

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

September 23, 2018

10:30 am



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Gift of Humility

AS WE GATHER

All three Readings today ring out with the gift of humility. Jeremiah, deeply hurt by those who sought to destroy him, still humbly leaves vengeance to the Lord. James exhorts believers not to think of themselves as wiser than anyone else, especially when the evidence of their lives was full of bitter jealousy and selfish ambition. James urges the wise to repent and to exhibit the humility Christ demonstrated by being “peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.” When Jesus makes clear that He is on a path that leads to humiliation on the cross, the disciples haughtily argue about who among them is the greatest. By this they demonstrate that they did not understand what Jesus was saying. Jesus then teaches that the greatest thing in life is to be the servant of all. At times we are tempted to treat others in proud and boastful ways. Yet these Readings work together to show us another way to live—humbly trusting God.



GATHERING SONGS

YOU ARE MY ALL IN ALL

Jernigan

You are my strength when I am weak,
You are the Treasure that I seek, You are my All in All.

Seeking You as a precious jewel,
Lord, to give up I'd be a fool. You are my All in All.

**CHORUS: Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name.
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name.**

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame,
rising again I bless Your name. You are my All in All.

When I fall down, You pick me up;
When I am dry, You fill my cup. You are my All in All. **CHORUS**

MIGHTY IS OUR GOD

Greco

Mighty is our God, mighty is our King;
Mighty is our Lord, ruler of ev'rything.
Glory to our God, glory to our King;
Glory to our Lord, ruler of ev'rything.

His name is higher, higher than any other name;
His pow'r is greater, for He has created ev'rything.

Mighty is our God, mighty is our King;
Mighty is our Lord, ruler of ev'rything.
Glory to our God, glory to our King;
Glory to our Lord, ruler of ev'rything.

✘ PREPARATION ✘

PASTORAL GREETING

OPENING SONG

YOU ARE HOLY

MEN	You are holy.	WOMEN	You are holy.
MEN	You are mighty.	WOMEN	You are mighty.
MEN	You are worthy.	WOMEN	You are worthy.
MEN	Worthy of praise.	WOMEN	Worthy of praise.
MEN	I will follow.	WOMEN	I will follow.
MEN	I will listen.	WOMEN	I will listen.
MEN	I will love You.	WOMEN	I will love You.
MEN	All of my days.	WOMEN	All of my days.

ALL You are Lord of lords, You are King of kings,
You are mighty God, Lord of ev'rything.
You're Emmanuel, You're the Great I AM,
You're the Prince of Peace, who is the Lamb.
You're the Living God, You're my saving grace.
You will reign forever; You are Ancient of Days.
You are Alpha Omega, Beginning and End.
You're my Savior, Messiah, Redeemer and Friend.
You're my Prince of Peace
and I will live my life for You.
You're my Prince of Peace
and I will live my life for You.

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 25:6-7*

Pastor: God is our helper. The Lord is the upholder of our lives. Let us then,
assured of God's love, confess our sin before God and one another.

A time of silence is observed.

Pastor: We confess to You that we are by nature sinful.
People: **We have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We cannot free ourselves.**
Pastor: We thought we were wise, when we were actually foolish.

People: We have acted out of jealousy or selfish ambition.

Pastor: We have relished and reveled in conflict both within and outside the Christian community.

People: We have failed to seek Your help in resolving differences great and small.

Pastor: We have laughed when we should have mourned. We have been boastful instead of humble.

People: We have had joy when we should have sorrowed. Lead us to true repentance, Lord. Forgive our sins, both what we have done and left undone. Have mercy on us. Seek us, for You alone can find us and restore us.

Pastor: Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of our youth or my transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember us, for the sake of Your goodness, O Lord!

As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.



Holy Baptism

Ethan Ryan Wilderman

LSB 268 – 271

Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
Nest - ling bird or star in heav - en Such a ref - uge ne'er was giv - en.

☩ **WORD** ☩

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 11:18-20

(Jeremiah entrusts his life to the Lord as enemies plot to kill him.)

Because the LORD revealed their plot to me, I knew it, for at that time he showed me what they were doing. I had been like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter; I did not realize that they had plotted against me, saying,

"Let us destroy the tree and its fruit; let us cut him off from the land of the living,

that his name be remembered no more." But, O LORD Almighty, you who judge righteously and test the heart and mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle: James 3:13-4:10

(Christians are called to humbly submit to God and seek peace with one another.)

