

Ascension Lutheran Church

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 15, 2021

Welcome, All, In the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

For six weeks this summer we are gathering for worship and asking questions of God, Scripture and each other as we explore who we are called to be as God's church in the world, drawing nearer to God's presence and inviting others to do the same.

*Congregation stands

PRELUDE

Preparing your heart and mind for worship, answer one or more of the questions for yourself:

Who is hungering for God?

Who is just simply hungry, without the basic provisions they need?

What is our calling as Christians to feed the hungry? What is one thing I can do this week to put my discipleship into practice?

Please stand as you are able.

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

God, we know what heaven it like; for you promise it will be the place without hunger.

No one will want for food or drink, for freedom or respect or for love or for companionship.

God, in that place all greed will cease, we will learn to rely on your manna, knowing there is enough.

Indeed, there will be extra, like the filling of the 5,000.

For truly God, your blessings spill over, touching all nearby.

Come, Let us worship God.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,
and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Please be seated.

We are not singing in worship; please take this time to reflect on the music and lyrics.

HYMN #853

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall,
this rings my curfew call:
may Jesus Christ be praised! | There to the eternal Word
the eternal psalm is heard:
oh, Jesus Christ be praised! |
| 2 When mirth for music longs,
this is my song of songs:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
God's holy house of prayer
has none that can compare
with "Jesus Christ be praised!" | 4 Let all of humankind
in this their concord find:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all the earth around
ring joyous with the sound:
may Jesus Christ be praised! |
| 3 No lovelier antiphon
in all high heav'n is known
than "Jesus Christ be praised!" | 5 Sing, sun and stars of space,
sing, all who see his face,
sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"
God's whole creation o'er,
today and evermore
shall Jesus Christ be praised! |

Text: German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt.

***GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Holy God, we are yours, the church is yours, our work is yours. I pray you bring energy, intelligence, imagination and love to us and your church. Please use us for your purposes as we continue to the good news of gathering at church with every one we meet. In Christ's holy name we pray. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-2

[A] A reading from Genesis.

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

***GOSPEL: John 6:5-14**

The holy gospel according to John, the sixth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?' ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages* would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' ¹⁰Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they* sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.'

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CREATIVE ACTIVITY TO SEE GOD

Group prayer: Pastor Christina will lead and direct us by saying a word (world, nation, state, city, home) and then worshipers respond by praying for requests that come to mind related to the shared word. Prayer requests should be brief (a word, phrase or one sentence long). Pastor Christina will close the prayer.

Please be seated.

SERMON **The Rev. Christina Auch**

Please remain seated.

We are not singing in worship; please take this time to reflect on the music and lyrics.

HYMN #779 **“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”**

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Amazing grace! how sweet the
sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am
found;
was blind, but now I see. | 'tis grace has brought me safe
thus far,
and grace will lead me home. |
| 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart
to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace
appear
the hour I first believed! | 4 The Lord has promised good to
me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures. |
| 3 Through many dangers, toils,
and snares
I have already come; | 5 When we've been there ten
thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's
praise
than when we'd first begun. |

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5

Please stand.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith...

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

[A] Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of wisdom, enlighten your church. Guide theologians, biblical scholars, authors, and seminary professors as they seek greater knowledge and invite others into deeper understanding. Teach us to ask faithful questions and open our minds to new ideas. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, mend the earth. Cool warming oceans and preserve melting ice caps. Increase our awareness of changing climate patterns and reveal new approaches to the ecological challenges we face. Shield those in the path of hurricanes or tropical storms. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all nations, direct our leaders. Grant them courage to lay aside political grudges and renew their determination to address difficult conflicts. Guide them in the work of reconciliation. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, tend to the wounded. Rescue those tormented by mental illness or mired in addiction. Ease the anxiety of those struggling with dementia. Come quickly to help all who are grieving and all those who suffer. We pray especially for those we name aloud now or silently in our hearts...

