



17th Sunday After Pentecost

8:30 a.m., Sept. 20, 2026

Worship Leadership

Rev. Chris Marien, *lead pastor*

Rev. Edwin Aparicio, *pastor*

Rev. Elisabeth Pynn Himmelman, *pastor*

Rev. Anthony Acompañado, *pastor (on sabbatical)*

Vicki Taylor, *Director of Music Ministries*

Acolytes: Madeline Paczesny, Benji Earnest **Altar Guild:** Chris and Jimmy Loos

Choir Accompanist: Kathy Johnson **Communion:** Carol & Steve Spieker, Paul Wehmeier

Greeters: Sue Grams, Garnet Wolff **Media:** Adam Boales

Ushers: Jim Hahn, Jeff Rohrer

PRELUDE

Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng, *setting by Michael Burkhardt*

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son ☩, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

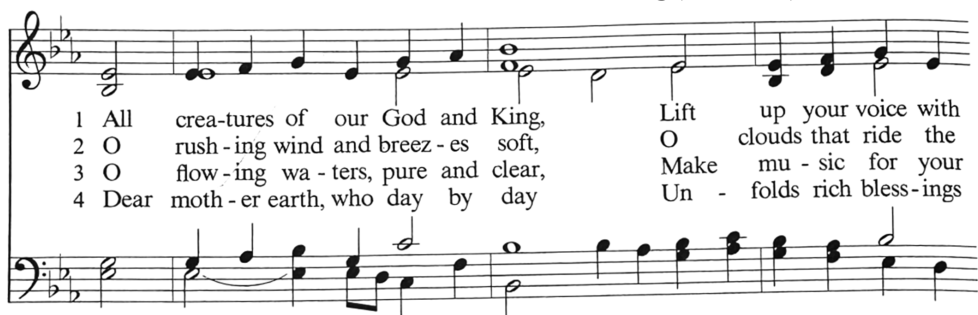
P: Most merciful God,

C: **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son ☩, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

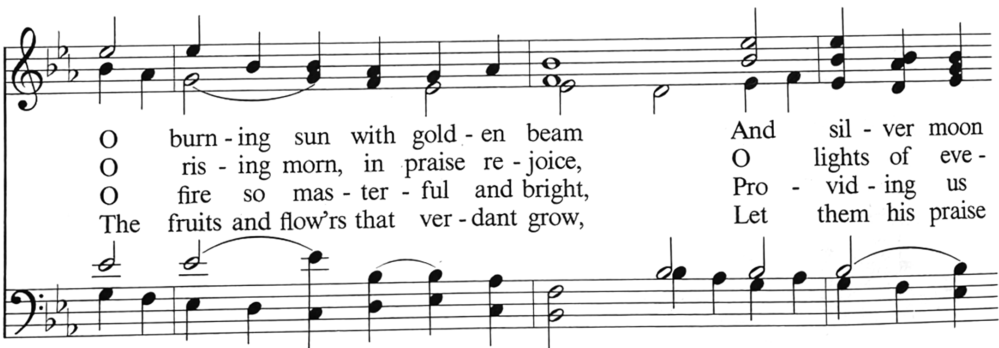
OPENING HYMN All Creatures of Our God and King (vs. 1-4, 7)



1 All crea-tures of our God and King, Lift up your voice with
 2 O rush-ing wind and breez-es soft, O clouds that ride the
 3 O flow-ing wa-ters, pure and clear, Make mu-sic for your
 4 Dear moth-er earth, who day by day Un-folds rich bless-ings



us and sing: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 winds a - loft: Oh, . . . praise him! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Lord to hear. Oh, . . . praise him! Al - le - lu - ia!
 on our way, Oh, . . . praise him! Al - le - lu - ia!



O burn-ing sun with gold-en beam And sil-ver moon
 O ris-ing morn, in praise re-joice, O lights of eve-
 O fire so mas-ter-ful and bright, Pro-vid-ing us
 The fruits and flow'rs that ver-dant grow, Let them his praise

Refrain



with soft-er gleam:
 ning, find a voice. Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him!
 with warmth and light,
 a - bun-dant show.



Verse 7: Let all things their Creator bless
 And worship God in humbleness.
 Oh, praise him! Alleluia!
 Oh, praise the Father, praise the Son,
 And praise the Spirit, Three in one. (*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.

