Complete Worship Folder

October 4, 2026 - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

October 7, 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

Nineteenth 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: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (ELW 803)

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Public Domain.

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… **Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

1 I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
2 He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.
3 And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.
4 What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?
5 And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

[6] I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.
[7] For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his cherished garden;
he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
but heard a cry!

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

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] [4b] If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: [5] circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; [6] as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. [7] Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. [8] More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ [9] and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. [10] I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, [11] if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. [12] Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. [13] Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, [14] I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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-first chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

[Jesus said:] [33] "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. [34] When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. [35] But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. [36] Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. [37] Then he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' [38] But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' [39] So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. [40] Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" [41] They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." [42] Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? [43] "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. [44] The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."[45] When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. [46] They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "Just As Jesus Told Us" (DATH 29)

Just as Jesus told us, we will break this bread.
Just as Jesus told us, we shall all be fed;
and we will remember what he did and said,
and how he goes on living in the bread.

Just as Jesus told us, we will pour this wine.
Just as Jesus told us, we will come and dine;
and we will remember how he lived in time,
and how he goes on living in the wine.

Just as Jesus told us, pass the bread around.
Just as Jesus told us, more wine can be found;
and we do remember--bread and wine abound.
So break the loaf and pass the cup around.

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

Invite the first communion candidates forward to stand at the rail

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!

We invite the first communion families to come forward and then we will commune the congregation.

Communion Songs: "Jesus Loves Me" (ELW 595)

Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so. *(repeat once)*

Public Domain.

"Thy Word" (CCLI 14301)

Chorus
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path

When I feel afraid
And I think I've lost my way
Still You're there right beside me
Nothing will I fear
As long as You are near
Please be near me to the end ***Chorus***

I will not forget
Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide
And hold me to Your side
I will love You to the end ***Chorus***

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: May God who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.
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: "Thine the Amen" (ELW 826)

Thine the amen thine the praise alleluias angels raise
thine the everlasting head thine the breaking of the bread
thine the glory thine the story thine the harvest then the cup
thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.

Thine the life eternally thine the promise let there be
thine the vision thine the tree all the earth on bended knee
gone the nailing gone the railing gone the pleading gone the cry
gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.

Thine the truly thine the yes thine the table we the guest
thine the mercy all from thee thine the glory yet to be
then the ringing and the singing then the end of all the war
thine the living thine the loving evermore evermore.

Thine the kingdom thine the prize thine the wonder full surprise
thine the banquet then the praise then the justice of thy ways
thine the glory thine the story then the welcome to the least
then the wonder all increasing at thy feast at thy feast.

Thine the glory in the night no more dying only light
thine the river thine the tree then the Lamb eternally
then the holy holy holy celebration jubilee
thine the splendor thine the brightness only thee only thee.

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.

Kyrie: Text: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, adapt. Marty Haugen, b. 1950 **.** All rights reserved. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-715124. All rights reserved
Open Your Ears, O Faithful People, Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version Text © 1966, 1982 Willard F. Jabusch, admin. OCP Publications. 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-715124. All rights reserved
Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring, Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957, Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-715124. All rights reserved
Just As Jesus Told Us. Text: Ray Makeever, © 1997 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-715124. All rights reserved.
Thine the Amen, Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Text © 1983 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-715124. All rights reserved
CCLI Song #14301 © 1984 Meadowgreen Music Company; Vinny Mae's Girl For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com
CCLI License #2006453
From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright ©2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006501 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.
Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.