

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

*August 26, 2018*

**8:00 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!

✠ PREPARATION ✠

**PRELUDE**      “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”      Paul Manz

**PASTORAL GREETING**

**TOLLING OF THE BELL**    *Congregation, please stand.*

**HYMN**      “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”      *LSB 901*

**INVOCATION**

**Pastor:**      In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:**      **Amen.**

**PSALM**      *Psalm 14*

**Pastor:**      The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.

**People:**      **The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.**

**Pastor:**      They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.

**People:**      **Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up My people as they eat bread and do not call upon the LORD?**

**Pastor:**      There they are in great terror, for God is with the generation of the righteous.

**People:**      **You would shame the plans of the poor, but the LORD is his refuge.**

**Pastor:**      Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!

**People:**      **When the LORD restores the fortunes of His people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.**

**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 ✂

### 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

"Crown Him With Many Crowns"

LSB 525

Verses 1, 5

### SALUTATION

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, defend Your Holy Church, which You have made spotless with the blood of Your Son, that we hold fast to Your Word and rejoice in all of Your goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our

Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**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 Alleluia Verse and Gospel.*

**VERSE** *Jeremiah 15:16a, adapted*

Pastor: Alleluia. Your words were found, and I ate them.

People: **Your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart. Alleluia.**

### **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.**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

"What Wondrous Love is This"

LSB 543

**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

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For the Christian Church, both here and throughout the world, that, united in the redeeming blood of Christ, we share the saving Gospel wherever we are and to whomever we meet, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, send us forth to share Your Word.**

Pastor: For the living out of our vocations, that all who are blessed with callings in our homes, in our workplaces, in our larger society, and in the Church faithfully represent our Savior by what we say and do, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, help us to serve You by serving others.**

Pastor: For all public servants who selflessly serve others, including the members of our armed forces, that they would be defended by our mighty God and take refuge in His merciful care, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, be their shield and defense.**

Pastor: For all who suffer in heart, mind, and body, [*especially . . .*], that they receive healing mercies from above, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, restore and heal those we name before You.**

Pastor: For these and all other concerns that are upon our hearts and minds, that our gracious Father answer us for the sake of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, we ask for this grace in Jesus' name. 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

**MEN'S QUARTET** "How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling" Heinrich Schuetz

Singers: Ed Geisler, Tom Munson, Durwin Schmitt, Michael Zehnder

## 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.*



## ✠ 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. In the cleansing blood of the cross, we have been made spotless. Washed with water through the Word, we are cleansed and renewed and now come before You with glad and thankful hearts. 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



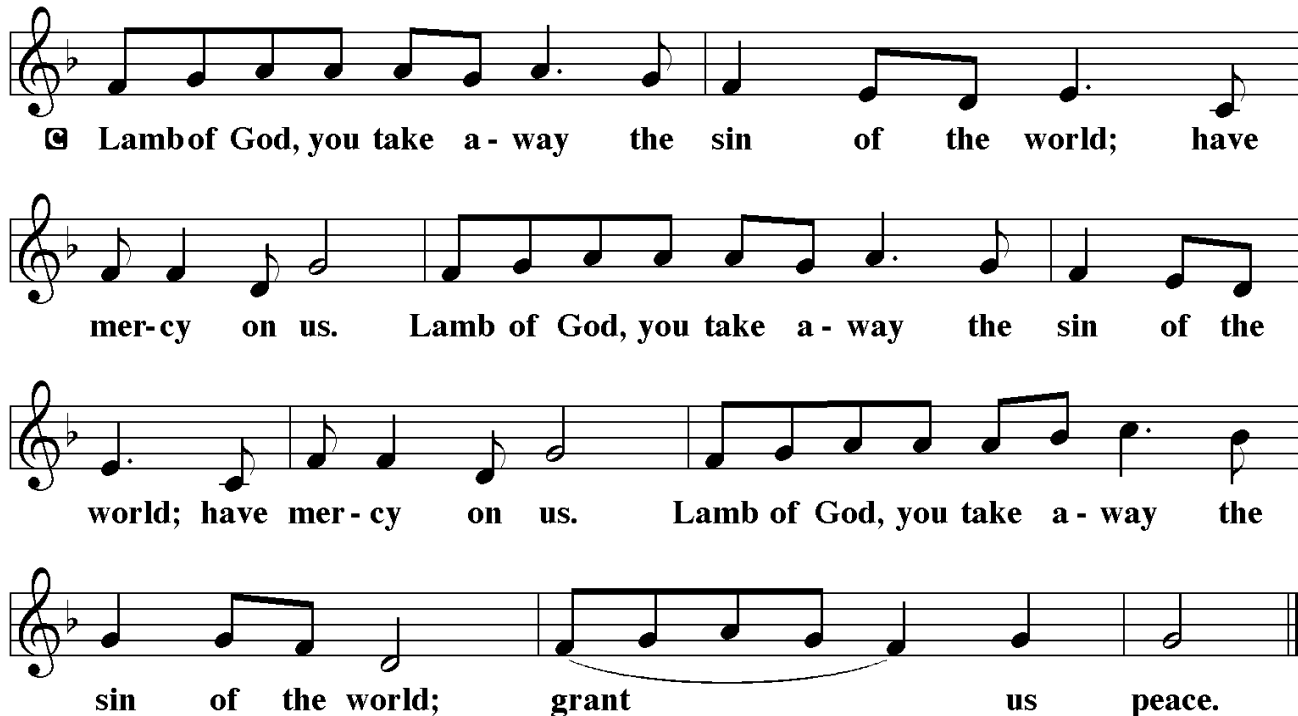


**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD** *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

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**

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness” (verses 1-4) | LSB 563 |
| “Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens”             | LSB 589 |
| “My Song Is Love Unknown”                         | LSB 430 |

**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 “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

LSB 922

## DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE “Tocatta Brevis”

Daniel Gawthrop





He leads me

beside still waters. He restores my soul.

Psalm 23:2-3, ESV

## 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 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday and Jerry  
Gerdes, in celebration of his 80<sup>th</sup>  
birthday

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