

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

August 12, 2018

8:00 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.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

PRELUDE “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” Paul Manz

PASTORAL GREETING

TOLLING OF THE BELL *Congregation, please stand.*

HYMN “Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven” *LSB 793*

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 ✠

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

LSB 803

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Gracious Father, Your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world.

People: Help us each day to put away our old nature and walk in love, as Christ has loved us,

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

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.**

Congregation, please stand for the Gospel.

VERSE *John 6:51a, b*

Pastor: Alleluia. I am the living bread that came down from heaven.

People: **If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. Alleluia.**

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.**

SERMON "Authentic Life"

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

HYMN "What Is This Bread?"

LSB 629

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

Pastor: Let us go to our heavenly Father, asking His blessings on the Church around the world, for all people in their various circumstances, and for ourselves.

For all our brothers and sisters in Christ, that God would use Word and Sacrament to remind them of their Baptism, assure them of sins forgiven, and move them to daily acts of care and compassion that reflect His boundless love for us, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For national leaders and public servants at all levels of government, that God give them wisdom to promote justice and the common good for all their citizens and guidance as they seek peace across their borders, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those who fish and farm, who develop and produce, who transport and build, that God would use their efforts to be blessings for all, providing food for the hungry and housing for the homeless, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For our congregation, that the Holy Spirit would nurture us as we seek to care for one another in all aspects of our life together, open our eyes to opportunities to share the Gospel with our neighbors through word and deed, and strengthen us to live faithfully when apart from one another, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: *Other intercessions may be offered here . . . ,* let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, grant these requests and answer them in grace for the sake of Your Son, the bread from heaven, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

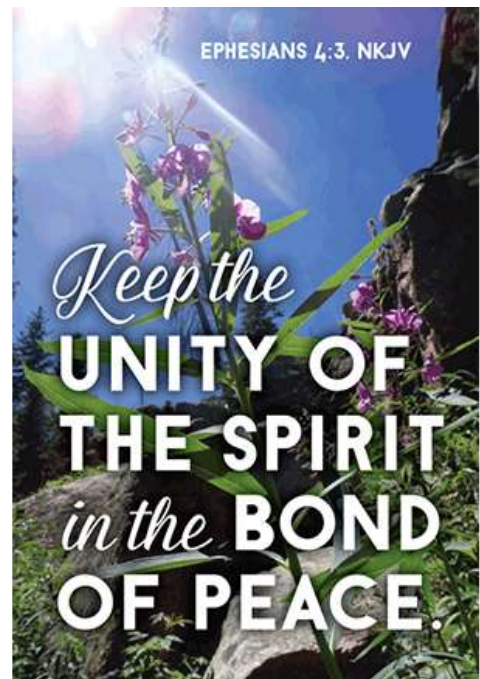
People: **Amen.**

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 "How Great Thou Art"

arr. Brian Childers
Handbell Solo, Durwin Schmitt

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.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whom You sent into this world as the bread of life so that we might live forever. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

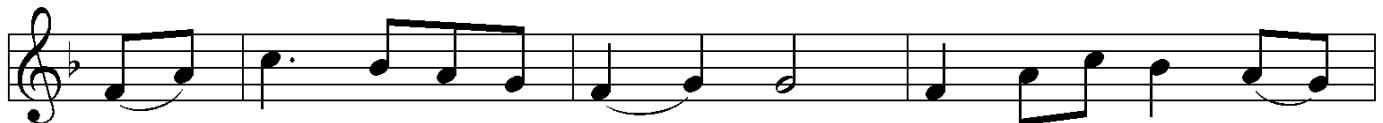
SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

