

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

September 15, 2019

10:30 a.m.



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Rescuing the Wanderers

AS WE GATHER

If the Lord describes Himself in Scripture as our “Shepherd,” it follows that we, as those who belong to Him, are His “sheep.” Although the agrarian setting of the Shepherd-sheep relationship may be unfamiliar to many in our day, it’s a powerful scriptural image that shows forth the saving work of Jesus. All we like sheep wander away from our Shepherd’s provision, wrongly assuming we can find our own way. Not only can we never find our own way to lasting life, but we can find our own way only to everlasting death. Because the Shepherd became one of us as the very “Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,” we know that the Lord never gives up on us! He pursues His wanderers. Finding us and claiming us, He carries us home. And that’s exactly where He gathers us today: at home in His presence so that He, our Shepherd, can fill us, His sheep, with His love and mercy.

GATHERING SONG

YOU NEVER LET GO

Redman

Even though I walk through the valley
Of the shadow of death
Your perfect love is casting out fear
And even when I'm caught in the middle
Of the storms of this life
I won't turn back
I know You are near

**CHORUS: And I will fear no evil—For my God is with me
And if my God is with me
Whom then shall I fear—Whom then shall I fear
Oh no You never let go
Through the calm and through the storm
Oh no You never let go—In ev'ry high and ev'ry low
Oh no You never let go—Lord You never let go of me**

And I can see a light that is coming
For the heart that holds on
A glorious light beyond all compare
And there will be an end to these troubles
But until that day comes
We'll live to know
You here on the earth **CHORUS**

I can see a light
That is coming for the heart that holds on
And there will be an end to these troubles
But until that day comes
Still I will praise You—Still I will praise You

Oh no You never let go
Through the calm and through the storm
Oh no You never let go—In ev'ry high and ev'ry low
Oh no You never let go—Lord You never let go of me

✘ PREPARATION ✘

PASTORAL GREETING

OPENING SONG

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME

Ligertwood/Fielding

You were the Word at the beginning One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation Now revealed in You our Christ

**CHORUS: What a beautiful Name it is, What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is, Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is, The Name of Jesus**

You didn't want heaven without us So Jesus, You brought heaven down
My sin was great, Your love was greater What could separate us now **CHORUS**

Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You
You silenced the boast, of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring, the praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again You have no rival, You have no equal
Now and forever, God you reign Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name, above all names

What a powerful Name it is, What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is, Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is, The Name of Jesus

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Isaiah 53:6*

Pastor: As sheep who have wandered from the Shepherd, we all have turned from the Lord in our disobedience to His commands.

People: **All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**

Pastor: Confident in the pursuit of our Shepherd, Jesus, for those who wander from Him, let us confess our sins to God our Father.

A time for silent reflection upon God's Word and personal prayers of confession

Pastor: Together, we pray:

People: **Good Shepherd, we are Your wandering people. We need You. We need Your love. We need Your forgiveness. We need Your pursuit of us all. Guide us back into the fold of Your care that we be cleansed of**

our sins. Create in us hearts to worship You in truth and follow Your Word, which alone gives us life. Amen.

Pastor: In the mercy of almighty God, we are redeemed by Jesus Christ. In Him, our Good Shepherd, who laid down His life for us all, we are fully and freely forgiven. Receive this forgiveness today as you, like wandering sheep, are drawn back into His rescuing mercy. 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 ☩

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-24

(The Lord will search for and seek out His scattered sheep.)

" `For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

" `As for you, my flock, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will judge between one sheep and another, and between rams and goats. Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture? Must you also trample the rest of your pasture with your feet? Is it not enough for you to drink clear water? Must you also muddy the rest with your feet? Must my flock feed on what you have trampled and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

" `Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says to them: See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

(Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.)

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregation, please rise for the Holy Gospel.

Holy Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

(Heaven's joy will be great when sinners repent.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

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

Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

"Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kathy Johnson

SONG OF THE DAY

GOOD, GOOD FATHER

Barrett/Brown

I've heard a thousand stories
Of what they think You're like
But I've heard the tender whisper
Of love in the dead of night and
You tell me that You're pleased
And that I'm never alone

**CHORUS: You're a Good Good Father It's who You are
It's who You are It's who You are And I'm loved by You
It's who I am, It's who I am, It's who I am**

I've seen many searching for answers Far and wide
But I know we're all searching for answers Only You provide
Because You know just what we need Before we say a word **CHORUS**

You are perfect in all of Your ways,
You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us
You are perfect in all of Your ways,
You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us

Love so undeniable I can hardly speak
Peace so unexplainable I can hardly think
As You call me deeper still As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still Into love, love, love **CHORUS**

SERMON

"Weeping and Rejoicing"

Pastor John Larson
TEXT: Luke 15:1-10

APOSTLES' 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.**



Through every battle Through every heartbreak Through every circumstance
I believe That You are my fortress Oh, You are my portion
And You are my hiding place, oh I believe You are

CHORUS: The way, the truth, the life

I believe You are The way, the truth, the life I believe (You are)

Through every blessing Through every promise Through every breath I take
I believe That You are Provider You are Protector
And You are the One I love, I believe you are **CHORUS**

It's a new horizon and I'm set on You And You meet me here today
With mercies that are new All my fears and doubts, they can all come too
Because they can't stay long when I believe (You are) **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.



**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 ✠ 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 *Matthew 6:9–13* *Text found in the back of the Hymnal.*



*“Give
us this day our
daily bread.”*

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

OCEANS

Crocker/Houston

You call me out upon the waters,
The great unknown where feet may fail.
And there I find You in the mystery,
In oceans deep, my faith will stand.

