



Complete Worship Folder

October 19, 2025 – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

October 22, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Email address: ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net

Julie Bailey, Pastor

Sunday Worship 8:00am & 10:30am

Wednesday Worship 7:00pm

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: "Persistent" (*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: "How Long, O God" (ELW 698)

"How long, O God?" the psalmist cries,
a cry we make our own,
for we are lost, alone, afraid,
and far away from home.

The evil lurks within, without,
it threatens to destroy
the fragile cords that make us one,
that bind our hearts in joy.

Your grace, O God, seems far away;
will healing ever come?
Our broken lives lie broken still;
will night give way to dawn?

How can we hope? How can we sing?
O God, set free our voice
to name the sorrows, name the pain,
that we might yet rejoice.

"How long, O God?" the psalmist cries,
a cry we make our own.
Though we are lost, alone, afraid,
our God will lead us home.

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... **Eternal God, you listen to the cries of those in pain. Grant us persistence to do what is right. When the world is broken, work through us to repair it. When systems are unjust, give us the will to carry on and work toward your justice. We pray this in the name of Christ. Amen.**

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

First Reading: Genesis 32:22-31

²² The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. ^{4:1} In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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 eighteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my accuser.’ ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’ ” ⁶ And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

P: This is the gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” (ELW 773)

Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord, Lead me home.

When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord, Lead me home.

When the darkness appears
And the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand,
Guide my feet, hold my hand.
Take my hand, precious Lord, Lead me home.

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: "Day by Day" (ELW 790)

Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,
bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me
draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,
brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,
where at last I'll find eternal rest.

Day by day, I know you will provide me
strength to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek your loving will to guide me
o'er the paths I struggle day by day.
I will fear no evil of the morrow,
I will trust in your enduring grace.
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow
till in glory I behold your face.

Oh, what joy to know that you are near me
when my burdens grow too great to bear;
oh, what joy to know that you will hear me
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.
Day by day, no matter what betide me,
you will hold me ever in your hand.
Savior, with your presence here to guide me,
I will reach at last the promised land.

"Give Me Jesus" (ELW 770)

In the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
give me Jesus.

Refrain Give me Jesus,
 give me Jesus.
 You may have all the rest,
 give me Jesus.

Dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry,
give me Jesus. **Refrain**

Just about the break of day,
just about the break of day,
just about the break of day,
give me Jesus. **Refrain**

Oh, when I come to die,
oh, when I come to die,
oh, when I come to die,
give me Jesus. **Refrain**

And when I want to sing,
and when I want to sing,
and when I want to sing,
give me Jesus. **Refrain**

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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. 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: "My Lighthouse" (CCLI 7002032) (video)

In my wrestling and in my doubts
In my failures You won't walk out
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea whoa oh
You are the peace in my troubled sea

In the silence You won't let go
In the questions Your truth will hold
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea whoa oh
You are the peace in my troubled sea

Chorus My Lighthouse my Lighthouse
Shining in the darkness
I will follow You oh
My Lighthouse my Lighthouse
I will trust the promise
You will carry me safe to shore
Safe to shore safe to shore safe to shore

I won't fear what tomorrow brings
With each morning I'll rise and sing
My God's love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea whoa oh
You are the peace in my troubled sea **Chorus**

Fire before us
You're the brightest
You will lead us
Through the storms (hey)
(REPEAT 3X)
Chorus

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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