

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

*September 16, 2018*

10:30 am



## SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**Lord, I Believe; Help My Unbelief!**

### AS WE GATHER

Imagine if you were the father in today's Gospel. Since childhood, his son has been plagued by an unclean spirit that makes him mute and throws him down, doing bodily harm. The dad brings his son to Jesus' disciples, and they are of no help. The father comes before Jesus and asks him to help . . . if He can. Jesus responds, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." To which the father cries out, "I believe; help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:23–24). This father, who is at the end of his rope, cries out with faith mixed with desperation. Thankfully, his worthiness, and our worthiness, does not depend on the greatness or smallness of faith. Instead, it depends on Jesus, the object of our faith. When we face desperate times, we, too, cry out in prayer and faith, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

## GATHERING SONGS

### BLESS THE LORD (10,000 REASONS)

Myrin/Redman

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.  
The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning, It's time to sing Your song again.  
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,  
Let me be singing when the evening comes.

**CHORUS: Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.**

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.  
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.  
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;  
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. **CHORUS**

And on that day, when my strength is failing,  
The end draws near, and my time has come;  
Still, my soul will sing Your praise unending,  
Ten thousand years, and then forevermore! **CHORUS X2**

✘ PREPARATION ✘

## PASTORAL GREETING

### OPENING SONG YOUR GRACE IS ENOUGH

Maher

Great is Your faithfulness, O God; You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart.  
You lead us by still waters into mercy And nothing can keep us apart.

**CHORUS: So, remember Your people, Remember Your children,  
Remember Your promise O God.  
Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough,  
Your grace is enough, for me.**

Great is Your love and justice, God of Jacob; You use the weak to lead the strong.  
You lead us in the song of Your salvation, And all Your people sing along. **CHORUS**

Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough, for me.

Remember Your people, Remember Your children, Remember Your promise O God.  
Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough, for me.

Yeah, Your grace is enough; Heaven reaches out to us. Your grace is enough for me.  
God, I sing: Your grace is enough; I'm covered in Your love.  
Your grace is enough for me, for me.

## INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 116:4-5, 8-9*

**People: Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!" Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.**

Pastor: Since we are gathered to our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**People: For You have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling; I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living. Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ 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 50:4-10

(He who vindicates me is near.)

**The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back. I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who is he that will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up.**

**Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the word of his servant? Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.**

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle: James 3:1-12**

(From the same mouth come blessing and cursing.)

**Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.**

**When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts.**

**Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.**

**All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.**

**With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.**

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Congregation, please rise for the Gospel.*

**Holy Gospel: Mark 9:14-29**

(Jesus casts out a spirit.)

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

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

Pastor: When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. And immediately all the crowd, when they saw Him, were greatly amazed and ran up to Jesus and greeted Him. And He asked them,

Michael: "What are you arguing about with them?"

Pastor: And someone from the crowd answered Him, "Teacher, I brought my son to You, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So

I asked Your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” And He answered them,

Michael: “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me.”

Pastor: And they brought the boy to Him. And when the spirit saw Him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father,

Michael: “How long has this been happening to him?”

Pastor: And he said, “From childhood. And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” And Jesus said to him,

Michael: “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.”

Pastor: Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it,

Michael: “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.”

Pastor: And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had entered the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” And He said to them,

Michael: “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

Christa Kirschner

## **SONG OF THE DAY**

## **I LIFT MY HANDS**

**Tomlin**

Be still, there is a healer His love is deeper than the sea  
His mercy is unfailing His arms are a fortress for the weak  
Let faith arise, Let faith arise.

**CHORUS:** I lift my hands to believe again  
You are my refuge, You are my strength  
As I pour out my heart, these things I remember  
You are faithful, God, forever

Be still, there is a river That flows from Calvary's tree  
A fountain for the thirsty Your grace that washes over me.  
Let faith arise, let faith arise. **CHORUS**

Let faith arise, Let faith arise Open my eyes, Open my eyes  
Let faith arise, Let faith arise Open my eyes, Open my eyes. **CHORUS**

**SERMON** "The Best; The Worst"

Pastor John Larson  
Text: James 3:1-12

**NICENE 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 WE FALL DOWN**

We fall down, We lay our crowns at the feet of Jesus,  
The greatness of mercy and love At the feet of Jesus.  
And we cry Holy, holy, holy,  
And we cry Holy, holy, holy,  
and we cry Holy, holy, holy Is the Lamb.