KYRIE

p. 138

HYMN OF PRAISE

This Is the Feast

p. 140

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Elisabeth

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.

C:



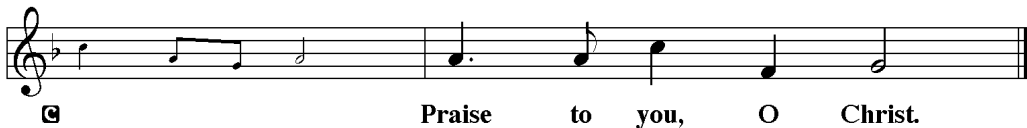
GOSPEL READING

Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C:



SERMON

Pastor Elisabeth

HYMN

Lord of Light

ELW 688

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

- Comfort:** The family and friends of Dennis Mohr following his recent death
Becky Pepper at the death of her brother, Tom Detko
The Tangerstrom family (the Gregers' friends) at the death of their dad, Scott
- Healing:** Gil Wagner
Pat (sister of Cindy Finn & Kris Wells), waiting for biopsy results
Barb (sister of Cindy Finn & Kris Wells), broken knee
Andrea Reinfeldt's father, Rodney, open heart bypass surgery

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING **There's a Wideness in God's Mercy, *Karen Marrolli*** **Ascension Choir**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray ... Merciful Father,

C: **We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING **p. 144**

PROPER PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY **p. 144**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All those believing in the saving power of Jesus Christ through the gift of his life, death, and resurrection are welcome to receive communion at this table of grace. We offer both bread and wine for holy communion. Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.

LAMB OF GOD **p. 146**

HYMNS **Around You, O Lord Jesus** **ELW 468**

Take My Life, That I May Be **ELW 685**

Lord of All Hopefulness **ELW 765**

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son ☩, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Finale from Concerto No. 5, *G. F. Handel*

Worship Support https://tinyurl.com/worshipsupport		
Sept. 27	8:30	10:45
Acolytes	Howie Leatherwood, Joey Leatherwood	Ella Pfahler, Callum Reinfeldt
Altar Guild	Julie Kinunen	Kathy and Mike Tomchek
Communion	Paul Wehmeier, Jennifer & Scot Werner, Pam Larsen	Christine, & Jackson Piper, Mary Kolberg, Diane & Rick Dowling
Greeters	Liz and Dave Carleton	
Media	Buck Houston	Jeff Froh
Ushers	Al Wollschlager, Todd Schroeder	Mike Rapp, Brian Smith



ASCENSION

Children Are God's Gift: We are a noisy church. We are happy to celebrate the sounds of children during worship. You are welcome to step into the lobby with your child for a break if needed. There are also Busy Bags available in the lobby.

Pew Pads: Please fill-out the blue pew pad and pass it to your neighbor. You might make a new friend!

Today!

- **Worship** at 8:30a and 10:45a in the sanctuary
- **Children's Ministry**, 9:45a, sanctuary, Conference Room
- **Kindergarten Stepping Stones**, 9:45a, West Hall
- **Tanzania School Lunches fundraiser**
- **Outreach for Hope Ride-Run-Walk** (<https://www.ofhrrw.org/>) .
- **CRASH**, Conference Room, 5p
- **El Salvador Synod Delegation Zoom Meeting**, 6:30p

Kindergarten Bible Stepping Stone: Kindergarten children and parents/adults are invited to the kindergarten stepping stone between services today in West Hall. We'll be learning about God's love through some well-known stories in the Bible and fun activities, and we'll even have a few breakfast treats.

Discover El Salvador: Are you interested in traveling to El Salvador in January as part of the synod delegation? Join Pastor Edwin to experience an overview of the Salvador Lutheran Church throughout the country. There will be an informational Zoom meeting on Sunday, Sept. 20, at 6:30 p.m. Contact Pastor Edwin, edwin@ascensionelca.org, for the link.

Interested in Joining Ascension? We will have new member info sessions on Sundays, Sept. 27 and Oct. 4, at 9:45 a.m. Sign-up online, tinyurl.com/AscensionNewMembers, or just show up. If you're interested but unable to attend, fill-out the form online or contact the church office, 262-547-8518, admin@ascensionelca.org, to let us know so we can follow-up with you. We will welcome new members with a brunch on Sunday, Oct. 11.

Ninth Grade Confirmands & Parents: Confirmation Sunday is on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 25, at both the 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. services. If you are a 9th grade student expecting to be confirmed and their parent, please mark your calendars for Sunday, Sept. 27, from 12 to 1:30 p.m. We will talk through confirmation requirements, share lunch, and answer all the questions. Questions? Contact Pastor Chris, pc@ascensionelca.org.

Easy Giving



- *Vanco Giving app*
- *Online at tinyurl.com/SupportALC*
- *Via text to 262-214-3681 with the amount*

Continued next page.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (*continued*)

Third Grade Stepping Stone: Third grade students and parents are invited our 3rd Grade Stepping Stone program where we will explore God's love in bible stories and activities on Sunday, Oct. 4, between services in West Hall.

AMEN Book Study: AMEN, Ascension's men's ministry, will be studying Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book "Life Together," the classic exploration of Christian in community. This daytime group of AMEN generally meets biweekly Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. However, the study starts Thursday, Sept. 24, at 10:30 a.m. It's a short, four-chapter book but is packed with lots of wisdom. The book can be ordered on Amazon for under \$10. Please contact Steve Boyer via text msg at 262-366-4078 or sboyer@HealthMarkets.com if you're interested in joining us.

Book Study: Join us for a book study of "An Altar in the World" by Barbara Brown Taylor. Led by Teri Quam, this discussion group will read and think about how practices help us walk with God and others on our journey of life. We will meet in the Hearth Room on Mondays, Oct. 5 – 26, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Please contact Teri, tquam61@gmail.com, with questions.

Suicide Prevention Month: Each September, NAMI recognizes Suicide Prevention Month as a time to raise awareness, spread hope, and spark meaningful action around one of the most urgent mental health issues of our time. The goal is to ensure that individuals, friends, and families have access to the tools, resources, and support they need to talk openly about suicide prevention, recognize warning signs, and seek help. Start a conversation and be the difference. With one conversation, asking someone how they're really doing — and being ready to truly listen — can save lives. No one has to face this alone. Help exists. Healing is possible. And all it can take is for one person to start a conversation. Find out more online, <https://www.nami.org/stay-connected/events/awareness-events/suicide-prevention-month>.

Outreach for Hope: This is the final week to sign up to ride, walk, run or volunteer for Outreach for Hope. The big day is Saturday, Sept. 26, in Waukesha, <https://www.ofhrrw.org>. Beth and her bike will be in the narthex for more information or to register. If you can't participate, you can donate, or volunteer.

Gethsemane Pumpkin Patch: Everyone is invited to purchase high-quality, inexpensive pumpkins from Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 13200 W. Greenfield Ave., and benefit the Navajo Indian Nation in New Mexico. The event runs Sept. 26 through Oct. 10, Monday through Friday, 12 to 6 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Meru Common Day of Prayer: We gather on Saturday, Oct. 3, at 7 a.m. for breakfast and a common day of prayer service Zoom with our siblings in Tanzania. If you would like to join us, please consider bringing a dish to share and your heart ready to pray. The actual Zoom service begins at 7:30 a.m.

Finding Your Faith Witness: Beginning on Monday, Oct. 5, and continuing on Oct. 12 and 26, we will gather at either 10 a.m. or 6 p.m. to invite you to craft your own faith witness to share with others and possibly in worship as you might choose. It is the same event at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Bring yourself and an openness to conversation. Questions, contact Pastor Chris, pc@ascensionelca.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

Healing Hearts Meal: Ascension supports this community partner by providing a meal for their support groups. Our first meal is Monday, Oct. 12. We need people to donate food, cook food and serve food. Please see the Sign-Up Genius if you can help, <https://tinyurl.com/HealingH26>. Questions? Contact Amy Smith, aldgolden@gmail.com.

Healing Hearts' Support Groups: Healing Hearts' fall support groups begin Monday, Sept. 28, for those in need of healing, connection, and growth. Whether you're navigating grief, dealing with life transitions, or seeking a community of support, the free programs for all ages are designed to guide you through these challenges with compassion and care. Register online healingheartswisconsin.org or by phone 262-751-0874. The sessions start with dinner at 5:45 p.m. followed by small group sessions.

Prayer Requests: Prayer requests may be made using the yellow prayer card in the pew, online <https://tinyurl.com/ALCprayers>, by email to admin@ascensionelca.org, or phone message to the church office, 262-547-8518.

Get Connected: Do you get Ascension's e-alerts? If not, sign-up and never miss another event or announcement. We send out e-alerts weekly on Wednesday and occasionally for special notices. Sign-up online <https://tinyurl.com/ALCealert> or contact the church office.

Reflections Blog: Too busy to read the entire newsletter? Browse our Reflections Blog for individual articles that might interest you! <https://ascensionelca.org/events/reflections/>.

(Calendar next page)

CALENDAR <https://ascensionelca.org/events/>

Sun Sep 20

8:30am Worship S

9:45am Children's Ministry
9:45am Kindergarten Stepping
Stones WH

10:45am Worship EH S

5pm CRASH CR
6:30pm *El Salvador Synod Delegation Zoom Meeting*
7pm AA WH

Mon Sep 21

6:30pm AMEN CR
6:30pm Caminando Juntos HR

Tue Sep 22

7am *AMEN zoom*
9:30am Women's Bible CR

Wed Sep 23

1pm Bunco WH
5:45pm Ascension Ringers S
7pm AA WH
7pm Adult Choir S

Thu Sep 24

10am Al Anon CR
10:30am Boyer Group HR
6pm JOLT EH

Sat Sep 26

7am *OFH Ride Walk Run*
9am Jubilate S

Sun Sep 27

Kindergarten Bibles
8:30am Worship S
9:45am Children's Ministry S
WH CR
9:45am New member conversations HR

10:45am Worship EH S

12pm 9th Grade Confirmand/
Parent Gathering
7pm AA WH

Mon Sep 28

6:30pm AMEN CR

Tue Sep 29

7am *AMEN zoom*
9:30am Women's Bible CR
7pm Holloway Group HR

Wed Sep 30

5:45pm Ascension Ringers S
7pm AA WH
7pm Adult Choir S

Thu Oct 1

9:30am TGIT HR
10am Al Anon CR
11:30am Knit Wits Lunch N
Knit
1pm Hansen Group CR
6pm JOLT EH

Sat Oct 3

7am Meru Common Day of
Prayer HR

Sun Oct 4

8:30am Worship S

9:45am 3rd Grade Stepping
Stones WH
9:45am Children's Ministry S
CR
9:45am New member conversations HR

10:45am Worship EH S

4pm Wild Church MG WH
5:30pm Crash CR
7pm AA WH

Mon Oct 5

10am/6:30pm Finding Your
Faith Witness HR
6:30pm AA Sm Group WH
6:30pm AMEN CR
6:30pm Altar in the World
study MR

Tue Oct 6

7am *AMEN zoom*
9:30am Women's Bible CR
10:30am Boyer Group HR

Wed Oct 7

5:45pm Ascension Ringers S
7pm AA WH
7pm Adult Choir S

Thu Oct 8

10am Al Anon CR
6pm JOLT EH

Sun Oct 11

3rd Grade Bibles
New Member Sunday
8:30am Worship S
9:30am New member brunch
WH
9:45am Children's Ministry S
HR CR
10:45am Worship EH S
7pm AA WH

Mon Oct 12

10am/6:30pm Finding Your
Faith Witness HR
4:45pm *Healing Hearts Meal*
6:30pm AA Sm Group WH
6:30pm AMEN CR
6:30pm Altar Book Study MR
7pm Jubilate S

Key

CR	Conference rm
EH	East Hall
HR	Hearth Rm
MG	Memorial Garden
MR	Meeting Room
MS	Music Room
N	Narthex (Lobby)
PR	Prayer Room
S	Sanctuary
WH	West Hall (Kit)
<i>Italics</i>	<i>Virtual or offsite</i>

Are You Visiting?

Date of Visit: _____

Time of Worship: _____

Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

How did God invite you here?

How can we share the life of Ascension with you?

- ☐ E-Alert
- ☐ Newsletter: e-mail or U.S. Mail
- ☐ BLAST (ages 3-5th gr.)
- ☐ JOLT (confirmation, 6-8th gr.)
- ☐ CRASH (high school)
- ☐ Bible study (small groups)
- ☐ Choirs or other music ministries
- ☐ Serving others (local/global options)
- ☐ Starting Point (membership)

Please place in the offering plate.



Ascension Lutheran Church
1415 Dopp St., Waukesha, WI
262-547-8518 ascensionelca.org