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness. What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregation, please rise for the Gospel.

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 9:30–37

(Who is the greatest?)

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

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

They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all."

He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

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 "The Final Word"

Pastor John Larson
TEXT: James 3:13-4:10

APOSTLES' CREED *The text can be found in the back cover 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."



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**

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

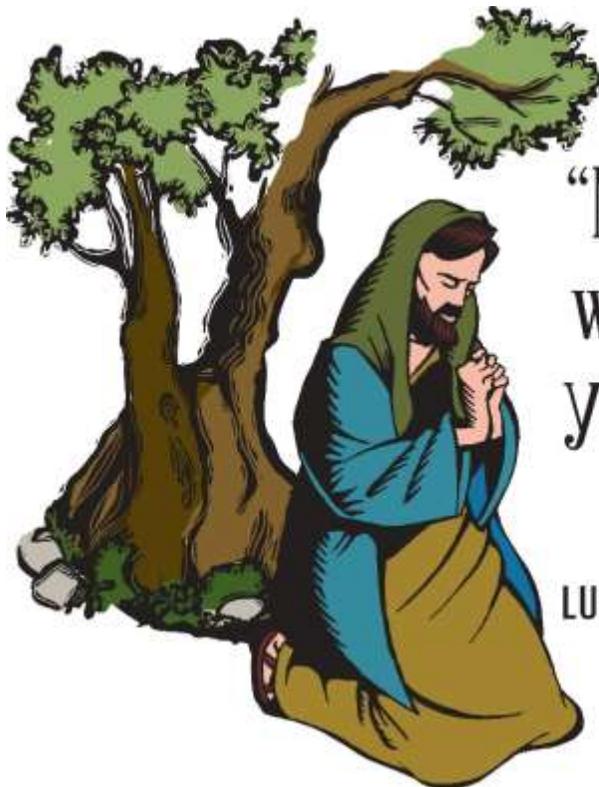
Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

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 *The text can be found in the Hymnal. (Matthew 6:9–13)*



“Not my
will, but
yours be
done.”

LUKE 22:42, NIV

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**

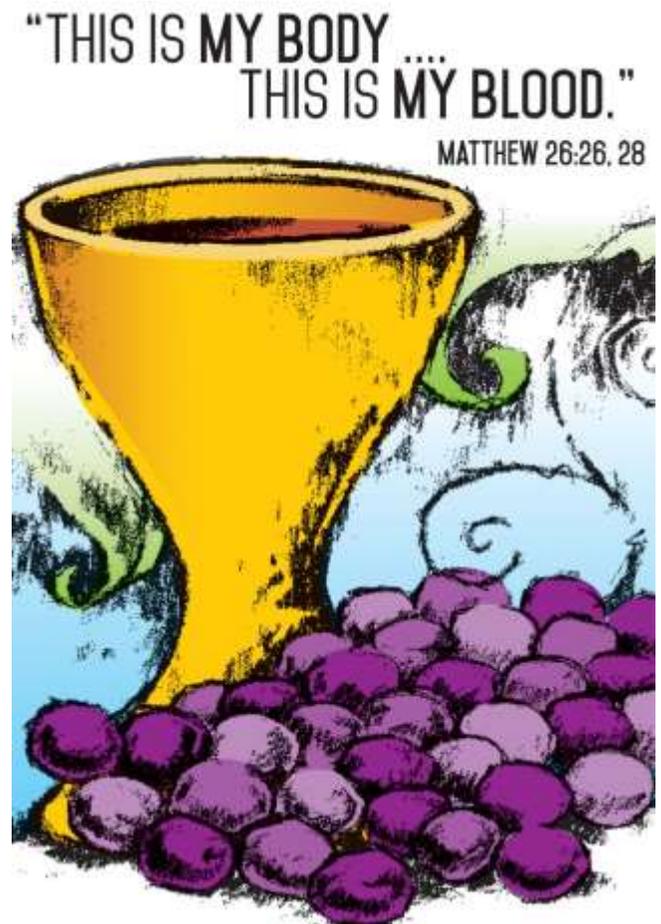
**Come to the table
Come join the sinners who have been redeemed
Take your place beside the Savior
Sit down and be set free Whoa...
Sit down and be set free
Come to the table Come to the table
Sit down and be set free
Come to the table**

