

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

*October 15, 2017*

10:30 am



## **NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

A Special Invitation and LWML Sunday

### **AS WE GATHER**

**God has worked faith in our hearts to respond in joy to His gracious invitation. But our preoccupation with our personal agendas and the world's allure can turn our hearts away. Jesus couches that problem in a parable. Worse, we might think that we can enter heaven, the eternal banquet, on our terms, supposing we need not be clothed in Christ's righteousness alone. Yet God's preoccupation is to keep sending out His special invitation to one and all. What joy Paul leads us in as he writes the Epistle! Our current circumstances mean nothing compared to the eternal banquet to which we are invited by the overflowing grace of God.**

**Today is also LWML Sunday. Since 1942, the LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) has affirmed each woman's relationship with Jesus Christ, encouraging and equipping Christian women to live out their lives in active mission ministry, and to support missions around the world through their sacrificial gifts of mites, tithes, offerings, and service. Now is our time to "Be Ready to Confess!" faithfully and boldly telling of Christ's redemptive work for us and all the world." Today, our LWML ladies serve as ushers/readers for the day and supply mite boxes for those who need them. The color purple is an identifying symbol of their activity today.**

# BE READY



# IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON

## GATHERING SONGS

### PRESERVICE MUSIC

#### THE POTTER'S HAND

Zschech

Beautiful Lord, wonderful Savior, I know for sure, all of my days are held in Your hand;  
Crafted into Your perfect plan.

You gently call me into Your presence, Guiding me by Your Holy Spirit;  
Teach me, dear Lord, to live all of my life through Your eyes.

I'm captured by Your holy calling,  
Set me apart, I know You're drawing me to Yourself; Lead me, Lord, I pray.

**CHORUS: Take me, mold me, use me, fill me; I give my life to the Potter's hand.  
Call me, guide me, lead me, walk beside me;  
I give my life to the Potter's hand.**

You gently call me into Your presence, Guiding me by Your Holy Spirit;  
Teach me, dear Lord, to live all of my life through Your eyes.

I'm captured by Your holy calling, Set me apart, I know You're drawing me to Yourself;  
Lead me, Lord, I pray. **CHORUS X2**

#### CORNERSTONE

Morgan

My hope is built on nothing less, Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly trust in Jesus' Name.

**CHORUS: Christ alone. Cornerstone. Weak made strong in the Savior's love.  
Through the storm, He is Lord. Lord of all.**

When darkness seems to hide His face, I rest on His unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within the veil.  
My anchor holds within the veil. **CHORUS**

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh may I then in Him be found.  
Dressed in His righteousness alone. Faultless to stand before the throne. **CHORUS**

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## CONTEMPORARY SERVICE: ORDER OF WORSHIP

**PASTORAL GREETING** PASTOR LARSON

*Congregation, please stand.*

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
People: **Amen.**

**OPENING SONG    FOREVER (HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER)    Chris Tomlin**

Give thanks to the Lord—Our God and King  
His love endures forever  
For He is good He is above all things  
His love endures forever—Sing praise sing praise

With a mighty hand—And an outstretched arm  
His love endures forever  
For the life that's been reborn—His love endures forever  
Sing praise sing praise

Forever God is faithful—Forever God is strong  
Forever God is with us—Forever forever

From the rising to the setting sun—His love endures forever  
And by the grace of God—We will carry on  
His love endures forever—Sing praise sing praise

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor:     We have heard the invitation but must confess that we have not always responded in true faith. But God has promised grace and mercy for Jesus' sake. Let us therefore go to His throne of grace.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and our sinful condition.*

Pastor:     Father in heaven,

**People:     we confess that too often we have turned deaf ears to Your gracious invitation. We have thought our plans were most important. We have spoken as if You could not hear. We have acted according to the expectations of the world around us. Worse, there is no good within us by which we can amend our sinful condition. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, and by Your Holy Spirit increase the faith You have worked within us. Grant us to reflect in our daily living the righteousness and rejoicing we shall know at the wedding feast of the Lamb, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor:     In His great mercy, God has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. He has promised to eat and drink with prophets and apostles at His Table. By our Lord's death and resurrection, your sins have been paid for; your seats are reserved. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:     Amen.**

# WORD



**OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 25:6–9**  
(There is only rejoicing at the heavenly banquet.)

**On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine-- the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us.**

**This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."**

**Lector:** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**People:** Thanks be to God.

**EPISTLE: Philippians 4:4–13**  
(Knowing the Lord produces contentment in all circumstances.)

**Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

**Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.**

**I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have**

plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Congregation, please stand.*

**HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1–14**

(The parable of the wedding feast)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

"Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.'

"But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

"Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless.

"Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

"For many are invited, but few are chosen."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Larson

### SONG OF THE DAY

### LORD I NEED YOU

Maher

Lord, I come, I confess. Bowing here, I find my rest.  
And without You, I fall apart. You're the one that guides my heart.

