



I have no pleasure
in the death of anyone

Ezekiel 18:32

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 a.m. September 27, 2026

DIVINE SERVICE SETTING FOUR: Page 203

Thoughts as we gather:

The Cross of Christ Opens to Us the Way of Repentance to Life with God

The way of the Lord is righteous and just: *"The soul who sins shall die"* (Ezek. 18:4). However, because the Lord has *"no pleasure in the death of anyone"* (Ezek. 18:32), He calls sinners to repentance and faith in His gracious forgiveness of sins. The man who is thus turned away from his wickedness, who henceforth lives by the grace of God, *"shall surely live; he shall not die"* (Ezek. 18:28). This way of repentance has been opened for us by the cross of Christ. In the righteousness of faith and love, *"He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death"* (Phil. 2:8), and He was vindicated in His resurrection from the dead. Indeed, *"God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name"* (Phil. 2:9). He has given us this name in our Baptism into Christ, in whom we now *"shine as lights in the world"* (Phil. 2:15). He uses the authority that He has received from His Father (Matt. 21:23–27) to preach a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, by which even *"the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God"* (Matt. 21:31–32).

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

549 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
2 Crown Him, ye mar - tyrs of our God, Who from His al - tar call;
3 Ye seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race, Ye ran - somed from the fall,
4 Hail Him, ye heirs of Da - vid's line, Whom Da - vid Lord did call,



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.
Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
The God in - car - nate, man di - vine, And crown Him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.
 Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown Him Lord of all.
 Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
 The God in - car - nate, man di - vine, And crown Him Lord of all.

5 Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
 The wormwood and the gall,
 Go, spread your trophies at His feet
 And crown Him Lord of all.
 Go, spread your trophies at His feet
 And crown Him Lord of all.

6 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,
 On this terrestrial ball
 To Him all majesty ascribe
 And crown Him Lord of all.
 To Him all majesty ascribe
 And crown Him Lord of all.

7 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
 We at His feet may fall!
 We'll join the everlasting song
 And crown Him Lord of all.
 We'll join the everlasting song
 And crown Him Lord of all.

Text (sts. 1-5): Edward Perronet, 1726-92, alt.; (sts. 6-7): A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt.
 Tune: Oliver Holden, 1765-1844
 Text and tune: Public domain

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 Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Kneel/Stand

- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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 147:1–5; antiphon: v. 6

The LORD lifts up the humble;
He casts the wicked to the ground.
**Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.**
The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
He gathers the outcasts of Israel.
**He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.**
He determines the number of the stars;
He gives to all of them their names.
**Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
His understanding is beyond measure.**
**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 lifts up the humble;
He casts the wicked to the ground.



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

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

LSB 204



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
 2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
 3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
 O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
 You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
 Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
 In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . .

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is My way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are My ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

³⁰“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 25:1–10; antiphon: v. 4

¹To You, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

²**O my God, in You I trust;
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.**

³Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴**Make me to know Your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in Your truth and teach me,
for You are the God of my salvation;
for You I wait all the day long.

⁶**Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to Your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

⁸**Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore He instructs sinners in the way.**

⁹He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble His way.

¹⁰**All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.**

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Philippians 2:1–4, 14–18

¹If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. . . .

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or questioning, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23–27

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to Him as He was teaching, and said, “By what authority are You doing these things, and who gave You this authority?” ²⁴Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell Me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And He said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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.

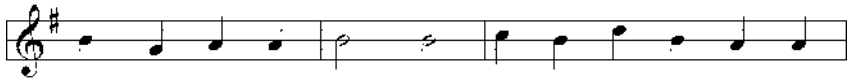
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Sit

655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and



by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal



Son And bring to naught all He has done.
we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
strife And lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert, 1543, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug
Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Merciful Lord, You founded Your Church upon the proclamation of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Purify the tongues of Your servants, that the tongues of the wicked may be silenced. Turn them from their evil ways, that their sins may be washed away. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- P** Lord God, You have built Your Church and called her to hold fast to the Word of life in the midst of a crooked and twisted world. Preserve her from all grumbling, rivalry and conceit, and sustain her in humble and devout faith until the day of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- P** O Lord, though the world denies Your justice, strengthen Your Church to proclaim it rightly. Let the wicked be broken by Your truth, that they may turn and follow in the way of forgiveness and life. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- P** Creator of all things, bless the useful arts of science and industry, that we may use Your resources for the good of Your people and take responsible care of all You have made. Prevent us from misusing Your gifts and our reason, lest we bring harm upon ourselves and others. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- P** Mighty Father, all the might of man is nothing before You, yet You have appointed earthly realms and rulers to punish evil and honor good. Give us faithful leaders who will serve honorably and well. Bless also those who serve in the armed forces to defend us and protect our liberty. Lord, in Your mercy,

- P** hear our prayer.

