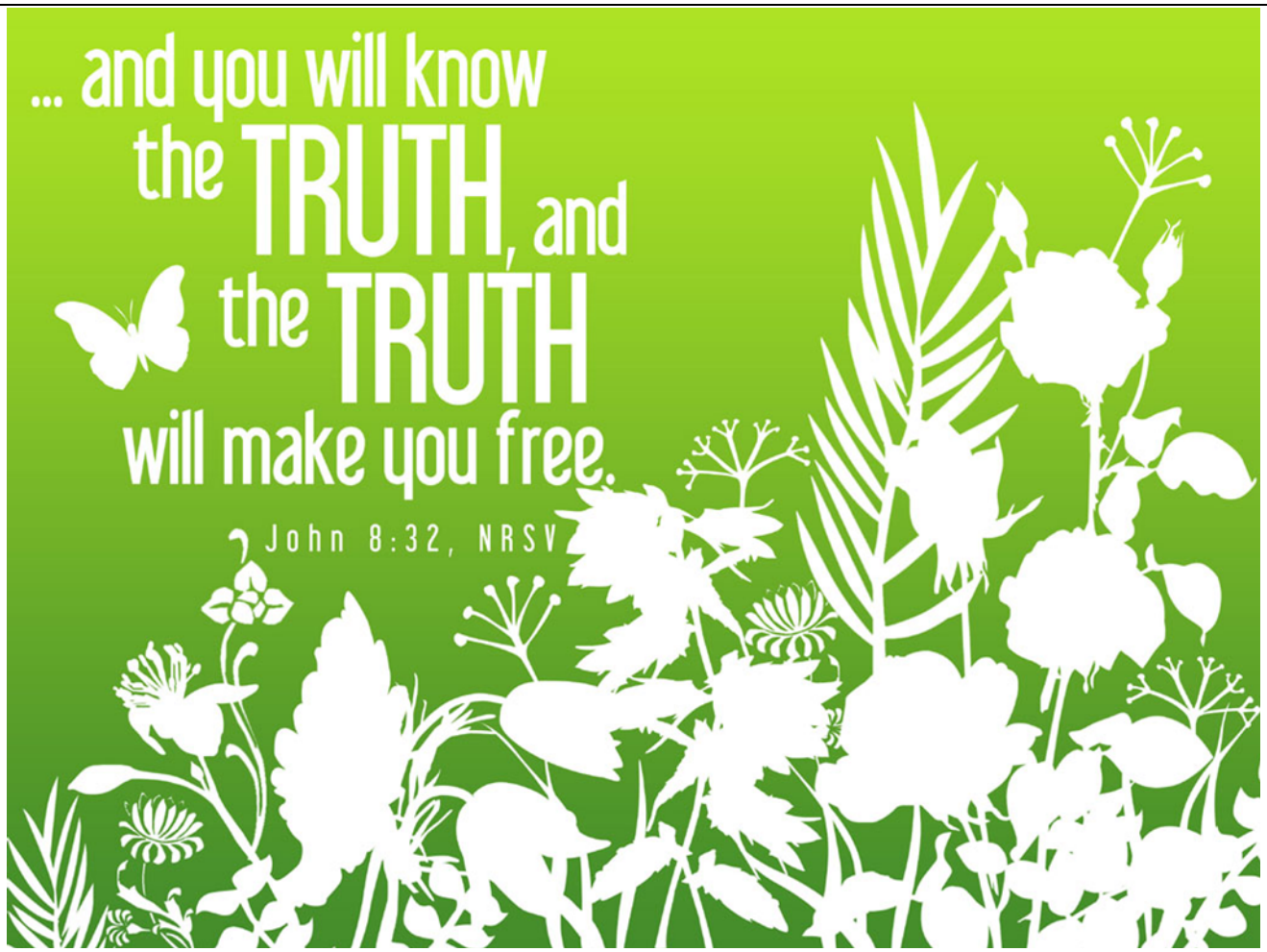

Complete Worship Folder

October 25, 2026 - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

October 28, 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

Reformation Sunday

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: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (ELW 504)

A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot overpow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!

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…**Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and
the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the
hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the
Lord. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will
put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
34 No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no
more.

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

Psalm 46 *(Read Responsively)*

[1] God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
[2] **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**
[3] though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
[4] **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**
[5] God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.
[6] **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.**
[7] The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
[8] **Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**
[9] behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.
[10] **"Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."**
[11] The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

[19] Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. [20] For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. [21] But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, [22] the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, [23] since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; [24] they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25] whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; [26] it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus. [27] Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. [28] For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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 John, the eighth chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 8:31-36

31 Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples,
32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” 33 They answered him, “We are descendants
of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”
34 Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does
not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free,
you will be free indeed.”

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “Built on a Rock” (ELW 652)

Built on a rock the church shall stand,
even when steeples are falling;
crumbled have spires in ev'ry land,
bells still are chiming and calling—
calling the young and old to rest,
calling the souls of those distressed,
longing for life everlasting.

Surely, in temples made with hands
God the Most High is not dwelling—
high in the heav'ns his temple stands,
all earthly temples excelling.
Yet God who dwells in heav'n above
deigns to abide with us in love,
making our bodies his temple.

Christ builds a house of living stones:
we are his own habitation;
he fills our hearts, his humble thrones,
granting us life and salvation.
Where two or three will seek his face,
he in their midst will show his grace,
blessings upon them bestowing.

Yet in this house, an earthly frame,
Jesus the children is blessing;
hither we come to praise his name,
faith in our Savior confessing.
Jesus to us his Spirit sent,
making with us his covenant,
granting his children the kingdom.

Through all the passing years, O Lord,
grant that, when church bells are ringing,
many may come to hear your Word,
who here this promise is bringing:
"I know my own, my own know me;
you, not the world, my face shall see;
my peace I leave with you. Amen."

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: "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" (ELW 697)

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.

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***

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***

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***

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"What Feast of Love" (ELW 487)

What feast of love is offered here,
what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life,
what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
How sweet the manna given!

What light of truth is offered here,
what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life,
what wondrous word is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing!
The Word of God is given!

What wine of love is offered here,
what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life,
what precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
The Son of God is given!

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.

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Sending Song: “By Grace We Have Been Saved” (ACS 1006)

Refrain By grace we have been saved—
saved by grace through faith,
not because of what we do;
it is the gift of God.

On the days when you are weak,
on the days when you are strong,
rich or poor, young or old,
just listen to the song. ***Refrain***

Rest your body, rest your mind,
in the stillness you will find
you're a lovely, precious child,
part of the great design. ***Refrain***

You don't need to be afraid.
You will never be alone.
There is mercy, there is hope,
and love will take you home. ***Refrain***

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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