

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

September 16, 2018

8:00 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!"

✠ PREPARATION ✠

PRELUDE “Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good” arr. David Schack and Paul Manz

OPENING HYMN “Evening and Morning”

LSB 726

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *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.

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.

FORGIVEN

✂ WORD ✂

KYRIE “Kyrie—II” (Sing Latin Words)

LSB 944



1 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.
3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
1 Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.
2 Christ, _____ have mer - cy. Christ, _____ have mer - cy.
3 Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - - - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - - - i - son.
Ky - ri - e e - le - - - i - son.
Lord, _____ have mer - - - cy.
Christ, _____ have mer - - - cy.
Lord, _____ have mer - - - cy.

HYMN OF PRAISE “Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good”
Verses 1-2, 5

LSB 819

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, at times we fear that You are far away from us.

People: **Forgive us for doubting Your presence, and give us confidence that our redeemer and vindicator is always near;**

Pastor: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

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.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY “Not for Tongues of Heaven’s Angels”
Verse 1- Solo, then all sing verses 1-4

LSB 695

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 *Psalm 116:4–5*

Pastor: We come before our Lord in prayer, saying along with the psalmist, “O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!” Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.”

Father in heaven, as we hear of the suffering and humiliation described by Isaiah, we remember Jesus’ great sacrifice on our behalf. In times of persecution for the sake of bearing Christ’s name, remind us that You are with us and Your grace sustains us. O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!

People: **Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.**

Pastor: Father in heaven, James reminds us that the tongue is a powerful part of our body, and our words can do great harm or good. Give us Your Spirit that we would not lie, betray, slander, or hurt with our words, but instead use them to defend our neighbor and praise Your name. O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!

People: **Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.**

Pastor: Father in heaven, Your Son cast out demons and bestowed healing with just His Word. According to Your will, restore and give wholeness to those who are suffering, [*especially . . .*]. O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!

People: **Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.**

Pastor: *Other intercessions may be offered here . . .*

O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!

People: **Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, give us faithful hearts with which to receive Your Son’s body and blood at Your Table. Grant that it strengthen and sustain us in the one true faith.

O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!

People: **Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy.

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

OFFERTORY “Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above”

arr. Jody Lindh

Ascension Choral

Diana Gaide, pianist; Ann Westra, xylophone;
Joel Pankow, bells; Michael Zehnder, tambourine

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, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who came into the world to be the Servant who would provide vindication for His beloved. Because of His great love for us, we can be confident that He is near even to the end of the age. 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 “Agnus Dei-I” LSB 962

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 Your
peace, grant us Your peace, grant us Your peace.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Ode to Joy”

arr. D. Gaide
Diana Gaide, pianist

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

LSB 784

“Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old”

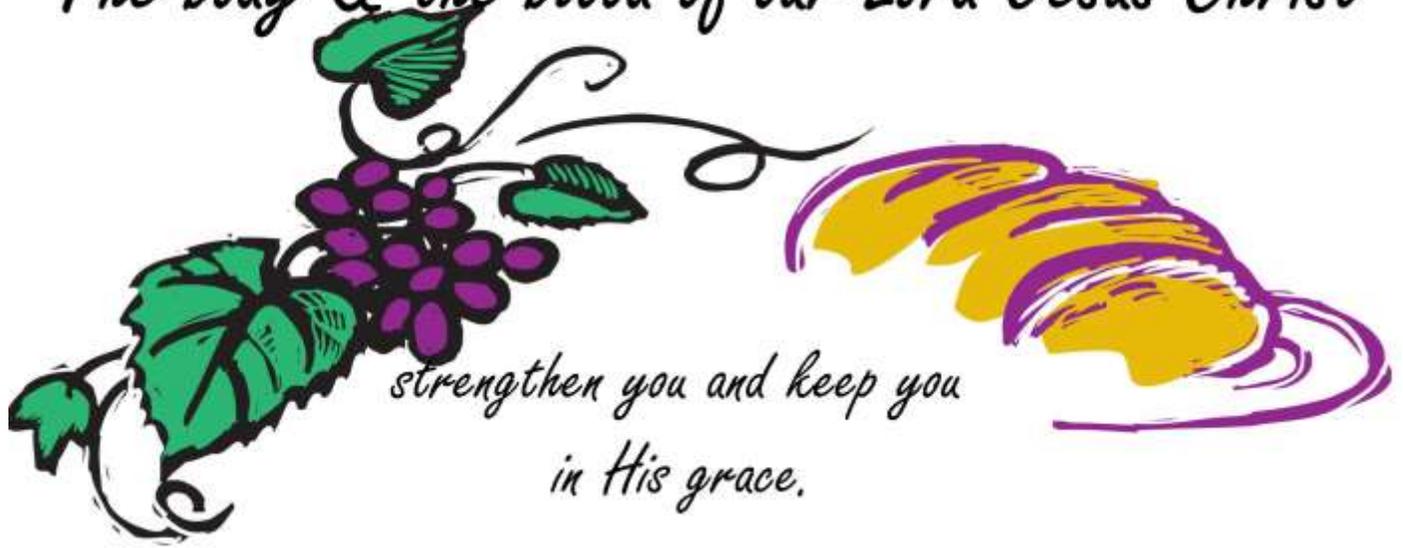
LSB 846

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

LSB 849

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.**

HYMN “Rise, Shine, You People”

