

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

August 12, 2018

10:00 am



TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

As Christ Loved Us

AS WE GATHER

There is a great divide—a notable difference—between what we were before being given new life through Baptism and what we are now, recipients of God’s forgiving love in Christ. In today’s Epistle, Paul lists the characteristics of any Christian who is reflecting that love. It is not a list commending our successful reflections of our new nature, but a series of exhortations, writing, “Let us . . .” There is only one source of hope as we struggle—our Lord. We have been baptized into the Body of Christ, and at each reception of the Lord’s Supper we are strengthened to show the new person He has called us to be. As Elijah was strengthened by miraculous food and went on toward Horeb, the mount of God, so we are assured of God’s forgiveness as we receive Christ’s body and blood in the Lord’s Supper. He is the bread of life from heaven, who enables each of us to discard our old ways, live in the new life of God’s forgiving love, and adorn ourselves with gladness.

GATHERING SONGS

LORD, REIGN IN ME

Brown

Over all the earth, You reign on high,
every mountain stream, every sunset sky.
But my one request, Lord, my only aim
is that You'd reign in me again.

**CHORUS: Lord, reign in me, reign in Your power;
over all my dreams, in my darkest hour.
You are the Lord of all I am,
so won't You reign in me again.**

Over every thought, over every word,
may my life reflect the beauty of my Lord;
'Cause You mean more to me than any earthly thing.
So won't you reign in me again. **CHORUS X2**

GLORIFY THY NAME

Adkins

Father, we love You, we worship and adore You,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.
Glorify Thy name, glorify Thy name,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

Jesus, we love You, we worship and adore You,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.
Glorify Thy name, glorify Thy name,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

Spirit, we love You, we worship and adore You,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.
Glorify Thy name, glorify Thy name,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

✘ PREPARATION ✘

PRELUDE "How Great Thou Art"

arr. Brian Childers
Handbell Solo, Durwin Schmitt

PASTORAL GREETING

OPENING SONG BETTER IS ONE DAY

Redman

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty.
For my soul longs and even faints for You.
For here my heart is satisfied within Your presence.
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings.

**CHORUS: Better is one day in Your courts,
Better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere.
Better is one day in Your courts,
Better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere,
Than thousands elsewhere.**

One thing I ask and I would seek: To see Your beauty,
to find You in the place Your glory dwells.
One thing I ask and I would seek: To see Your beauty,
to find You in the place Your glory dwells.

Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house,
better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere.
Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house,
better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere.

My heart and flesh cry out for You, the Living God.
Your Spirit's water to my soul.
I've tasted, and I've seen. Come once again to me.
I will draw near to You. I will draw near to You, to You. **CHORUS**

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 34:4–5*

Pastor: I sought the LORD, and He answered me
People: **and delivered me from all my fears.**
Pastor: Those who look to Him are radiant,
People: **and their faces shall never be ashamed.**
Pastor: Let us then go to God, confessing our sins, confident of His grace and mercy.

Silence for reflection on our sinful condition and the promises of God.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Lord God Almighty,

People: we confess that there are times when we have forgotten the hope that is within us. As Elijah feared and fled the forces of Jezebel, so we fear the evil around us. Although incapable of saving ourselves, we attempt to find peace and protection through our own efforts. Assure us of the new life You have given us, made certain in our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ,

People: we confess that in our daily struggles we often lose awareness of Your presence. We neglect to be faithful in our worship in our daily lives; we fail to recognize the forgiveness, life, and salvation that Your body and blood provide. Renew in us a desire to hear and take to heart Your promise of eternal life.

Pastor: O Holy Spirit,

People: we confess that we fail to exhibit the new life, too often falling back into the old ways we thought we had put behind us. Strengthen us through the Word to see clearly the opportunities You provide to pass on the forgiveness we ourselves have received.

Pastor: Our gracious heavenly Father sent His Son to give His life as the sacrifice for our sins. Our Lord Jesus is the bread of life from heaven, coming in the Lord's Supper to assure us of salvation until we join Him in eternity. The Holy Spirit uses Word and Sacrament to nurture our faith as we live out the new life God provides. 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 ✠

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: 1 Kings 19:1–8

(Elijah, fleeing for his life, is given miraculous food so that he may get to Horeb, the mount of God.)

Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them." Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day's journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and

prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: Ephesians 4:17–5:2

(Because Christ gave Himself as a sacrifice for us and has given us new life, our lives can reflect Him and His forgiving love.)

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

READING

Congregation, please stand for the Gospel.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 6:35–51

(Whoever believes in Jesus, the bread from heaven, has eternal life and will live forever.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

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

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

"Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered. "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor John Larson

SONG OF THE DAY I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

S. Suzanne Toolan

I am the bread of life He who comes to Me shall not hunger
He who believes in Me shall not thirst
No one can come to Me Unless the Father draw him

**CHORUS: And I will raise him up And I will raise him up
And I will raise him up on the last day**

The bread that I will give Is My flesh for the life of the world
And he who eats of this bread
He shall live forever He shall live forever **CHORUS**

Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man
And drink of His blood And drink of His blood
You shall not have life within you **CHORUS**

I am the resurrection I am the life
He who believes in Me
Even if he die He shall live forever **CHORUS**

Yes, Lord, I believe That You are the Christ
The Son of God Who has come Into the world **CHORUS**

SERMON "Authentic Life"

Pastor John Larson
TEXT: Ephesians 4:17-5:2

CREEDAL AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL FAITH

Pastor: The new life we have was given to us in Holy Baptism. Let us confirm our baptismal faith.

Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

People: Yes, I renounce them.

Pastor: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

People: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?

People: Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Pastor: The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life \times everlasting.

People: Amen.

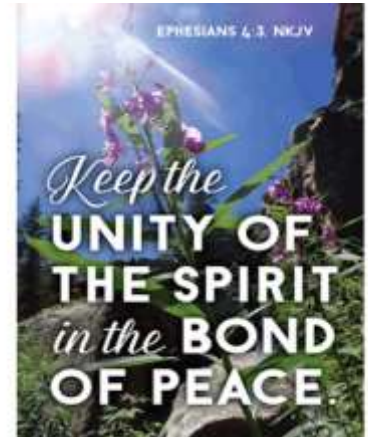
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

*We share the Lord's peace with one another, saying,
"Peace be with you."*



OFFERING COME TO THE TABLE

Sidewalk Prophets

We all start on the outside The outside looking in
This is where grace begins We were hungry, we were thirsty
With nothing left to give Oh the shape that we were in
Just when all hope seemed lost Love opened the door for us, He said:

**CHORUS: "Come to the table Come join the sinners who have been redeemed
Take your place beside the Savior Sit down and be set free
Come to the table"**

Come meet this motley crew of misfits These liars and these thieves
There's no one unwelcome here So that sin and shame that you brought with you
You can leave it at the door Let mercy draw you near **CHORUS**

**Come to the table Come join the sinners who have been redeemed
Take your place beside the Savior Sit down and be set free
Whoa...Sit down and be set free Come to the table Come to the table
Sit down and be set free Come to the table**

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 been instructed and 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. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.

Communing TOGETHER



✘ SACRAMENT ✘

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalm 136*
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✘ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✘ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

LORD’S PRAYER *Text found in the back of the Hymnal. (Matthew 6:9–13)*

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

COME TO THE TABLE

Cloninger

Come to the table of mercy, prepared with the wine and the bread;
All who are hungry and thirsty, come and your souls will be fed.
Come at the Lord's invitation, receive from His nail scarred hand;
Eat of the bread of salvation, drink of the blood of the Lamb.

GIVE THANKS!

LSB 806

Give thanks with a grateful heart.
Give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart.
Give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.

And now let the weak say I am strong.
Let the poor say I am rich,
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say I am strong.
Let the poor say I am rich,
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks. Give thanks.

GOD'S NOT DEAD (LIKE A LION)

DANIEL BASHTA

Let love explode and bring the dead to life
A love so bold to see a revolution somehow **REPEAT**
Now I'm lost in Your freedom Oh this world I'll overcome

CHORUS: **My God's not dead He's surely alive**
 He's living on the inside roaring like a lion
 God's not dead He's surely alive
 He's living on the inside roaring like a lion,
 Roaring, He's roaring, He's roaring like a lion

Let hope arise and make the darkness hide
My faith is dead I need a resurrection somehow **REPEAT**

Now I'm lost in Your freedom
Oh this world I'll overcome **CHORUS**

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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. *Numbers 6:24–26*

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG DEATH WAS ARRESTED Kersh/Coker/Balltzglier/Smith

Alone in my sorrow and dead in my sin
Lost without hope with no place to begin
Your love made a way to let mercy come in
When death was arrested and my life began

Ash was redeemed only beauty remains
My orphan heart was given a name
My mourning grew quiet my feet rose to dance
When death was arrested and my life began

**CHORUS: Oh Your grace so free washes over me
You have made me new now life begins with You
It's Your endless love pouring down on us
You have made us new now life begins with You**

Released from my chains I'm a pris'ner no more
My shame was a ransom He faithfully bore
He cancelled my debt and He called me His friend
When death was arrested and my life began **CHORUS**

Our Savior displayed on a criminal's cross
Darkness rejoiced as though Heaven had lost
But then Jesus arose with our freedom in hand
That's when death was arrested and my life began **CHORUS**

Oh we're free free forever we're free
Come join the song of all the redeemed
Yes we're free free forever amen
When death was arrested and my life began **(REPEAT)**

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God!**



GIVEN FOR YOU

Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
 DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
 AGAPE PRAISE BAND

Pastor John Larson
 Michael Zehnder
 Bri Fort, Diana Gaide, Lisa O'Neal, Ken Price, Larry Ruggera, Bob Shiflet

ELDER 8:00
 10:00
 LECTOR 8:00
 10:00
 ACOLYTE 8:00
 10:00
 USHERS 8:00

Norm Finrock
 Michael Lawrenz
 Jerry Peterson
 Jeanette Nelson
 Ian Avedissian
 Holly Schmitt
 Barry Kratzer, Members of the
 Congregation
 Jason Dierking, Members of the
 Congregation
 Denise Lucero
 Shelia Beu, Rita Kratzer, Phyllis
 McConnell

 10:00
 SERVER 10:00
 ALTAR GUILD

Brandon & Justine Jankowski, in
 celebration of Lori Rolling's Birthday
 (August 8)