

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

September 23, 2018

8:00 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.

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.

☩ 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.

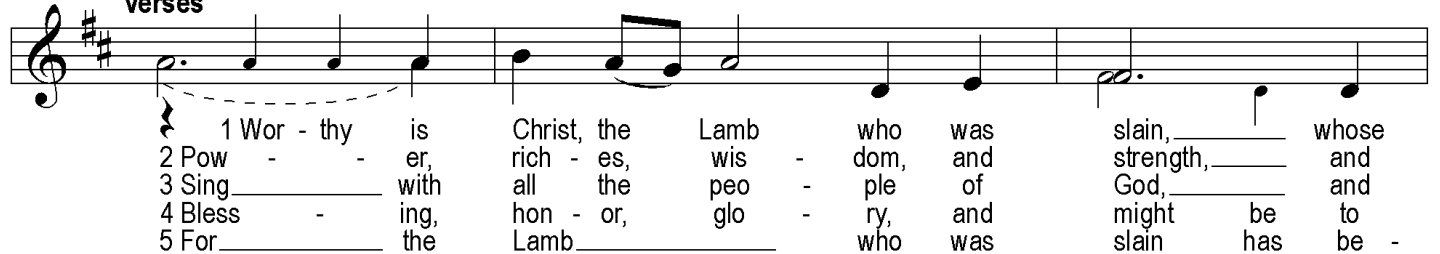
HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain




This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Verses




1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength,
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *to refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *to refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - - - tion: **to verse 4**
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - - - - men. *to refrain*
 gun his reign. Al - le - lu - - - - ia! **to Final Refrain**

Final Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Your Son, Jesus Christ, humbly suffered and died on the cross and was raised to new life.

People: Give us a spirit of humility as we seek to follow Jesus,

Pastor: so that our witness to Him in the world will be peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere;

People: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Amen!

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 Alleluia verse and the Gospel.

VERSE *Mark 9:35b* “Verse for Pentecost 18” David von Kampen
Ascension Chorale

“Alleluia. If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all. Alleluia.”

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.**

HYMN OF THE DAY “Not for Tongues of Heaven’s Angels” *LSB 695*

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

Pastor: The Lord God calls us to turn to Him and live. So now let us turn to God in prayer, looking not only to our own interests, but also to the interests of others.

For the Church throughout the world, that, rather than argue about who is

the greatest, we serve the lost and the least of this world and share the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ. O God,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: For the world, that the leaders of our nation and of nations throughout the world promote peace and well-being for all whom they serve. For those who serve in dangerous occupations that help to keep the peace—soldiers, police officers, judges—that they be kept safe from harm and fulfill their tasks. O God,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: For those who are experiencing distress, [*especially . . .*], that, according to God's holy will, they experience healing and renewal. For those who are grieving. . . that they experience peace in the hope of the resurrection. O God,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: For our own congregation, that we live by the wisdom from above—pure, peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy, humility and good fruits, impartial and sincere. O God,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: *Other intercessions may be offered here . . .* O God,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Fill us, Lord God, with Your wisdom that is from above. Keep us from jealousy and arguments. Fill us with humility and good fruits. These petitions, and all else You know that we need, we submit to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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 "Not Unto Us O Lord"

Donald Busarow
Ascension Chorale

Congregation participates as indicated.

Not unto Us, O Lord

Refrain - choir and congregation

Not un - to us, O LORD, not un - to
us, O LORD, but to your name give
glo - ry, to your name give glo - ry!

Choir:

The Lord our God is in our midst, a helper who gives victory.
He will rejoice over us with gladness,
he will renew us in his love. *Refrain*

For the sake of your steadfast love, O LORD,
and for your faithfulness.
He will exult over us with loud singing
as in the day of a festival,
and at that time he will bring us home
when he gathers us together. *Refrain*

Text: Psalm 115:1; Zeph. 3:17, 20
Music: Donald Busarow

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Not unto Us, O Lord, by Donald Busarow, ISBN 0-8006-5965-1
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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 ✠