Martha Beam (Eleanor Hendrick's friend), **Dan** Birch (Carol Berger's brother-in-law), **Adam** Bridges & **Brittany** Smith (Libby Stone's cousin and his fiancé), **Cody** Bryant (Bob Bryant's grandson), **Kathy** Callahan (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Mike** Callahan (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Chris** Carman (Judy Bridges' friend), **Edna** Cooper (Bill Bridges' Aunt), **Phil** Costello (Donna Lilly's friend), **The Davenport Family** (Dave and Priscilla Williams' friends), **Charles and Mary** Degree (Karen Long's friends), **Saher** Degree (Gail Sherman's friend), **Tim** Farmer (Pastor Christina and Jamie's friend), **Ashton** Fields (Carol Berger's friend), **Avan** Fields (Carol Berger's friend), **Ann** Fitzsimmons (Steve and Jenny White's friend), **Carol Ann** Forgas (Bill Bridges' friend), **Mike** Greene (Gail Sherman's friend), **Carl** Greenwald (DeBell's friends), **Joe** Hutchinson (William Coyne's friend), **Debbie** Irvin (Bill Bridges' friend), **Patti** Jenkins (Priscilla Williams' friend), **Kay** Johnson (Eleanor Hendrick's cousin), **Steve** Jolly (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Mark** Kent (Majorie Olsen's son), **Rachel** Kidwell (Dave William's niece), **Bryan** Legrand (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Jim** Lilly (Dick and Donna Lilly's son), **Sonya and Gerald** Lovelace (Bill Bridges' friend), **Brenda** Lowery (Gail Sherman's friend), **Pam** Lucas (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Eva** McCombs (Sandra Waldrop's mother), **Janice** McGoven (Eleanor Hendricks' sister), **Sheri Dawn** Mack (Relative of Karen Hubbard), **Ed** Marler (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Gay** Helms Melton (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Maribeth** Norris Mies (Carol Berger's cousin), **Mary Bell** Moore (Lacy's neighbor), **Jane** Morrow (Daryl and Rose Cook's friend), **Pat** Mullen (Johanna Gillespie's friend), **Wanda** Mullinax (Edith Kelly's niece), **Teresa** Olsen (Marjorie Olsen's daughter-in-law), **Bob** Patzer (Carol Berger's brother-in-law), **Linda** Patzer (Carol Berger's sister), **Lynn** Perry (Jenny and Steve White's friend) **Gerard**

Peruzzi (Carol Berger's brother), **Margaret** Peruzzi (Carol Berger's mother), **Liz and Ron** Dal Poggetto (Judy Bridges' friends), **John** Reid (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Beth** Rhyne (Ladley and Jane Burn's friend), **Shannon** Sellers (Libby Stone's cousin), **Jean and Jim** Tesseneer (Bill Bridges friend), **Jerry** Tessener (Daryl and Rose Cook's friend), **Beth** Thomas (Carol Berger's daughter), **David** Waldrop (Sandra Waldrop's husband), **Edith** Walker (Allen and Lisa Philbeck's friend's mother), **Molly and Darryl** Waterstraat (Karen Hubbard's friends), **Alfie** Welch (Renee Buchanan's brother), **Christopher** Willever (David Williams' grandson), **Mary Ann** Woolley (Sandra Waldrop's aunt).

Members: **Dean** Davis, **Lin** Washburn, **Dot** Paul, **Bob** Bryant, **William** Coyne, **Jim** Wilson, **Bobbie** Johnson, **Gerald** Washburn, **Lucinda** Wallen, **Lisa** Upton, **Sandy** Harman, and **Ann** Sipe.

In Undergraduate College: **Emma** Auch, **Brooke** Buchanan, **Samantha** Hoffman, **Jacob** Stone, **Catherine** Lilly, **Matthew** Lilly.

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of beauty, inspire artists. Bless those whose visual and musical gifts enliven this congregation. Bless the creative work of poets, hymnwriters, composers, painters, sculptors, and others that enrich our worship and daily life. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of resurrection, bring us to new life. Give us the living bread from heaven through which we abide in your love, and on the last day raise us with all the saints to eternal life. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

THE PEACE OF CHRIST (We are not "passing" the peace in any physical way. Online you are invited to share a greeting of peace in the comments.)

May the peace of Christ be with you always.

May we share that peace with those who are with us today.
Let us gather into our hearts and minds those who are not with you today,
whom you love, and send them peace from your heart.
Let us gather into our hearts and minds those with whom we have
disagreement or discord and send them peace as well, as Christ would have
you do.
Let us gather into our hearts and minds the peace that Christ sends you now.

OFFERING

*Make a one time or recurring gift using **the website** or **the GivePlus app** on iPhone or Android.
You can give using ACH (bank account), Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.*

*Or **text 844-906-2283** and enter the amount you wish to donate.² Click the registration link
and enter your payment information.³ Receive a verification text as well as an email receipt.
For future giving, simply send a text to the same number with the amount you wish to give, and
your donation will process automatically.*

*Or **mail your regular tithe or offering** to PO Box 266, Shelby, NC 28151.*

Please remain seated.

We are not singing in worship; please take this time to reflect on the music and lyrics.

OFFERTORY HYMN #184 **“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”**

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Please stand.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

[A] Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life,

you have set this table with your very self,
and called us to the feast of plenty.

Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal.

Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come!

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

This is the body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you. **Amen.**

Please remain seated.

If you are not communing, please receive this blessing for you:
"Jesus loves you and keeps you all the days of your life."

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

[A] Let us pray.

Living God, you have greeted us in our brokenness and nourished us with the body of Christ, broken for us.

Risen to new life with you, send us now to bear your healing love into the wounded world, in the name of our risen Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

Please remain seated.

We are not singing in worship; please take this time to reflect on the music and lyrics.

HYMN #856

“How Great Thou Art”

1 O Lord my God, when I in
awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand
hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty
thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the
universe displayed;

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior
God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great
thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Savior
God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great
thou art!

2 When through the woods and
forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in
the trees;
when I look down from lofty
mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the
gentle breeze; *Refrain*

3 But when I think that God, his
Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take
it in,
that on the cross my burden
gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away
my sin; *Refrain*

4 When Christ shall come, with
shout of acclamation,
and take me home, what joy
shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble
adoration
and there proclaim, "My God,
how great thou art!" *Refrain*

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859-1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989.

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

HOMEWORK

Reflect over this summer. If you have notes from worship, look them over. If not, maybe look at your calendar and reflect about how it's been going. How is your prayer going? What do you need to pay attention to go forward.

What is the most important thing you've learned/discovered/remembered this week and in the past 6 weeks?

STUDY VERSE

Read it, journal it, draw it, memorize it, engage in a way that works for you!

I will bless you...so you will be a blessing—Genesis 12:2

Assisting Today

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Christina Auch
Organist: Steve White
Assisting Minister: Rose Cook
Ushers: Ludy Wilkie and Daryl Cook

Assisting Aug 22, 2021

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Christina Auch
Organist: Cathy Hubbard
Assisting Minister: Sandra Waldrop
Ushers: Gail Sherman and Mike Hubbard

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Communion When you are worshipping at home, you are encouraged to set up a temporary altar called a tabernacle at home. Find a small table or bench, place on it a nice plate and a cup or goblet. Find a slice or loaf of bread and use either wine or grape juice in the cup. When the time comes for communion, lift the bread and wine with the pastor, giving thanks to God for the gift of communion that offers us forgiveness, community, and new life in Christ.

In person Bible study, led by Pastor Christina, meets weekly in the classroom across from the office on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. We are using the Augsburg Fortress quarterly materials. Masks and social distancing observed.

Fellowship Hall Use: The fellowship hall is available for use. No food or drink is allowed. The kitchen remains closed. Masks and social distancing observed. Contact Debby in the church office for more information.

Prayer Concerns: Please call or email the office or text Pastor Christina at 704-472-7783 to update prayer requests. You may leave a voicemail but please provide the spelling of any names, and your relationship to the person being prayed for.

Please continue your tithes and offerings. Make a one time or recurring gift using **the website** or **the free Vanco Mobile app** on iPhone or Android. You can give using ACH (bank account), Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.

Or **text 844-906-2283** and enter the amount you wish to donate. Then click the registration link and enter your payment information. You will receive a verification text as well as an email receipt.

Or **mail your regular tithe or offering** to PO Box 266, Shelby, NC 28151.

Congregation Picnic, August 22 after Worship - Cancelled.

Our Church's New Giving App Is Here! Vanco, our eGiving provider, has launched an updated mobile app called Vanco Mobile to replace GivePlus Mobile. You can download the Vanco Mobile app for free from the App Store or Google Play. From there, you can make a one-time donation or set up recurring giving right through the app. Just select your fund and amount, enter a payment method and complete the donation.

Please download the Vanco Mobile by September 30. Vanco will be retiring GivePlus Mobile after this date.

If you have questions or need assistance with our new mobile app, please stop by the church office or call us at 704-487-5679.

A LOOK AHEAD

Sunday, August 22 — 13th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
(also on Facebook & Zoom)

Sunday, August 29 — 14th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
(also on Facebook & Zoom)

Beginning at 5 p.m.

LMM Summer Picnic, Ice Cream Social and Vesper Service

At Baker's Buffalo Creek Winery

Pastor Christina leading worship at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 5 — 15th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
(also on Facebook & Zoom)

Monday, September 6—Office Closed in observance of Labor Day

Series designed by The Reverend Katy Stenta, Pastor, New Covenant Presbyterian Church, Albany, NY.
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Ascension Lutheran Church

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Debby Chaffin, Secretary

Steve White and Cathy Hubbard, Organists

Rose Cook, Financial Secretary

Ludy Wilkie, Council President 704-487-4269