

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

October 7, 2018

8:00 am



TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST/STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Welcomed and Made Complete

AS WE GATHER

In a culture that is quickly drifting away from the values we once held sacred, it's imperative for us, as the people of God, to hold firmly to the Word we have heard. Today as we gather to listen to God's Word and receive His gifts of grace, we are drawn close to the Redeemer, who has given His life in exchange for ours. Today is Stewardship Sunday, a day we consider all God has done for us and how we might respond in love with our time, talent, and treasure.

✘ PREPARATION ✘

PRELUDE “We Praise You, O God” John Ferguson

PASTORAL GREETING

TOLLING OF THE BELL *Congregation, please stand.*

HYMN “We Praise You, O God” *LSB 785*

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In a time of silence and prayer, let us approach the Father’s throne of grace.

(We take a moment of silence for personal reflection and confession of our sins.)

Pastor: Most merciful Father,

People: **we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have drifted from Your commands, choosing to go our own separate ways. We have not honored You as our Creator, nor have we honored one another in love. By the cleansing work of our Redeemer, remove from us our sins of thought, word, and deed so that we worship You in Spirit and in truth. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

Pastor: Only in Christ Jesus are we made complete—complete as God’s creation and completely cleansed of our guilt and sin. Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Lord, announce His grace to all of you and, in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✘ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

✘ WORD ✘

KYRIE

Pastor: For the peace of Christ, our Bridegroom, to rule in our hearts and lives, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the blessing of all who live according to God's gracious will—both in the Christian family and in the family of Christ, the Church, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: Help us, O Lord!

People: Save us, O Lord!

Pastor: Defend us, O Lord!

People: Have mercy on us, O Lord!

HYMN OF PRAISE "Praise and Thanksgiving"

LSB 789

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Merciful Father, Your patience and loving-kindness toward us have no end. Grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may always think and do those things that are pleasing in Your sight; 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: Genesis 2:18–25

(The Lord designs man and woman to find completion in each other.)

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called `woman,' for she was taken out of man." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: Hebrews 2:1–13

(All things exist for Jesus, who is crowned with glory and honor.)

We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. But there is a place where someone has testified: "What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor and put everything under his feet." In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregation, please rise for the Alleluia Verse and the Gospel.

VERSE *Mark 10:14b* "Verse for Pentecost 20" David von Kampen
Ascension Chorale

*Alleluia. Let the children come to Me; do not hinder them,
for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Alleluia.*

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 10:2–16

(Jesus affirms God's gift of marriage and blesses the children who are brought to Him.)

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

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

Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"

"What did Moses command you?" he replied.

They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away."

"It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law," Jesus replied. "But at the beginning of creation God `made them male and female.' `For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. He answered, "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery."

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings" *LSB 782*

SERMON "Gifts, Grace, and Gratitude" Pastor John Larson
Text: Philippians 2:5

THE CREED: First Article with explanation *LSB – pg. 322 (front of Hymnal)*
(The physical background of our stewardship.)

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 growth of God's kingdom of grace, that we live out our identities as sons and daughters of our heavenly Father, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Father, we are Your family, created to be Your own.

Pastor: For the Christian Church, both here at Ascension and assembled in congregations throughout the world, that we be one as our God is one, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Father, we are Your family, redeemed and restored in Christ.

Pastor: For all pastors, teachers, musicians, missionaries, and other servants of the Church, that they find joy in their callings, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Father, we are Your family, blessed by those who serve and lead.

Pastor: For all who know that God has freely given to us, eyes, ears, and all our members, the sacrifice of Jesus and our sanctification by His Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Father, you have freely given to us. Help us to freely give back to you and help one another.

Pastor: For all who suffer in heart, mind, and body, [*especially . . .*], that they find restoration in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Father, we are Your family, ever in need of Your healing mercy.

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

People: Father, we are Your family, ever in need of Your healing mercy.

