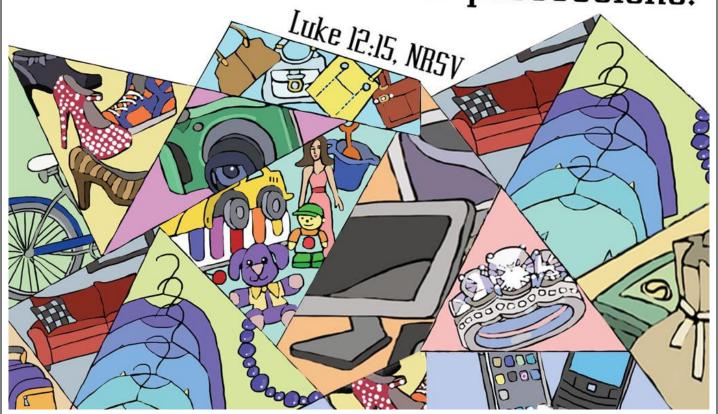
# ... one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.



Complete Worship Folder August 3, 2025 - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. August 6, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

8695 Gratiot Road Saginaw, MI 48609 (989)781-2170 Email address: ascensionlc@sbcqlobal.net Julie Bailey, Pastor

Sunday Worship 8:00am & 10:30am

Wednesday Worship 7:00pm

#### **Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

Welcome and Announcements

#### Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,...you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

P: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C: Amen

Hymn: "Come, Let Us Worship God" (DATH 2) (Leader in italics, Congregation in Bold)

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(Come, let us worship God.) Come, let us worship God.
(Come, let us worship God.) Come, let us worship God.
(Welcome ev'ryone.) Welcome ev'ryone.
(To the love of God.) To the love of God.
(Rest for the weary.) Rest for the weary.
(Rest for the weary.) Rest for the weary.
(Welcome ev'ryone.) Welcome ev'ryone.
(To the love of God.) To the love of God.
(Food for the hungry.) Food for the hungry.
(Food for the hungry). Food for the hungry.
(Welcome ev'ryone.) Welcome ev'ryone.
(To the love of God.) To the love of God.
(Hope for the children.) Hope for the children.
(Hope for the children.) Hope for the children.
(Welcome ev'ryone.) Welcome ev'ryone.
(To the love of God.) To the love of God.
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### Greeting

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

# Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray... Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message (10:30 a.m.)

### First Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

<sup>2</sup> Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

<sup>12</sup> I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. <sup>14</sup> I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

<sup>2:18</sup> I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, <sup>19</sup> and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. <sup>20</sup> So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, <sup>21</sup> because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. <sup>22</sup> What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? <sup>23</sup> For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

L: The Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God!

### Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-11

<sup>1</sup> So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup> for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. <sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). <sup>6</sup> On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup> These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. <sup>8</sup> But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. <sup>11</sup> In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

L: The Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation: "Open Our Eyes Lord" (CCLI 1572)

Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch Him
And say that we love Him
Open our ears Lord
And help us to listen
Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the twelfth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

# Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

<sup>13</sup> Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." <sup>14</sup> But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." <sup>16</sup> Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup> And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' <sup>18</sup> Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, 'You foo!! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' <sup>21</sup> So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

P: This is the gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

#### Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "Faith Begins by Letting Go" (ACS 1004)

Faith begins by letting, go, giving up what had seemed sure, taking risks and pressing on, though the way feels less secure: pilgrimage both right and odd, trusting all our life to God.

Faith endures by holding on, keeping mem'ry's roots alive so that hope may bear its fruit; promise-fed, our souls will thrive, not through merit we possess but by God's great faithfulness.

Faith matures by reaching out, stretching minds, enlarging hearts, sharing struggles, living prayer, binding up the broken parts; till we find the commonplace ripe with witness to God's grace.

# Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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.

# The Prayers of the Children of God

Each petition ends...God of grace,

Congregation responds...hear our prayer.

# Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering

Offering Song: "Give Thanks" (CCLI 20285)

Give thanks with a grateful heart Give thanks to the Holy One Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son

And now let the weak say I am strong Let the poor say I am rich Because of what the Lord has done for us

Give thanks

#### Offering Prayer

A: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

#### **Thanksgiving**

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

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray

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.

# Invitation to Communion / Distribution of Holy Communion

P: The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

# Communion Songs: "Seek Ye First" (WOV 783, CCLI 1352)

Seek ye first the kingdom of God And His righteousness And all these things Shall be added unto you Allelu alleluia

Man shall not live by bread alone But by ev'ry word That proceeds From the mouth of God Allelu alleluia

Ask and it shall be given unto you Seek and ye shall find Knock and the door Shall be opened unto you Allelu alleluia

# "Break Now the Bread of Life" (ELW 515)

Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as once you broke the loaves beside the sea. Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord; my spirit waits for you, O living Word.

Bless your own word of truth, dear Lord, to me, as when you blessed the bread by Galilee. Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall; and I shall find my peace, my All-in-All!

You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, your holy word the truth that rescues me. Give me to eat and live with you above; teach me to love your truth, for you are love.

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#### Post-Communion Blessing

P: And now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

#### Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray. Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

C: Amen

#### Blessing

P: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit + bless you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Sending Song: "Build a Longer Table" (ACS 1062)

Build a longer table, not a higher wall, feeding those who hunger, making room for all. Feasting together, stranger turns to friend, Christ breaks walls to pieces; false divisions end.

Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail; where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail. For any place where justice is denied, Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.

Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence. Love protects all people, sparing no expense. When we embrace compassion more than fear, Christ tears down our fences: all are welcome here.

When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad, Christ became our doorway to the reign of God. So must our tables welcome those who roam. None can be excluded; all must find a home.

#### Dismissal

A: We work together to spread Christ's love with our community

C: Through Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Lives, and an Open Table.

A: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

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