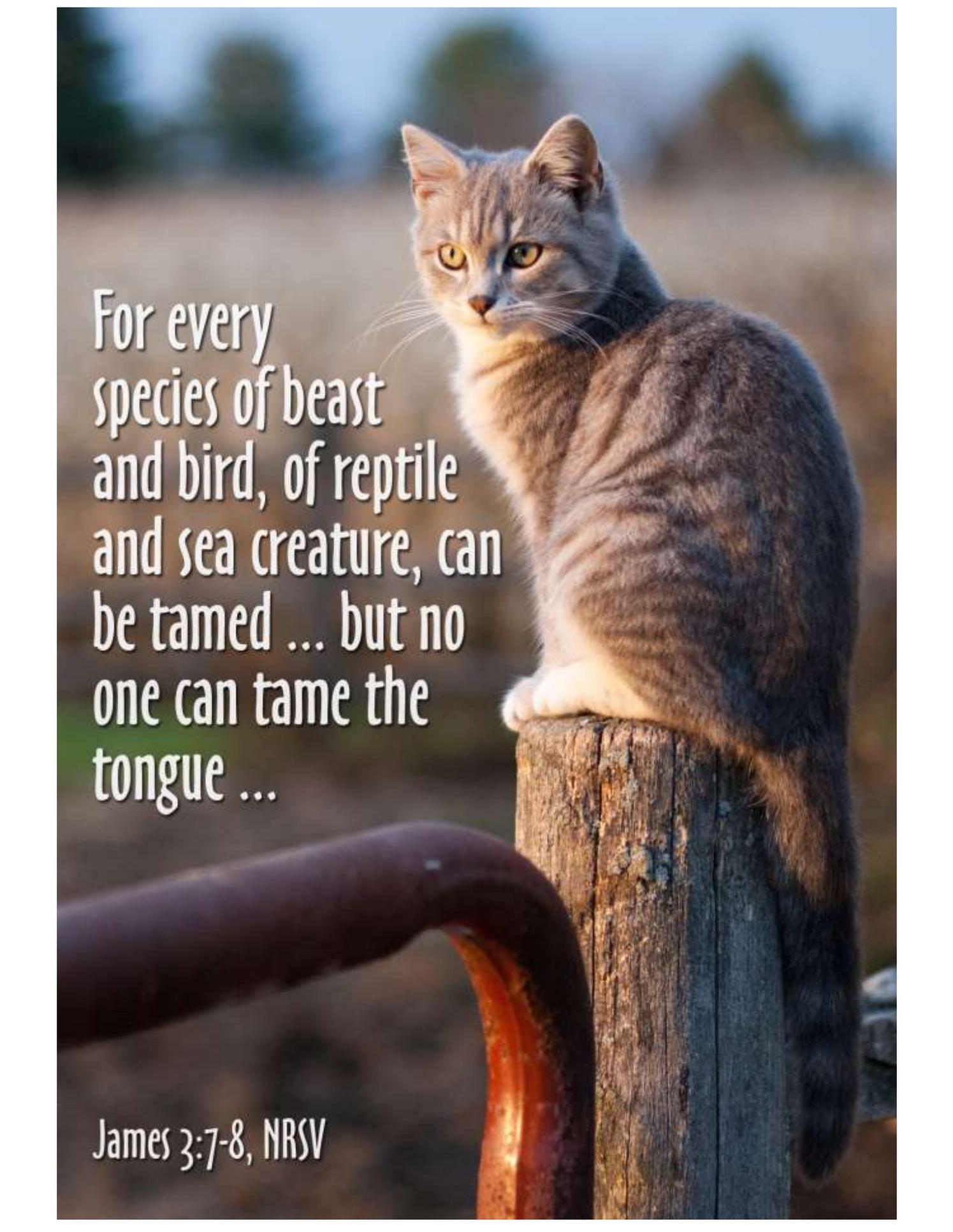
LSB 825

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

POSTLUDE “Rise, Shine, You People!”

arr. Aaron David Miller



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 setting 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 24th Wedding Anniversary of their
parents, Larry & Amy Boeding
(September 17)

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