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME
Christopher

**CHORUS: Do this in remembrance of Me.
Do this in remembrance of Me.
This is my body,
This is my blood.
Do this in remembrance of Me.**

This is My body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of Me.
This cup's the new covenant,
Sealed in My blood.
Do this in remembrance of Me.
For whenever you eat this bread
and whenever you drink this cup,
as you do you
Proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

CHORUS



BECAUSE WE BELIEVE

Gordon/Harvill

WOMEN We believe in God, the Father,
MEN We believe in God, the Father,
WOMEN We believe in Christ, the Son,
MEN We believe in Christ, the Son,
WOMEN We believe in the Holy Spirit,
MEN We believe in the Holy Spirit,
WOMEN We are the Church and we stand as one,
MEN We are the Church and we stand as one.

**CHORUS (ALL): Holy, holy, holy is our God;
Worthy, worthy, worthy is our King.
All glory and honor are His to receive;
To Jesus we sing, because we believe.**

WOMEN We believe in the Holy Bible,
MEN We believe in the Holy Bible,
WOMEN We believe in the virgin birth,
MEN We believe in the virgin birth,
WOMEN We believe in the resurrection,
MEN We believe in the resurrection,
WOMEN That Christ, one day, will return to earth,
MEN That Christ, one day, will return to earth. **CHORUS (ALL)**

WOMEN We believe in the blood of Jesus,
MEN We believe in the blood of Jesus,
WOMEN We believe in eternal life,
MEN We believe in eternal life,
WOMEN We believe in the blood that frees us,
MEN We believe in the blood that frees us,
WOMEN To become the bride of Christ.
MEN To become the bride of Christ. **CHORUS (ALL)**

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION *James 3:17*

Pastor: The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

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 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.**

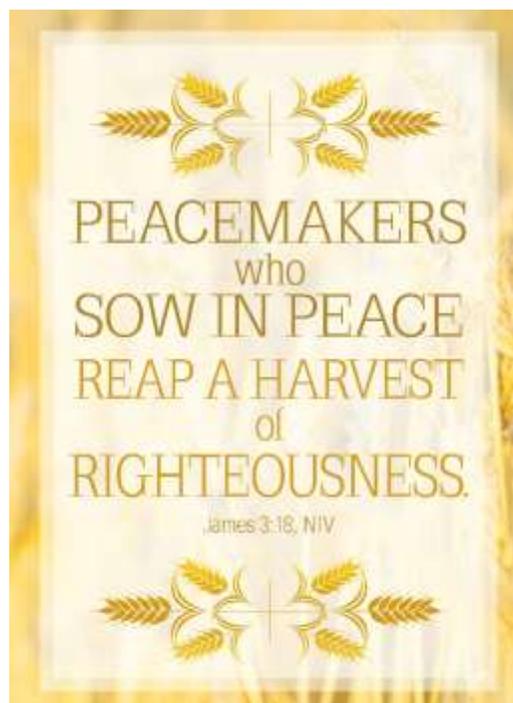
Great is Your love and justice, God of Jacob;
You use the weak to lead the strong.
You lead us in the song of Your salvation,
And all Your people sing along. **CHORUS**

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.

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS





*But the wisdom
that comes from heaven
is first of all pure;
then peace-loving,
considerate,
submissive,
full of mercy
& good fruit,
impartial & sincere.*
James 3:17

Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
AGAPE PRAISE TEAM

Pastor John Larson
Michael Zehnder
Rose Berger, Bri Fort, Diana Gaide, Lisa
O'Neal, Ken Price, Bob Shiflet

ELDER 8:00

10:30

Arvin Michael

Don Loptien

LECTOR 8:00

10:30

Norm Hermsmeyer

Jeanette Nelson

ACOLYTE 8:00

10:30

Ann Ranisate

Hannah Schmitt

USHERS 8:00

10:30

Art Gordon

Jason Dierking

SERVER 10:30

Denise Lucero

ALTAR GUILD

Sally Atchison, Gloria Gaudreault,

Sharon Seible, Laurel Shurtleff

FLOWERS

Mary Hert, in loving memory of her son,
Scott, and her niece, Dayni.