Pastor: For these and all other concerns we have, that our gracious Father would answer the petitions of His people, the Bride of Christ, for the sake of Him who is our Bridegroom, let us pray to the Lord,

People: Father, we are Your family. Grant that our lives reflect who You are and what You have done to make us Your own. In the name of Jesus we pray. 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

OFFERTORY "Ain't Got Time to Die"

Hall Johnson
arr. John Purifoy
Ascension Chorale

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

James and Sue Anzai (Adult Confirmation)

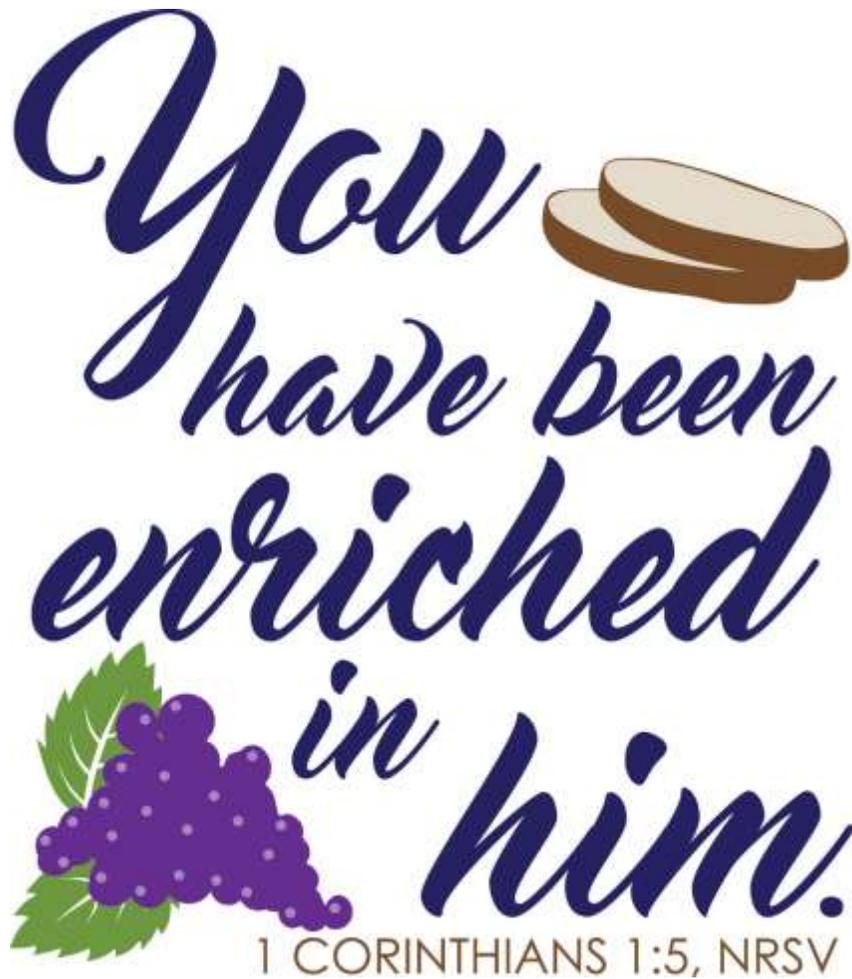
Tricia McCulley (Reaffirmation of Faith)

Lois Wolf (Transfer)

Loren Wolf (Transfer)

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, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all Your people. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, He welcomes all who trust in Him to enter with Him into His kingdom. 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 (Divine Service, Setting Three)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, 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 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 (Divine Service, Setting Three)

© O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

“Give Me Jesus”

arr. L.L. Fleming
Ascension Chorale

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

LSB 739

“Lord of All Good”

LSB 786

“Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness”

LSB 788

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go forth with the blessing of Your faithful Savior and Bridegroom upon your life:



**THEY ARE
TO DO GOOD,
TO BE RICH
IN GOOD WORKS,
TO BE GENEROUS
AND READY
TO SHARE.**

1 TIMOTHY 6:18, ESV

Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
CHOIR ACCOMPANIST
AGAPE PRAISE TEAM

Pastor John Larson
Michael Zehnder
Diana Gaide
Ashley Boeding, Brooke Boeding, Larry Boeding, Lilly Brinkman, Brian Johnson, Christa Kirschner, Will Kopriva, Bob Shiflet

ELDER 8:00
10:30

Norm Finrock
Scott Luethy

LECTOR 8:00
10:30

Ben Dallet
Carol Shepherd

ACOLYTE 8:00
10:30

Ian Avedissian
Hannah Schmitt

USHERS 8:00
10:30

Clyde Wiggins, Members of the Congregation

Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation

SERVER 10:30
ALTAR GUILD

Margo Pasha
Shelia Beu, Joyce Dowdy, Charmaine Rohde

FLOWERS

Barb & Randy Lone in celebration of their 38th anniversary.

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STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY