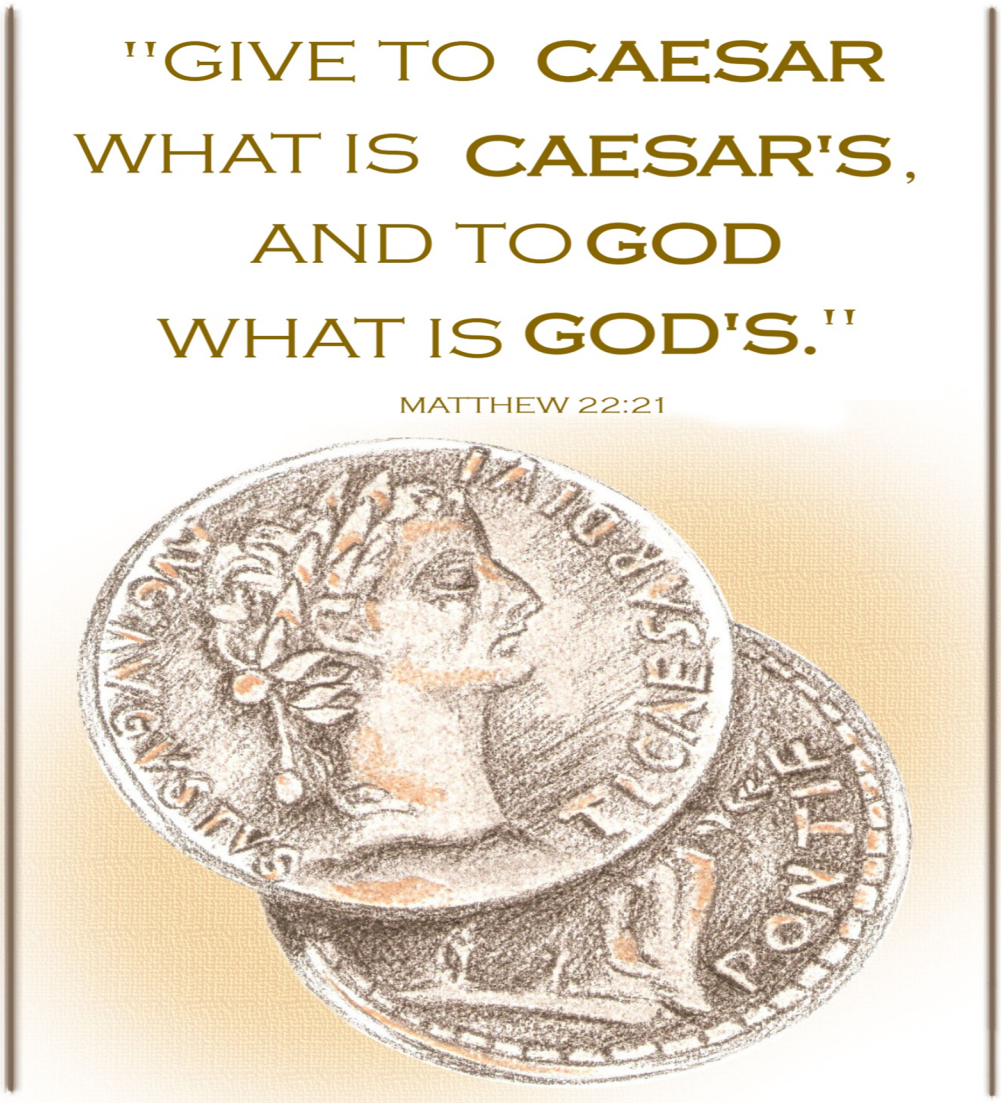

Complete Worship Folder

October 18, 2026 - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

October 21, 2026 – 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

Twenty-First Week After Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God…**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
C: Amen

Hymn: "God Is Here!" (ELW 526)

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

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.

Kyrie: (ELW 157)

(Cantor)	In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
(Congregation)	**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**
(Cantor)	For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
(Congregation)	**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**
(Cantor)	For your people here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.
(Congregation)	**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**
(Cantor)	Help, save, and defend us, O God.
(Congregation)	**Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray…**Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

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

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

[1] Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:
[2] I will go before you and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;
[3] I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
[4] For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name;
I give you a title, though you do not know me.
[5] I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
[6] so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
[7] I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

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

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

[1] Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.[2] We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly [3] remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. [4] For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, [5] because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. [6] And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, [7] so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. [8] For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. [9] For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God [10] and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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

Gospel Acclamation: "Open Your Ears, O Faithful People" (ELW 519, *verse 1 and refrain*)

Open your ears, O faithful people,
open your ears and hear God's word.
Open your hearts, O royal priesthood,
God has come to you.

Refrain God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!
God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

[15] The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. [16] So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. [17] Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" [18] But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? [19] Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. [20] Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" [21] They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." [22] When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

P: This is the gospel of our Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “Lift Every Voice and Sing” (ELW 841)

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.

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.

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.

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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.

Hymn of Prayer to Center Our Hearts: “Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring”(ELW 691, *verse 3*)

Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares
we lift in prayer before you.
Lord, by your grace now come to us,
as humbly we adore you

The Prayers of the Children of God
Each petition ends…Hear us, O God
Congregation responds…Your mercy is great.

Sharing of the Peace
P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
C: And also with you.

Offering

Offering Song: "Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring" (ELW 691, *verse 1 and 2*)

Accept, O Lord, the gifts we bring
to place upon your table.
We do not worship as we ought
but only as we're able.

The vines were planted, seeds were sown.
They grew in your good pleasure.
What once was common, daily food
becomes a holy treasure.

Offering Prayer
A: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.
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: Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Communion Songs: "One Bread, One Body" (ELW 496)

Refrain One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more. ***Refrain***

Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all. ***Refrain***

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all. ***Refrain***

"Let Us Break Bread Together" (ELW 471)

Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees. ***Refrain***

Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees. ***Refrain*** Public Domain

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. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
C: Amen

Blessing
P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.
C: Amen.
P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.
C: Amen.
P: The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.
C: Amen.

Hymn: “May the God of Hope Go with Us” (ACS 984)

May the God of hope go with us ev’ry day,
to a world in need with news of joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to ev’ry land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that’s new,
faithful when we hear Christ’s call. Public Domain.

Sending Song: “God of Grace and God of Glory” (ELW 705)

God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days, for the living of these days,

Cure your children's warring madness; bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal, lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore, serving you whom we adore. Public Domain.

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 out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
C: Thanks be to God.

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