**"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
to receive power and...  
honor and glory and praise!"**

Revelation 5:12, NIV

## 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  $\times$  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)*

**DISTRIBUTION SONGS**

**O COME TO THE ALTAR** **Chris Brown**

Are you hurting and broken within  
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin  
Jesus is calling  
Have you come to the end of yourself  
Do you thirst for a drink from the well  
Jesus is calling

**CHORUS: O come to the altar**  
**The Father's arms are open wide**  
**Forgiveness was bought with**  
**The precious blood of Jesus Christ**

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes Come today there's no reason to wait  
Jesus is calling  
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy From the ashes a new life is born  
Jesus is calling. **CHORUS X2**

Oh what a Savior Isn't he wonderful Sing alleluia Christ is risen  
Bow down before him For he is Lord of all Sing alleluia Christ is risen  
Oh what a Savior Isn't he wonderful Sing alleluia Christ is risen  
Bow down before him For he is Lord of all Sing alleluia Christ is risen. **CHORUS X2**

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown  
Tell the world of the treasure you've found



## HOSANNA

Ligertwood

I see the King of glory, Coming on the clouds with fire.  
The whole earth shakes, The whole earth shakes.  
I see His love and mercy, Washing over all our sin.  
The people sing, The people sing.

**CHORUS: Hosanna, hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna, hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**

I see a generation rising up to take their place, With selfless faith. With selfless faith.  
I see a near revival stirring as we pray and seek.  
We're on our knees. We're on our knees. **CHORUS**

Heal my heart and make it clean. Open up my eyes to the things unseen.  
Show me how to love like You have loved me. Break my heart for what breaks Yours.  
Everything I am, for Your Kingdom's cause.  
As I walk from earth into eternity. **CHORUS**

## JESUS PAID IT ALL

Grape/Nifong

And I hear the Savior say Thy strength indeed is small  
Child of weakness watch and pray Find in Me thine all in all

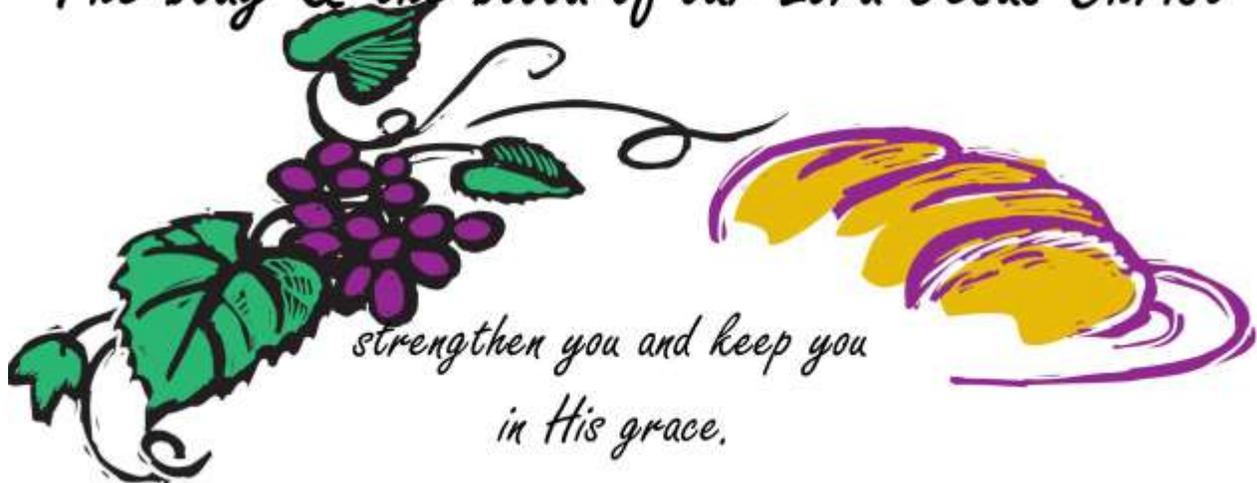
**CHORUS: 'Cause Jesus paid it all All to Him I owe  
Sin had left a crimson stain He washed it white as snow**

Lord now indeed I find Thy pow'r and Thine alone  
Can change the leper's spots And melt the heart of stone. **CHORUS**

And when before the throne I stand in Him complete  
Jesus died my soul to save My lips shall still repeat. **CHORUS**

## GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

*The body & the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ*



*strengthen you and keep you  
in His grace.*

## **BENEDICTION** *Psalm 116:1–2*

Pastor: I love the LORD, because He has heard

**People:** **my voice and my pleas for mercy.**

Pastor: Because He inclined His ear to me,

**People:** **therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.**

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** **I AM FREE**

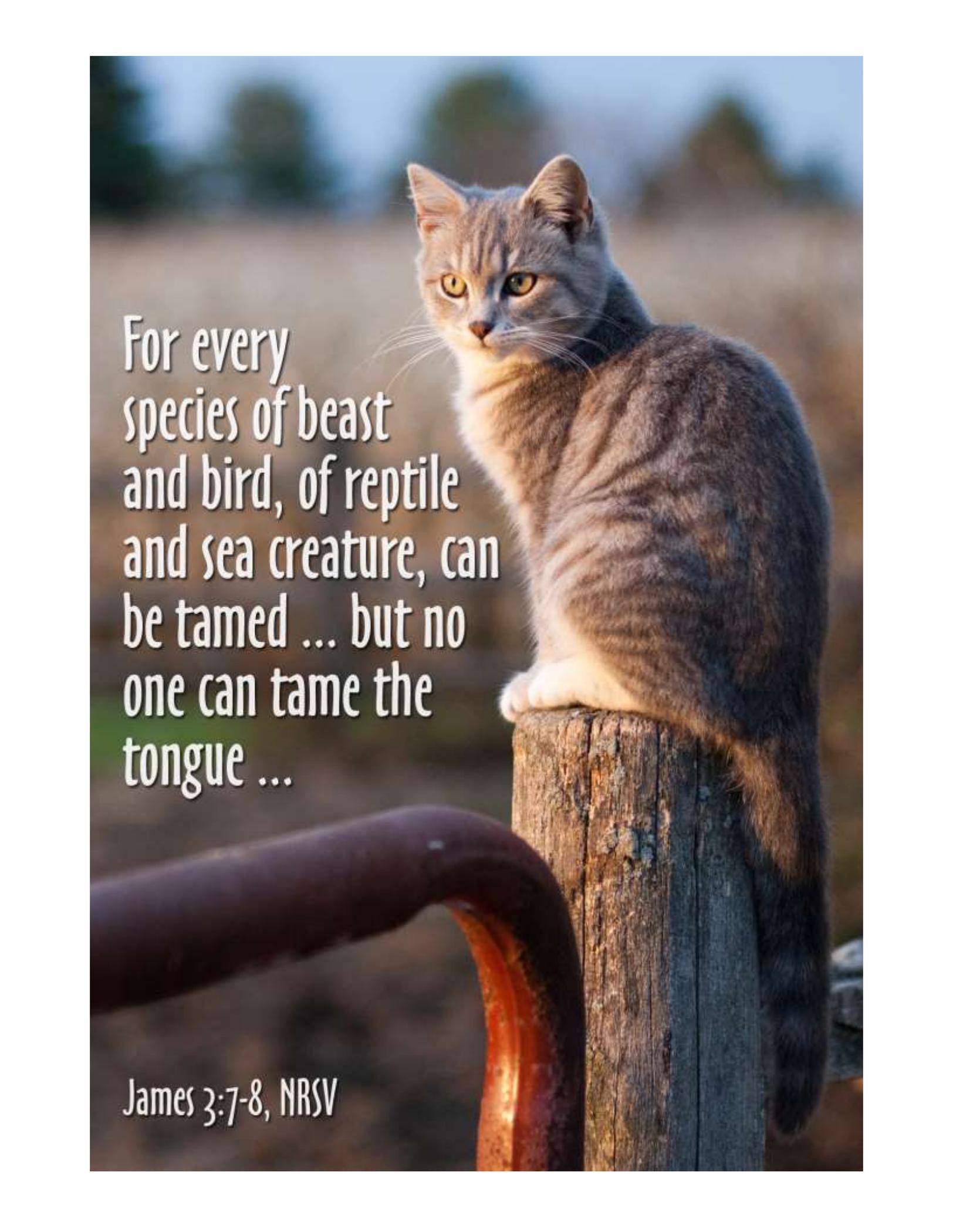
**Through You the blind will see  
Through You the mute will sing  
Through You the dead will rise  
Through You all hearts will praise  
Through You the darkness flees  
Through You my heart screams I am free**

SINGERS: I am free to run  
SINGERS: I am free to dance  
SINGERS: I am free to live for You  
SINGERS: I am free

**ALL: I am free to run  
ALL: I am free to dance  
ALL: I am free to live for You  
ALL: I am free**

## **CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS**



A photograph of a gray tabby cat sitting on a weathered wooden post. The cat is looking directly at the camera with its yellow eyes. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with trees and a clear sky. The lighting suggests it might be late afternoon or early morning.

For every  
species of beast  
and bird, of reptile  
and sea creature, can  
be tamed ... but no  
one can tame the  
tongue ...

James 3:7-8, NRSV

## Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES  
YOUTH PRAISE BAND

Pastor John Larson  
Michael Zehnder  
Ashley Boeding, Brooke Boeding, Larry  
Boeding, Lilly Brinkman, Christa  
Kirschner, Will Kopriva

ELDER 8:00  
10:30

Arvin Michel  
Don Loptien

LECTOR 8:00  
10:30

Larry Nisbet  
Ted Lemke

ACOLYTE 8:00  
10:30

Jake Faulk  
Ethan Pankow

USHERS 8:00

Art Gordon, Members of the  
Congregation

10:30

Jason Dierking, Members of the  
Congregation

SERVER 10:30

Margo Pasha

ALTAR GUILD

Sally Atchison, Gloria Gaudreault,  
Sharon Seible, Laurel Shurtleff

FLOWERS

Ashley & Brooke Boeding, in celebration  
of the 24<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of their  
parents, Larry & Amy Boeding  
(September 17)

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