**CHORUS: Lord, I need You, oh, I need You. Ev'ry hour I need You.  
My one defense, my righteousness; Oh, God, how I need You.**

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more. Where grace is found is where You are.  
And where You are, Lord, I am free. Holiness is Christ in me. **CHORUS**

So, teach my song to rise to You When temptation comes my way.  
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You. Jesus, You're my hope and stay. **CHORUS**

## SERMON

*Dress For Success*

*Pastor Larson*

Text: Matthew 22:1-14

## THE LWML LEAGUE PLEDGE *(All LWML Ladies Please Rise and Stand)*

Pastor: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)

**LWML: In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have;**

Pastor: God has entrusted to His people the task of teaching all nations. We thank Him for the 75 years He has blessed the work of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

**LWML: and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us.**

Pastor: That the joyous truth of the Gospel may be known in every generation;

**LWML: We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and gold to extend His Kingdom, our willingness to do His will with every power of our life,**

Pastor: We are mindful of the shortness of time and uncertainties of life. Preserve our faithfulness and strengthen us for service in our communities and throughout the world.

**LWML: to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen!**

## NICENE CREED

LSB (*Inside back-cover*)

## PRAYER

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

*You may now greet one another in the name of the Lord using...*

**Peace be with you**



## THE OFFERING

### OFFERING SONG

### HALLELUJAH

Brenton Brown | Brian Doerksen

Your love is amazing Steady and unchanging Your love is a mountain  
Firm beneath my feet Your love is a myst'ry How You gently lift me  
When I am surrounded Your love carries me

**CHORUS: Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah Your love makes me sing  
Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah Your love makes me sing**

Your love is surprising I can feel it rising All the joy that's growing Deep inside of me  
Ev'ry time I see You All Your goodness shines through  
I can feel this God song Rising up in me **CHORUS**

Your love is amazing Steady and unchanging Your love is a mountain  
Firm beneath my feet Your love is a myst'ry How You gently lift me  
When I am surrounded Your love carries me **CHORUS**

Yes You make me sing Lord You make me sing sing sing  
Lord You make me sing **CHORUS X2**

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

P *Let us pray,*

C **Heavenly Father, receive these gifts, symbols of the time, abilities, and resources we place at Your disposal in thanks for Your eternal grace, mercy, and peace. Receive them for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. Come, for the Supper is ready! When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.

**“THIS IS MY BODY  
THIS IS Mÿ BLOOD.”**

**MATTHEW 26:26, 28**

**HOLY  
COMMUNION  
OUR LORD’S  
BODY AND BLOOD**



**PREFACE**

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And also with you.**  
**P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**  
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**THE WORDS OF CONSECRATION**

- P** 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

*LSB (Inside back-cover)*

## DISTRIBUTION SONGS

### LISTEN, GOD IS CALLING

LSB 833

### MORE THAN AMAZING

Lincoln Brewster | Mia Fieldes

You're the One who walked on water And You calmed the raging seas  
You command the highest mountains To fall upon their knees  
You're the One who welcomed sinners And You opened blinded eyes  
You restored the broken-hearted And You brought the dead to life  
Forgetting all our sins You remember all Your promises

**CHORUS: You are amazing More than amazing**  
**Forever our God You're more than enough (You are amazing)**

### INSTRUMENTAL

With authority You've spoken And You've set the captive free  
You're the King who came to serve And You're the God who washed our feet  
You're the One who took our burdens And You bled upon the cross  
In Your kindness and Your mercy You became the way for us  
Forgetting all our sins You remember all Your promises

**CHORUS: You are amazing More than amazing**  
**Forever our God You're more than enough REPEAT**

**BRIDGE:** Oh how marvelous Oh how wonderful Oh how glorious You are amazing  
Oh how marvelous Oh how wonderful Oh how glorious You are **(REPEAT)**

**CHORUS: You are amazing More than amazing**  
**Forever our God You're more than enough**

### IN CHRIST ALONE

Townend—Getty

In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song.  
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.  
My Comforter, my All in All, Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh. Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones He came to save.  
'Till on that cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied.  
For every sin on Him was laid, Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then, bursting forth in glorious Day, up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;  
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death. This is the power of Christ in me.  
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man, Can ever pluck me from His hand.  
'Till He returns or calls me home, Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

## COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
C **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.  
C **Amen.**

## CLOSING SONG

## GRACE LIKE RAIN

Todd Agnew

Amazing grace how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now I'm found Was blind but now I see so clearly

**CHORUS: Hallelujah grace like rain falls down on me  
Hallelujah all my stains are washed away  
(They're washed away)**

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed **CHORUS**

## INSTRUMENTAL

When we've been there ten thousand years Bright shining as the sun  
We've no less days to sing Your praise Than when we'd first begun **CHORUS X2**

Hallelujah yeah Hallelujah yeah  
Hallelujah yeah oh yeah  
Hallelujah all my stains are washed away  
They're washed away



P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God!**

## CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

## Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Rev. John Larson, Pastor  
Michael Zehnder

ELDER 8:00  
10:30

Scott Ouethy  
Don Loptien

LECTOR 8:00  
10:30

Lynne Hansen  
Carol Shepherd

ACOLYTE 8:00  
10:30

Esther Langness  
Hannah Schmitt

USHERS 8:00  
10:30

Ladies of the Congregation  
Ladies of the Congregation

SERVER 10:30

May Bible

ALTAR GUILD

Joyce Dowdy, Dawn Munson

FLOWERS

Scott & Stephanie Luethy, in  
celebration of their 34th Anniversary  
(October 8)

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