



Complete Worship Folder

September 21, 2025 – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

September 24, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

8695 Gratiot Road Saginaw, MI 48609 (989)781-2170

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Julie Bailey, Pastor

Sunday Worship 8:00am & 10:30am

Wednesday Worship 7:00pm

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: “Lutheran World Relief” (*video*)

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be God, the Holy Trinity + the giver of all good, the source of all joy.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of all, . . . **You have given us all that we need and you ask that we share your abundance. We confess that we have not responded to your call to be open channels of your grace. We clench our fists when you ask for open hands; we close our minds when you ask for grace toward our neighbors. Open our hearts to live in the abundance of your creation; loosen our grip and restore our souls, that we may freely give and receive. Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ, God makes all things new. In the name of Christ, + you are forgiven. Your hearts are unfurled; your grasping is unbound. You are free to live as flowing streams of God’s abundant grace.

C: Amen

Hymn: “Take My Life, That I May Be” (ELW 583)

Refrain Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee. **Refrain**

Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
ev’ry pow’r as thou shalt choose. **Refrain**

Take my voice and let me sing
always, only for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee. **Refrain**

Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne. **Refrain**

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... **God of abundance, you have given us treasures to steward: our lives, our relationships, your good creation. Make us wise in our care of all the things you entrust to us, that we may serve you with openness and joy. Amen.**

Children's Message (10:30 a.m.) & Dismiss to Children's Church

First Reading: Amos 8:4-7

⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
⁵ saying, "When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier
and practice deceit with false balances,
⁶ buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."
⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone,
² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. ⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation: "Hallelujah! Praise Ye the Lord!" (LS 179)

Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah!
Praise ye the Lord!
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah!
Praise ye the Lord!
Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah!
Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah!
Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah!
Praise ye the Lord!

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

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes. ¹⁰ “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

P: This is the gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “Commonwealth Is God's Commandment” (ACS 1036)

Commonwealth is God's commandment;
common goods are meant to share.
Tables set and doors wide open
welcome angels unaware.

Refrain Plead for the peace of all creation.
Pray for a place where grace is found.
Shanti, pax, shalom, maslaha:
common good is holy ground.

Sharing lavish gifts and blessings,
love that not one mite withholds,
stretch out arms to friends and strangers:
God has sheep of many folds. **Refrain**

Genders, races, tribes, and nations,
hear the Holy One who calls,
bidding all to work together,
bridging lives and breaching walls. **Refrain**

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...receive our prayer.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering

Offering Song: "We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise" (CCLI 9990)

We bring the sacrifice of praise
Into the house of the Lord
We bring the sacrifice of praise
Into the house of the Lord
And we offer up to You
The sacrifices of thanksgiving
And we offer up to You
The sacrifices of joy

Offering Prayer

A: God of life, You have blessed us with every good gift. Open us to share all that we have been given and to love the world in Jesus' name.

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: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

Communion Songs: "Son of God, Eternal Savior" (ELW 655)

Son of God, eternal Savior,
source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
hallows all our human race,
you our head, who, throned in glory,
for your own will ever plead:
fill us with your love and pity,
heal our wrong, and help our need.

As you, Lord, have lived for others,
so may we for others live.
Freely have your gifts been granted;
freely may your servants give.
Yours the gold and yours the silver,
yours the wealth of land and sea;
we but stewards of your bounty
held in solemn trust will be.

Come, O Christ, and reign among us,
King of love and Prince of peace;
hush the storm of strife and passion,
bid its cruel discords cease.
By your patient years of toiling,
by your silent hours of pain,
quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,
stem our selfish greed of gain.

Son of God, eternal Savior,
source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
hallows all our human race:
by your praying, by your willing
that your people should be one,
grant, oh, grant our hope's fruition:
here on earth your will be done.

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“For the Fruit of All Creation” (ELW 679)

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

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. Abundant God, You have nourished us with life, love, and grace. Fill us to the brim with your care, that we may go into the world with open arms and open hearts to share your peace with the world.

C: Amen

Blessing

P: May God bless you and keep you. May God's mercy flow freely through you. May you be filled with the abundance of God's love + and held in God's peace.

C: Amen.

Sending Song: “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending” (ELW 678)

God, whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store:
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door,
gifted by you, we turn to you,
off'ring up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom,
races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
lest we strive for self alone;
born with talents, make us servants
fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through pow'rs your grace conferred;
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.

Dismissal

C: We work together to spread Christ's love with our community, through Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Lives, and an Open Table.

A: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

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