

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

August 26, 2018

10:00 am



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Made Spotless

AS WE GATHER

They're perfect! "Stain-resistant! Wrinkle-free! Easy-care!" Not only are the pants good-looking, but they're also functional. While store catalogs may use these terms to grab your attention and sell their products, the Bible uses similar words to proclaim the wonderful news of God's free grace for you! Jesus has redeemed you by His blood in order to "present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:27). Like a bride beautifully adorned and awaiting her bridegroom, we anticipate the final coming of our Lord Jesus, even as we today receive Him who comes to us in His body and blood. Let us join together and give praise to the One who has declared us to be spotless!

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness,
whose love is mighty and so much stronger?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder,
who leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

**CHORUS: This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love,
that You would take my place, that You would bear my cross.
You laid down Your life that I would be set free.
Oh, Jesus, I sing for all that You've done for me.**

Who brings our chaos back into order,
who makes the orphan a son and daughter?
The King of Glory, the King of Glory.

Who rules the nations with truth and justice,
shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings. **CHORUS**



✘ PREPARATION ✘

PASTORAL GREETING

OPENING 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)**

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Based on Psalm 14:3, 7; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 5:26–27

Pastor: Brothers and sisters, let us together acknowledge that we have turned away from our faithful God. None of us is good, not even one. We all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Therefore, let us come before our Father in heaven in repentance and faith, seeking His pardon and restoration for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In silent prayer, we bring our sins to the foot of the cross.

Pastor: With humble hearts, let us pray.

People: **Faithful Father, have mercy upon us. We have failed to obey Your commands. Loving Savior, have mercy upon us. Wash us clean in Your saving blood. Comforting Spirit, have mercy upon us. Restore us to be Your own. Amen.**

Pastor: Because of God's mercy and grace, salvation has come to you! You are forgiven in your Father's eyes, washed spotless by the washing of water with the Word. You are united to Christ, so rejoice and be glad! As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I 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 29:11–19

(The Lord will again do wonderful things with His people.)

For you this whole vision is nothing but words sealed in a scroll. And if you give the scroll to someone who can read, and say to him, "Read this, please," he will answer, "I can't; it is sealed." Or if you give the scroll to someone who cannot read, and say, "Read this, please," he will answer, "I don't know how to read."

The Lord says:

"These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men.

Therefore once more I will astound these people with wonder upon wonder; the wisdom of the wise will perish, the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish."

Woe to those who go to great depths to hide their plans from the LORD, who do their work in darkness and think, "Who sees us? Who will know?"

You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay!

Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, "He did not make me"?

Can the pot say of the potter, "He knows nothing"?

In a very short time, will not Lebanon be turned into a fertile field and the fertile

field seem like a forest?

In that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll, and out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see.

Once more the humble will rejoice in the LORD; the needy will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE: Ephesians 5:22–33

(Christ, the Bridegroom, makes the Church His Bride and gives Himself up for her.)

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- for we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregation, please Stand for the Gospel.

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 7:1–13

(Jesus rebukes those who reject God's commands in order to establish their own traditions.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.

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

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were "unclean," that is, unwashed. (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace they do not eat

unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with `unclean' hands?"

He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

" `These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

They worship me in vain;
their teachings are but rules taught by men.'

You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men."

And he said to them: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! For Moses said, `Honor your father and your mother,' and, `Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: `Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is Corban' (that is, a gift devoted to God), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kathy Johnson

SONG OF THE DAY HUMBLE THYSELF - AWESOME GOD

Hudson-Mullins

Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord. Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord,
and He shall lift you up, higher and higher, and He shall lift you up. **REPEAT**

Our God is an awesome God; He reigns from heaven above
with wisdom, power, and love, our God is an awesome God!

Our God is an awesome God; He reigns from heaven above

with wisdom, power, and love, our God is an awesome God! **REPEAT**

SERMON "Once More the Humble Will Rejoice in the Lord" Rev. Dr. George Naeem

TEXT: Isaiah 29:19

APOSTLES' CREED

Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

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 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**

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.

Holy Communion



✠ 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. *Psalms 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)*

Amen!

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

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**



LET IT BE SAID OF US

Fry

Let it be said of us that the Lord was our passion,
That with gladness we bore every cross we were given;
That we fought the good fight, and we finished the course;
Knowing within us the power of the risen Lord.

**CHORUS: Let the cross be our glory and the Lord be our song!
By mercy made holy, by the Spirit made strong.
Let the cross be our glory and the Lord be our song!
Till the likeness of Jesus be through us made known.
Let the cross be our glory and the Lord be our song.**

Let it be said of us, we were marked by forgiveness;
We were known by our love and delighted in mercy;
We were ruled by His peace, heeding unity's call,
Joined as one body that Christ would be seen by all. **CHORUS**

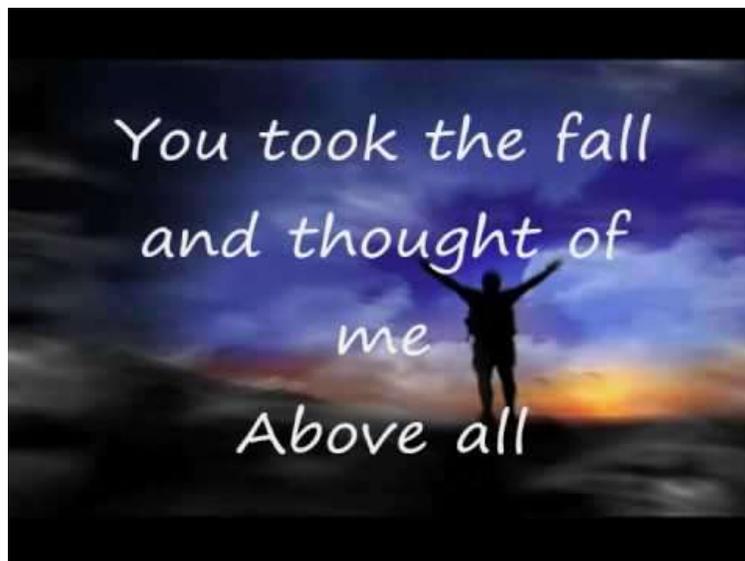
ABOVE ALL

LeBlanc—Baloche

Above all powers, above all kings, above all nature and all created things;
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man,
You were here before the world began.

Above all kingdoms, above all thrones, above all wonders the world has ever known;
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth,
there's no way to measure what You're worth.

Crucified, laid behind the stone; You lived to die, rejected and alone;
Like a rose, trampled on the ground,
You took the fall, and thought of me, above all.



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 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**

DISMISSAL

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



Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
 DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
 AGAPE PRAISE BAND

Pastor George Naeem
 Michael Zehnder
 Bri Fort, Diana Gaide, Lisa O'Neal, Ken
 Price, Bob Shiflet

ELDER 8:00
 10:00

Scott Luethy
 Bill Redden
 Norm Finrock
 Jude Donovan

LECTOR 8:00
 10:00

Ann Ranisate
 Ben Dierking

ACOLYTE 8:00
 10:00

Barry Kratzer, Members of the
 Congregation

USHERS 8:00
 10:00

Jason Dierking, Members of the
 Congregation

SERVER 10:00
 ALTAR GUILD

Margo Pasha
 Shelia Beu, Rita Kratzer, Phyllis
 McConnell

FLOWERS

Nancy Lugton, in celebration of Patrick
 Muldoon's 22nd birthday and Jerry
 Gerdes, in celebration of his 80th
 birthday