- P** O Lord Almighty, draw near to those who face the distress of sickness, surgery and pain [*especially*_____]. Let them not be afraid, and heal them according to the abundance of Your steadfast love. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

P Unite us, O Lord, that we may be of one mind and one will in doctrine, witness and service. Bless us as we come at Your bidding to receive the body and blood of Your Son at His table. Grant that what we receive in this Holy Communion we may keep in holy hearts and holy lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O God, in You there is no shadow due to change. Enkindle Your divine light in us, that we may stand united as Christ's own body, holding fast to the Word of life and shining brightly in the midst of this world's darkness; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 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 It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

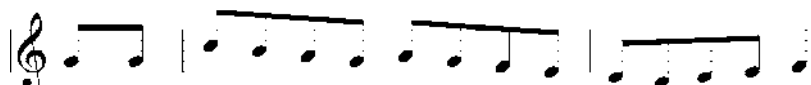
LSB 208



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!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.

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

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 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 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.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

DISTRIBUTION

636 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, Leave the
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet Him, And with
3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther
4 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der O - ver



gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, Come in - to the day - light's
lov - ing rev - 'rence greet Him. For with words of life im -
cost nor pain will mea - sure; But the price - less gifts of
this sur - pass - ing won - der That the bread of life is



splen - dor, There with joy your prais - es ren - der.
mor - tal He is knock - ing at your por - tal.
heav - en God to us has free - ly giv - en.
bound - less Though the souls it feeds are count - less:



Bless the One whose grace un - bound - ed This a - maz - ing
O - pen wide the gates be - fore Him, Say - ing, as you
Though the wealth of earth were prof - fered, None could buy the
With the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to



ban - quet found - ed; He, though heav'n - ly, high, and
there a - dore Him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -
gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you
us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious con - so -



ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
ceive You, That I nev - er - more will leave You.
riv - en, And His blood, for you once giv - en.
la - tion, Pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion!

- 5 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
 Truest friend, and dearest treasure,
 Peace beyond all understanding,
 Joy into all life expanding:
 Humbly now, I bow before You;
 Love incarnate, I adore You;
 Worthily let me receive You
 And, so favored, never leave You.
- 6 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,
 Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,
 Jesus, joy of my desiring,
 Fount of life, my soul inspiring:
 At Your feet I cry, my maker,
 Let me be a fit partaker
 Of this blessed food from heaven,
 For our good, Your glory, given.
- 7 Lord, by love and mercy driven,
 You once left Your throne in heaven
 On the cross for me to languish
 And to die in bitter anguish,
 To forego all joy and gladness
 And to shed Your blood in sadness.
 By this blood redeemed and living,
 Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.
- 8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,
 Let me gladly here obey You.
 By Your love I am invited,
 Be Your love with love required;
 By this Supper let me measure,
 Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
 Through the gift of grace You give me
 As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77; (sts. 1, 4–5): tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978; (sts. 2–3, 6–8): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

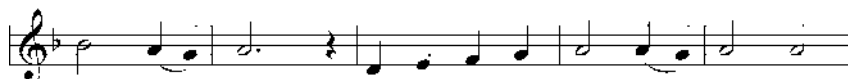
Text (sts. 1, 4–5): © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000276

Text (sts. 2–3, 6–8) and tune: Public domain

621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and
 2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard
 4 At His feet the six - winged ser - aph, Cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
 earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
 on the way As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing
 sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence



For with bless - ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de -
 In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the
 From the realms of end - less day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to
 As with cease - less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



scend - ing Comes our hom - age to de - mand.
 faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
 van - quish As the dark - ness clears a - way,
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia. Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5th cent.; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829-85, alt.
 Tune: French, 17th cent.
 Text and tune: Public domain

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.

C Amen.

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
 glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
 A light to lead the the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

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.

C Amen.

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Sit

857 Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way

1 Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -
2 You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord, But
3 No gold - en scepter but a towel You
4 You bid us bend our hu - man pride Nor
5 Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -

ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -
pow'r You laid a - side. You lived Your years in
place with - in the hands Of those who seek to
count our - selves a - bove The low - est place, the
ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -

get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.
ser - vant - hood; In low - li - ness You died.
fol - low You And live by Your com - mands.
mean - est task That waits the gift of love.
get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007
Tune: The Whole Booke of Psalmes, 1562, London
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SERVING SERVICE TODAY:

ELDER	Ken Porter
HEAD USHER	Bruce Benson
READER	Jonathan Alligood

SUNDAY READINGS

The readings for Sunday, October 4, 2026, are:

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalms 80:7-19 (antiphon: v. 7)

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

September 27 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 21:26 – “But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd...” Foolish Pharisees! They fear men more than they fear God, and so they miss out on the great blessing of knowing Jesus and His love. All our sins are like this: we fear something more than we fear God. And how foolish that is! Just think of the blessings we miss out on whenever we place our fear or trust in something other than God.