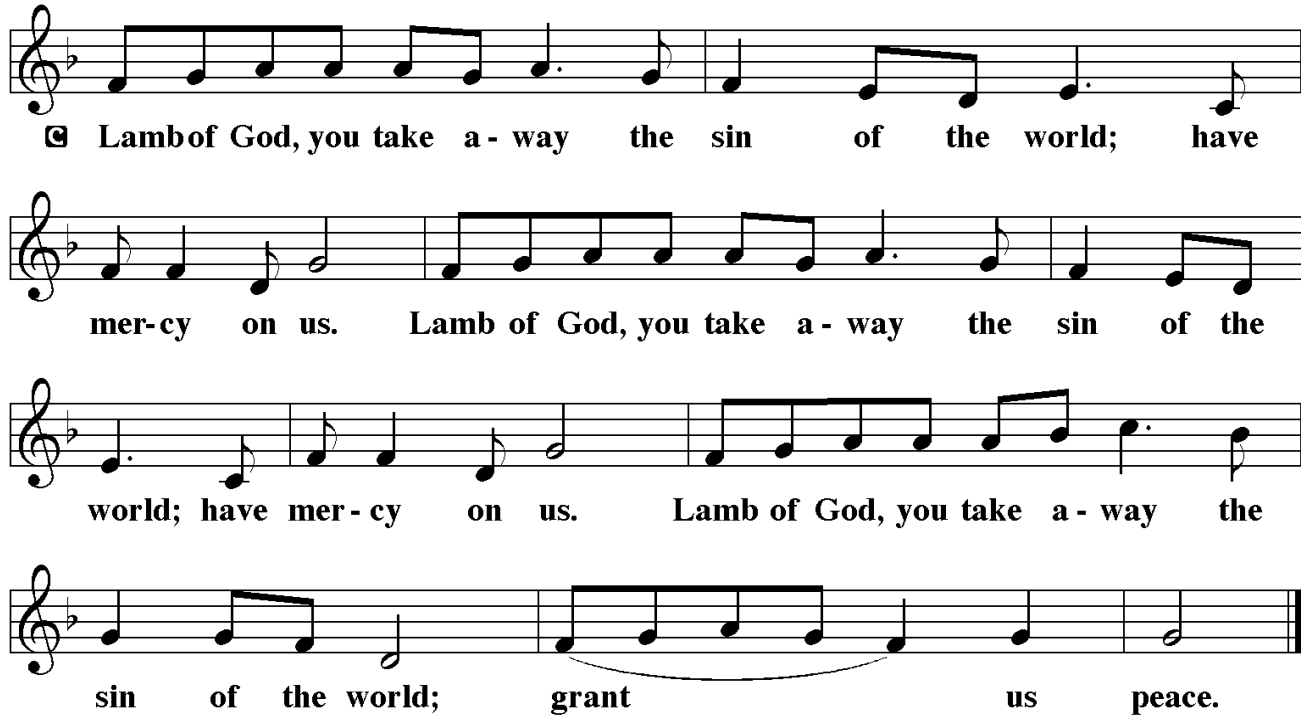
THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

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 \times 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 \times 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)*

AGNUS DEI



☩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy”	LSB 774
“Eat This Bread”	LSB 638
“O Living Bread from Heaven”	LSB 642
“Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise”	LSB 680

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

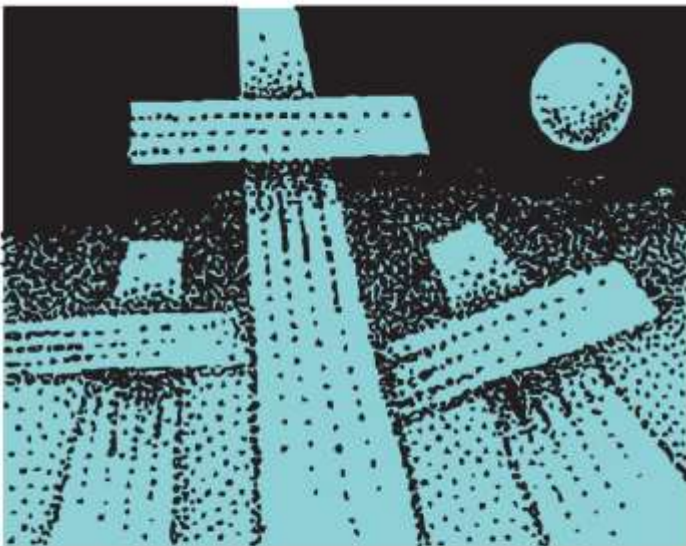
Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. *Numbers 6:24–26*

People: Amen.

HYMN “Savior of the Nations, Come” LSB 332
Verses 1-2, 6,8

DISMISSAL

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



GIVEN FOR YOU

“Whoever believes and is
baptized will be saved.”

Mark 16:16, NIV



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

Norm Finrock
Michael Lawrenz

LECTOR 8:00
10:00

Jerry Peterson
Jeanette Nelson

ACOLYTE 8:00
10:00

Ian Avedissian
Holly Schmitt

USHERS 8:00

Barry Kratzer, Members of the
Congregation

10:00

Jason Dierking, Members of the
Congregation

SERVER 10:00

Denise Lucero

ALTAR GUILD

Shelia Beu, Rita Kratzer, Phyllis
McConnell

FLOWERS

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