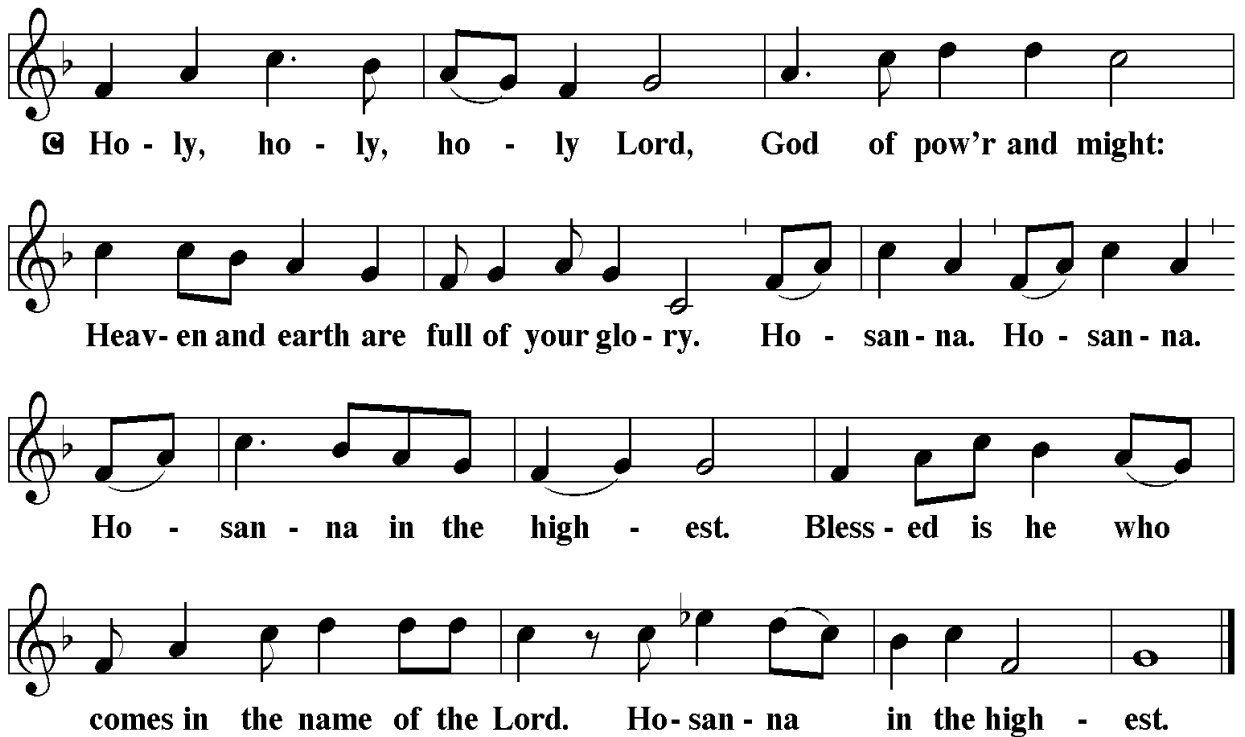
PREFACE

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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, undeterred by the disciples' lack of understanding and consequent arguing among themselves, humbled Himself by giving His life on the cross and was raised again, so that disciples then and now humble themselves and welcome Jesus as their Father; 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 *The text can be found in 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

“Agnus Dei”

Michael W. Smith
Diana Gaide, pianist

“Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”

LSB 848

“Love in Christ is Strong and Living”

LSB 706

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.**

HYMN “We Are Called to Stand Together”

LSB 828

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

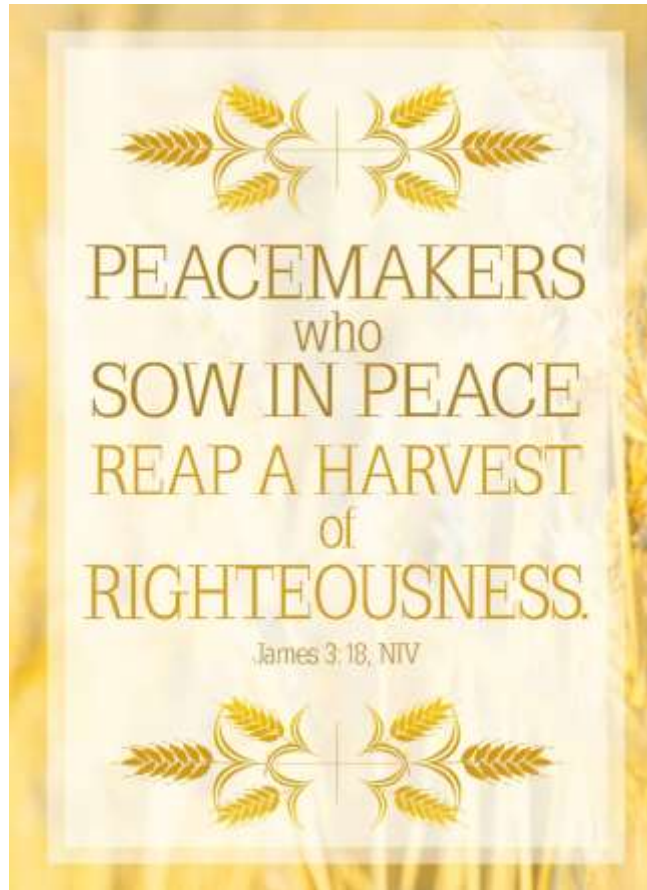
POSTLUDE “The Heavens Are Telling”

Ludwig Van Beethoven



*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
 LECTOR 8:00
 10:30
 ACOLYTE 8:00
 10:30
 USHERS 8:00
 10:30
 SERVER 10:30
 ALTAR GUILD

Arvin Michael
 Don Loptien
 Norm Hermsmeyer
 Jeanette Nelson
 Ann Ranisate
 Hannah Schmitt
 Art Gordon
 Jason Dierking
 Denise Lucero
 Sally Atchison, Gloria Gaudreault,
 Sharon Seible, Laurel Shurtleff
 Mary Hert, in loving memory of her son,
 Scott, and her niece, Dayni.