**“WE CAN DO ALL THINGS
THROUGH CHRIST—HE
STRENGTHENS US”**

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Sun. (09/27)	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Service Bible Study
Mon. (09/28)	10:30 a.m.	Adult Confirmation Class
Wed. (09/30)	11:30 a.m.	Bible Study
Sat. (10/03)	9:00 a.m.	Ladies' Bible Study
Sun. (10/04)	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Service Bible Study

ATTENDANCE:

09/20/2026 9:00 a.m.

OFFERING:

Needed weekly:	\$ 4,501.00	Needed YTD	\$ 171,038.00
Rec`vd. 09/20/2026	<u>\$ 2,683.00</u>	Rec`vd YTD	<u>\$ 172,567.38</u>
Short Weekly	\$ (1,818.00)	Over YTD	\$ 1,529.38

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 CLASS

The Adult Confirmation Class will meet on Monday, September 28 at 10:30 a.m.

COUNCIL MEETING

The next Church Council meeting will be held on Sunday, October 11 at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall in person and via Zoom.

UPCOMING *Events*

Sunday, October 11th—Sunday, November 8th—Thanksgiving Grocery Store Gift Card Collection

Sunday, October 18th – Oktoberfest Potluck at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday November 8th—Sunday, November 29th—Spark of Love Toy Drive

Sunday, November 29th – Advent by Candlelight - immediately after service at approximately 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 13th – Congregational Christmas Party- at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

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
Bob Albert
MaryAnn Beck
Bill & Jan Blanton
Raymond Bond
Patrick Coole
Kathy Davis
Mary Diaz
John & Ann Duran
Joe & Penny Estrada
Alicia Ferrell
Christian Frash
Faigie Gawn
Grace Glass
Shelly Hadsell
Pastor Harris
Justin Hedden & Family
Michelle Jones
Steve Kuhn
Randy Lam
Frank Liedtky & Family
Epris Martin
Kelly Marscheider
Diane & Dave McCoin
Brian McMahan
Dave Meyer
Jessica Moores
Lauren Newman
David Parker
Seung-Hee Pastella
Patience & Family
Mel & Mary Quecke
Dave Riffel
Noreen Selle
Ashley Skiffington
Larry & Robin Thompson
Richard Torres
Donna Wagers
Sharon Waters
Curtis Wise

Mary Beuerle
Devin Coole
Jennifer Millgate
Mildred Sears
Rory Tighe
Dave Anderson
Marilyn Belka
Grayson Blomberg
Kyle Burton
Robert Coole
Nick & Julie DeRose
Christine Dunne
Don Eliason
Heidi Evans
Eleanor Fetterman
Jillian Garcia
Chris Gibson
Government
Roger Hall
Jace Haynes
Beverlyn Johnson
Bud Justice
Addison Lange
Melody LeGray
Anthony Lopez
Chelo Martinez
Tom & Joan Mason
Todd McCoy
Catherine McNeil
Military
Belita & Richard Nash
Adam Nieto
Glenn & Nancy Pastella
Tim & Marguerite Pastella
Esterban Penomeza
Michele Rawlins
Riley Family
Bea Shelby
Barbara Sosa
Cyndy Todd
Denise Turner
Phyllis Walton
Joe Waters
John Worstell

Charles Blake
Judy Cutler
Beverly Moglich
Kevin Smith
Mike Adams
Greg Arida
Vivian Bingham
Sue Boers
Kim Carpenter
John Davis
Matt DeWitt
Kelley Dunne
Daniel Ellis
Lynn Fairgrief
Charity Frash
Chrissie Gates
Zoey Gilman
Raquel Gudino
Emilie Harding
Jeanne Hecksel
Erwin Johnson
Emma Kraus
Debbie Lange
Paytym Lemkee
Jean Manley
Debbie Martinez
Victoria Mathews
David McDonald
Linda Merkle
Grace Miskimen
Lee Nelson
Park Family
Richard & Alice Pastella
Diana Patel
Lauren Porter
Peggy Rhoades
Bill Robertson
Short Family
Georgina Soto
Joshua Todd
Brandon Vess
Joni Wangeman
Phyllis Wheaton
Cynthia Yanchow

THANKSGIVING:

Steven Hodges
Jason & Caleb Holling
Judy Meadows

SAFE TRAVELS:

Mike & Kathy Benzow



About the Cover: The Israelites thought they could weigh the scales of justice and found God at fault. However, the Israelites ignored God's Law, which showed their ways to be unjust. We cannot tip the scales of justice in our favor by disregarding God's Law, which condemns sinners to death. God, however, does not take pleasure in death. He desires mercy. In Christ, both perfect justice and perfect mercy were delivered when He took the sin of the world upon Himself and suffered the punishment for our sin in our place.