**CHORUS: And I will call upon Your name
And keep my eyes above the waves.
When oceans rise, My soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine.**

Your grace abounds in deepest waters,
Your sov'reign hand will be my guide.
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me,
You've never failed and You won't start now. **CHORUS**

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders, Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me.
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger In the presence of my Savior. **CHORUS**

REVELATION SONG

Riddle

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain;
Holy, holy is He;
Sing a new song to Him
Who sits on heaven's mercy seat.

**CHORUS: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty.
Who was and is and is to come;
With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings;
You are my ev'rything and I will adore You.**

Clothed in rainbows of living color
Flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder;
Blessing and honor, strength and glory
And power be to You, the only wise King. **CHORUS**

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder, I
At the mention of Your name;
Jesus, Your name is power, breath and living water,
Such a marvelous mystery, yeah. **CHORUS**

CORNERSTONE

Myrin

My hope is built on nothing less, Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly trust in Jesus' Name.

CHORUS: Christ alone. Cornerstone.

Weak made strong in the Savior's love.

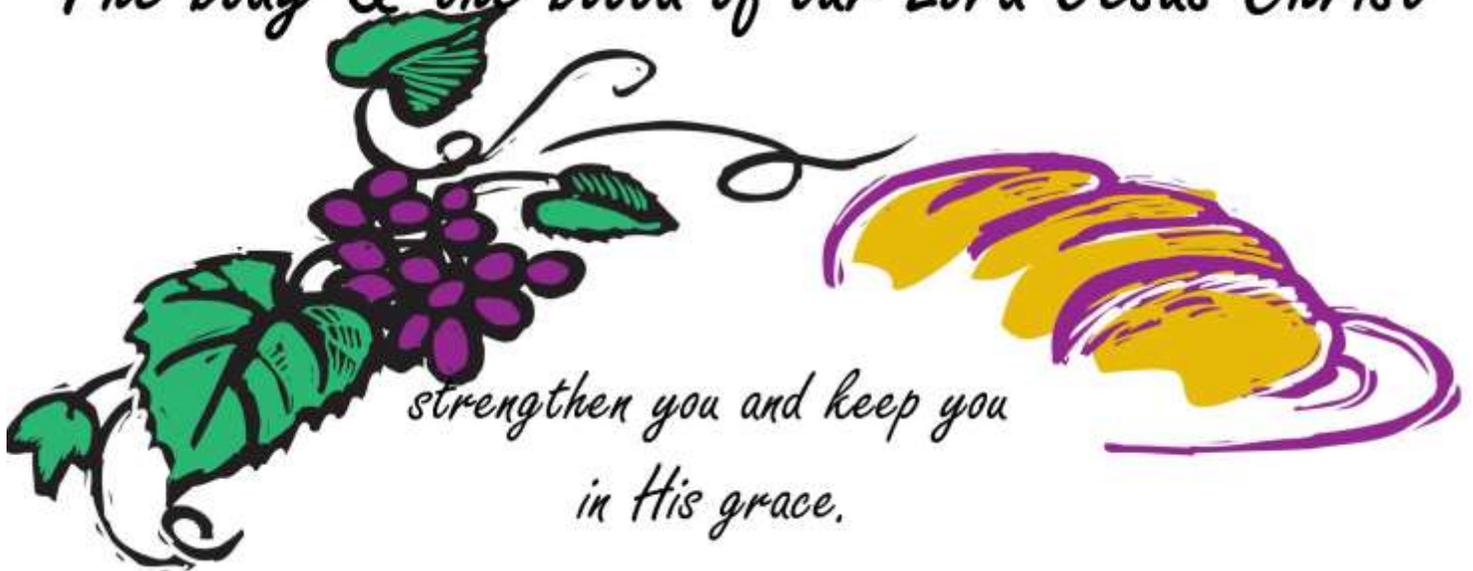
Through the storm, He is Lord. Lord of all.

When darkness seems to hide His face, I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within the veil. **CHORUS**

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone. Faultless to stand before the throne. **CHORUS**

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

The body & the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ



BENEDICTION

Pastor: As our Shepherd, our Savior will lead us as we walk with Him in faith.

People: **Following our Shepherd every day, let us share His mercy with all we meet.**

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 ONE THING REMAINS

Higher than the mountains that I face,
Stronger than the power of the grave.
Constant in the trial and the change.
One thing remains, one thing remains

**CHORUS: Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love.**

On and on and on and on it goes.
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul.
And I never, ever have to be afraid.
One thing remains, one thing remains. **CHORUS**

In death, in life, I'm confident
And covered by the power of Your great love.
My debt is paid; there's nothing
That can separate my heart from Your great love. **CHORUS**

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
People: **Thanks be to God.**



Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
CHOIR ACCOMPANIST
ORGAN ASSISTANT
YOUTH BAND

Pastor John Larson
Michael Zehnder
Diana Gaide
Gwen Geisler
Ashley Boeding, Brooke Boeding, Larry Boeding, Lilly Brinkman, Kayden Erling, Will Kopriva

ELDER
LECTOR 8:00
10:30

Scott Luethy
Dana Thom
Kathy Johnson

ACOLYTE 8:00
10:30

Ann Ranisate
Holly Schmitt

USHERS 8:00

Art Gordon, Members of the
Congregation

10:30

Jason Dierking, Members of the
Congregation

SERVER 10:30

Collin Brinkman

ALTAR GUILD

Sally Atchison, Gloria Gaudreault, Cathy Utecht

FLOWERS

Anita Baresel, birthday blessing.

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