

# Ascension Lutheran Church

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost ..... July 11, 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:*

What brings you to worship today?

Where do you see God at work in your life this week?

*Answer with the first thing that comes to your head. Specific and silly reasons are great!*

*Prepare to share these during Joys and Concerns.*

Please stand as you are able.

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jesus says I am the bread of life

**Come let us feast together**

Jesus says whoever believes in me will never hunger nor thirst

**Come let us gather and welcome one another to the meal**

God is the reason we are here, let us gather in the name of God

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow!**

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.**

**HYMN #697** .....

**“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”**

*Refrain*

Just a closer walk with thee,  
grant it, Jesus, is my plea;  
daily walking close to thee,  
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

1 I am weak but thou art strong:  
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long  
as I walk, let me walk close to  
thee. *Refrain*

2 Through this world of toil and  
snares,  
if I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares?  
None but thee, dear Lord, none  
but thee. *Refrain*

3 When my feeble life is o'er,  
time for me will be no more;  
guide me gently, safely o'er  
to thy kingdom shore, to thy  
shore. *Refrain*

Text: North American traditional

**\*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.

God remind us why we are here. Help us to set the intention to be one body, one bread. Help us to find and include more people. For many hunger for the nourishment of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for making us accountable to you, and remind us always, especially when we get off track, that you love us no matter what. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

Please be seated.

**READING: 1 Corinthians 10:16-17**

[A] A reading from First Corinthians.

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the reading of the gospel.

**\*GOSPEL: John 6:30-35**

The holy gospel according to John, the sixth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

So they said to him, ‘What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, “He gave them bread from heaven to eat.” ’ Then Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ They said to him, ‘Sir, give us this bread always.’ Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CREATIVE ACTIVITY TO SEE GOD**

*Turn to a neighbor, preferably not in your household, for conversation.*

*Think of your most important experience with God in your life. Take turns talking for 4 minutes each (there will be a timekeeper) without stopping. Pray for the person speaking. Switch.*

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 #638 .....** **“Blessed Assurance Jesus is Mine”**

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory  
divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of  
God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his  
blood.

*Refrain*

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior, all the day long:  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect submission, perfect  
delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on  
my sight;  
angels descending bring from  
above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of  
love. *Refrain*

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and  
blest,  
watching and waiting, looking  
above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in  
his love. *Refrain*

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

### **\*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.**

Please stand.

### **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

[A] Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy parent, you welcome your people into one family and gather all things to yourself. Bestow your grace upon your beloved church, lavish your wisdom upon us, and redeem us from our faults, that by our witness all might praise your glory. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Awesome Creator, you steadfastly tend to the smallest of seeds and the mightiest of sycamore trees. Spring up green growth from the earth, nourish the growth of fruit, grain, and other crops, and bless the work of farmers and laborers. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the oppressed, turn the ears of those who are in power to the voices of prophets in our own day. Protect those who speak difficult truths when it is risky to do so. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of strength, you are near to those who endure difficulty. Comfort all who are survivors of violence, guard the refugee and the immigrant, and protect all those who are victims of prejudice and discrimination.

We pray especially for those we name aloud now or silently in our hearts...

**Diane** Alexander (JoAn Allen's sister-in-law), **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), **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), **Muriel** Lambert (Jennie and Dave Lambert's

sister-in-law), **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), **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** Tessener (Bill Bridges friend), **Jerry** Tessener (Daryl and Rose Cook's friend), **Georgeanne** Thomas (Judy Bridges friend), **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, **Ray** Valentine, **Lucinda** Wallen, **Lisa** Upton, **Sandy** Harman, and **Ann** Sipe.

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

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

God of love, we pray for this holy house and all those who worship here. We pray especially for those whose efforts behind the scenes often go unnoticed. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you, God, for the saints, martyrs, and prophets who have died in the faith. We remember those in this community who have recently died.

United with them as God’s children, assure us that we are yours forever.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.  
**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.

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Please stand.

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

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 #841 ..... "Lift Every Voice and Sing"**

1 Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth  
and heaven ring,  
ring with the harmonies of  
liberty.  
Let our rejoicing rise high as the  
list'ning skies,  
let it resound loud as the rolling  
sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that  
the dark past has taught us;  
sing a song full of the hope that  
the present has brought us;  
facing the rising sun of our new  
day begun,  
let us march on till victory is  
won.

2 Stony the road we trod, bitter  
the chast'ning rod,  
felt in the days when hope  
unborn had died;  
yet with a steady beat, have  
not our weary feet  
come to the place for which  
our parents sighed?  
We have come over a way  
that with tears has been watered;  
we have come, treading our  
path through the blood of the  
slaughtered,  
out from the gloomy past, till  
now we stand at last  
where the white gleam of our  
bright star is cast.

3 God of our weary years, God  
of our silent tears,  
thou who hast brought us  
thus far on the way;  
thou who hast by thy might  
led us into the light,  
keep us forever in the path,  
we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the  
places, our God, where we met  
thee;  
lest, our hearts drunk with the  
wine of the world, we forget thee;  
shadowed beneath thy hand  
may we forever stand,  
true to our God, true to our  
native land.

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

#### **HOMEWORK**

Bring in Food Pantry Items or monetary donations (Donations will go to the Shepherd's Table at Episcopal Church of the Redeemer)

#### **STUDY VERSE**

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

Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. (1 Corinthians 10:17)

**Assisting Today**

Organist: Steve White  
Assisting Minister: Sandra Waldrop  
Ushers: Max and Jake Smolzer

**Assisting July 18, 2021**

Organist: Steve White  
Assisting Minister: Rose Cook  
Ushers: Ludy Wilkie and Daryl Cook

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Holy Communion** When you are worshiping 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.

**Fellowship Hall Use**: The fellowship hall is available for use. No food or drink is allowed. The kitchen remains closed. 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 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. 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.

## **A LOOK AHEAD**

### **Sunday, July 18 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

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

### **Sunday, July 25 — Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion— seminary student Thomas Johnston preaching, Pastor Christina Auch presiding  
(also on Facebook & Zoom)

### **Sunday, August 1 — Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

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

**Tuesday, August 3, - 7:00 p.m. - Congregation Council Meeting**

### **Sunday, August 8 — Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

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

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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Facebook.com/ascensionlutheranshelbync

704-487-5679

**The Rev. Christina Auch, Pastor ..... 704-472-7783**

**Debby Chaffin, Secretary**

**Steve White and Cathy Hubbard, Organists**

**Rose Cook, Financial Secretary**

**Ludy Wilkie, Council President ..... 704-487-4269**