearer each day, teach us to boast only in the cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ, rejoicing that our names are written in heaven; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C **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.**

BENEDICTION

LSB 166

A 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.**

922 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

sts. 1-4



1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing, Nev-er a-lone.
 2 Go, My chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, At peace and pure.
 3 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour-ish-ed, Clos-er to Me;
 4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;



Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My
 Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you
 Grow in love and love by serv-ing, Joy-ful and free. Here My
 I the Lord will smile up-on you And give you peace: I the



love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you Mine for-ev-er.
 heard My dear Son's sto-ry: Here you touched Him, saw His glo-ry.
 Spir-it's pow-er filled you; Here His ten-der-ness com-fort stilled you.
 Lord will be your Fa-ther, Sav-ior, Com-fort-er, and Broth-er.



Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing— You are My own.
 Go, My chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, At peace and pure.
 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour-ish-ed, Joy-ful and free.
 Go, My chil-dren; I will keep you And give you peace.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919-2008

Tune: Welsh, 18th cent.

Text: © 1983 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000276

Tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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SERVING SERVICE TODAY:

ELDER

Mark Amer

HEAD USHER

Bruce Benson

SUNDAY READINGS

The readings for Sunday, July 10, 2022 are:

Leviticus (18:1-5) 19:9-18

Psalm 41 (antiphon: v. 1)

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

July 3 – Proper 9

Luke 10:20b – “But rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” No one can snatch us out of the nail-marked hands of Jesus. He has redeemed us and claimed us as His own. As those whose names are written in heaven, we seek to live heavenly lives here on earth. This is the foundation of all our good works, including the good work of faithfully supporting the work of the Church. It’s our joy in having been redeemed by the Lord through the activity of the Church that motivates us to support the Church.

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Sun. (07/03)	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Worship Bible Study
Mon. (07/04)	Office Closed	Fourth of July Holiday
Wed. (07/06)	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study
Thurs. (07/07)	7:00 p.m.	Intercessory Prayer Meeting
Fri. (07/08)	7:00 p.m.	Small Group Bible Study
Sun. (07/10)	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Worship Bible Study

ATTENDANCE:

06/26/2022	9:00 a.m.	67
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OFFERING:

Needed weekly:	\$ 3,737.00
Received 06/26/22	<u>\$ 1,984.00</u>
Short	\$ (1,753.00)

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the altar today are for the Glory of God by Diane Staff in remembrance of her and Ken's anniversary. It would have been 55 years on June 24 .

LOOKING FOR ROOMS TO RENT IN THE HIGH DESERT

We have two members who are currently looking for a room to rent—Nancy Davison, and Craig Joyce. If you or someone you know has a room for rent please contact the office and we will forward that information to Nancy and Craig.

NAME BADGES

If you do not have a name badge, please let either Kathy Benzow or Debbie Stowe know as we are planning to put in an order for them.

MEMBER PICTURE DIRECTORY

We need your help in completing a picture directory. We are looking for someone that would be willing/able to take pictures in August. Our plan is to take the pictures following the service each Sunday in August. More info will be coming in July.

OFFICE CLOSURE

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, July 4th, in celebration of Independence Day.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER MEETING

The next Intercessory Prayer Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 7, 2022 at Judy Meadows' home.

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

The Small Group Bible Study will be meeting on Friday, July 8, 2022 at the DeRose's home.

BBQ AND CHAIR FUNDRAISER

The BBQ potluck and Chair Fundraiser is next Sunday July 10th at 1:00 pm. A \$5.00 donation is being requested to help raise money for new chairs. There will also be a silent auction with baked goods and other fun items, and we will be collecting donations of shoes, clothing, and toiletries for Orphan Grain Train. As a guideline last names, A-H desserts, I-Q salads, and R-Z side dishes. Meat will be provided.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MULTI-CONGREGATIONAL PASTORAL INFORMATION MEETINGS

We will be conducting three meetings on Wednesday July 20th regarding the pastoral multi-congregation agreement with Faith Lutheran Church in Hesperia. All three meetings will be accessible through zoom. We encourage all members to attend one of the meetings. The schedule is as follows:

Meeting 1 - 10:00 a.m. Zoom only

Meeting 2 - 2:00 p.m. Zoom Only

Meeting 3 - 6:00 p.m. In person at Ascension Lutheran and Zoom

If you would like to attend one of the meetings via zoom, please email alcavservice@gmail.com with the time that you would like to attend. We will make sure that the appropriate zoom link is sent back to you. As always if you have any questions, please contact an Elder or Mike Benzow.

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:

Gaylon Pastella	Kevin Smith	Gwen Strasburg
Angela Alder	Charles Blake	Devin Coole
Detwiler Family	Gamas Family	Roger Hall
Charlene Krentz	Jennifer Millgate	Beverly Moglich
Renee Moore	Mildred Sears	Barbara Stumbaugh
Lonny Stumbaugh	Nikki Stumbaugh	Rory Tighe
Melinda Alcantar	Brendan Anderson	Serena Anderson
Nikki Baleew	Glen Beaty	Red Beck
Sue Boers	Jennifer Brecht	Isabel Benavides
Brian & Crystal	Barbara Brown	Steve & Peggy Brunette
Linda Burnham	Steve Caffey	Ginny Callan
Cletus Caroland	Cindy Celaya	Tracy Cole
Emily Collins	Congregation	Richard Connors
Phil Cordova	Robin Cousins	Hilda Dean
Adam Dalton	Rusty DeWitt	Pat Dobyms
Gene Dooner	Christine Dunne	Christopher Dunne
Francis Durfee & Family	Don Edwards	Lynn Fairgrief
Riley Faith	Faith Lutheran Church	Keith Fisk
Rick Fleming	Arturo Franco	Mike Garcia
Garcia Family	Chrissie Gates	Grace Glass
Government	Jay and Becky Graham	Rebecca Guerra
Bob Guyer	Isaiah Guzman	Marty Hall
Jerry Harding	Bud Harke	Pastor Harris
Tim Harris	John Haston	Jeanne Hecksel
Justin & Trisha Hedden	Sherry Hedden	Less Hiracane
Mary Hoel	Jennah Holling	Dan Hook
Bill Huff	Howard Hunt	Rob Jackson
James & Carrie	Violet Johnson	Kays Family
Chris Kelly	Linda Kienle	Emma Kraus
Anthony Kwesie	Jennifer LaRue	Stephen Latham
Shaelyne Leamon	John Lewis	Jamar Liddele
Sean & Mackenzie Liedtky	Jeff Maynard	David McDonald
Dave Meyer	Military	David Miller
Janet Mowery	Chuckie Morales	Al & Beth Myers
Cindy Nielsen	Sally O’Neil	Ron Orr
Kayla Overmyer	Palmer Family	Don Pastella
Tim & Marguerite Pastella	Zoe Peacock	Gail Peterson
Lynda Porter	Nevin Purbaugh	Rawlins Family
Dave Riffel	Stacia Robin	Nicole Scarpelli & Family
Carol Schmidt	Drew Schmidt	Marge Segnari
Ray Shaffer	Bea Shelby	Trudy Shoemaker
Short Family	Nancy Short	Daniel Singleton
Richard Souza	June Spradlin	Susie Springer
Carrie & Braden Stedje	Danny Stumbaugh	Randy Thomas
Joshua Todd	Delvin Tumbling	Ukrainian People
Stan Vacek	Ginger Vick	Heidi Wade
Chuck & Donna Wagers	Robert Wagers	Tammy Wall
Nancy Williams	Steve & Wilma Wilson	

GRIEF & STRENGTH:

Family of Don Zito



About the Cover: Jesus sent His apostles forth with a word, but not just any word. It was His word. They were sent with such authority that when they spoke, it was as if Jesus Himself were speaking. While the apostles were unique in their calling, Jesus still delivers His word of forgiveness through the certain means of preaching and the Sacraments so that when you hear your pastor’s absolution of your sins, this is the sure reality in heaven. It is no other word than Jesus’ word.