ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

October 6, 2019
8:00 a.m.

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST/LWML SUNDAY

On Guarding the Deposit

AS WE GATHER

Guarding the deposit brings to mind armored cars, bank vaults, and uniformed guards carrying guns. This may seem like what is needed to protect something we are afraid of losing. And we have not been given a spirit of fear but of power and love and a sound mind. So why would we place under guarded lock and key something that God intends as a free gift for all people? It is actually impossible to guard faith in a bank-vault sense, because faith is not a thing we have; rather, it is a way by which we live. Instead of spending our energy trying to protect something, what if “guarding the deposit” means using our sound minds fearlessly to invest the gift of faith working through love into the lives of the people around us? Our duty is compassionate service to our fellow human beings. Mysteriously, faith is a deposit that grows the more we give it away.
Prelude
“All You Works of God, Bless the Lord I & II”
Benjamin Culli & Jeffrey Blersch

Pastoral Greeting

Tolling of the Bell

Hymn
“O Spirit of Life”

WOV 680

Invocation
Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✞ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

Opening Sentences
Psalm 62:1–2, 5, 7
Pastor: For God alone my soul waits in silence;
People: from Him comes my salvation.
Pastor: He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress;
People: I shall not be greatly shaken.
Pastor: On God rests my salvation and my glory;
People: my mighty rock, my refuge is God.
Pastor: For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,
People: for my hope is from Him.

Confession and Absolution
Pastor: Loving God,
People: We confess our sinfulness in lacking love. We have not loved one another as You have loved us. We need Your help to follow a new way. Give us faith to know we are surrounded by love beyond what we can imagine. Heal us with forgiveness for Jesus’ sake, and strengthen us to follow in the way He walked for us.
Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given the Son to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Therefore as a called and ordained servant of Jesus and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✞ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

Word

Kyrie
Pastor: O Lord, who hears the voice of our cry for help,
People: have mercy on us.
Pastor: O Christ, who has given us a spirit of power and love and a sound mind,
People:  have mercy on us.
Pastor:  O Lord, whose limitless forgiveness invites us to let go of our resentments,
People:  have mercy on us, and grant us Your peace. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE  “All You Works of God, Bless the Lord”  
Verses 1-2, 6

SALUTATION

Pastor:  The Lord be with you.
People:  And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor:  Let us pray.  
   Loving God, since we have not been given a spirit of fear but of power and  
of love and of a sound mind, help us to fan into flame Your gift of faith,  
which we have received through the people who have gone before us. Grant that we be strengthened to share this faith through compassionate  
service to other people; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who  
lives and reigns in communion and love with You and the Holy Spirit, one  
God, now and forever.
People:  Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Habakkuk 1:1–4; 2:1–4
(“I will . . . look out to see what He will say to me.”)

The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet received.
How long, O LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you,  
"Violence!" but you do not save? Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do  
you tolerate wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and  
conflict abounds. Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The  
wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.
I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see  
what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint.
Then the LORD replied:
"Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run  
with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will  
not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not  
delay.
"See, he is puffed up; his desires are not upright—but the righteous will live by  
his faith.
Lector:  This is the Word of the Lord.
Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my dear son:

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life--not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day. What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you--guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE Luke 17:3b

People: Alleluia. If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 17:1–10
(Forgiveness, faith, and service)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventeenth chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: "Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come. It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than for him to cause
one of these little ones to sin. So watch yourselves.
"If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. If he sins
against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says,
`I repent,' forgive him."
The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"
He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this
mulberry tree, `Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you.
"Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he
say to the servant when he comes in from the field, `Come along now and sit
down to eat'? Would he not rather say, `Prepare my supper, get yourself ready
and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? Would he
thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you
have done everything you were told to do, should say, `We are unworthy
servants; we have only done our duty.' "

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY  "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"  

SERMON  "Duty"  Pastor John Larson
TEXT: Luke 17: 1-10

LWML LADIES: In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-
bought gift of redemption we dedicate ourselves to Him with all
that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in
the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever
and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior
our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our
voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming
love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to
do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of
bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him.
Amen.

APOSTLES’ CREED  Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray together in Christ Jesus for all people according to their needs.
For all people who suffer feeling unseen and unheard, that they come to
trust that they are loved and held by grace, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: For all people who have heard the good news of forgiveness by grace,
through faith, for Jesus' sake, but struggle to forgive themselves or other
people who have hurt them, that they free themselves by letting go of resentments of every kind, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** For all people who are sick or suffer with any affliction of body, mind, or spirit *especially*, that they experience healing when cures remain elusive, peace when overwhelmed by trials, and joy in the midst of sorrows, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** Other intercessions may be added here . . . , let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** For all people to whom death draws near, that they face the end of their time on this earth in the faith that all things are being made new, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Harold Best

Ascension Chorale

![A Place at the Table Image]
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.  
People: And also with you.  
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.  
People: We lift them to the Lord.  
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
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 invites us to follow in His way of guarding the deposit through compassionate service to all people, inviting them to live their lives by faith. 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
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.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

As the Deer BOB #12
Martin Nystrom © 1984 Maranatha! Music ARR UBP CCLI#92897
“We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”  
“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”  

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor:  Let us bless the Lord.  
People:  Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

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  “God of Grace and God of Glory”  

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE  “God of Grace and God of Glory”  
Paul Manz
“WILL ANY ONE OF YOU WHO HAS A SERVANT... SAY TO HIM... ‘COME AT ONCE AND RECLINE AT TABLE’?”

LUKE 17:7, ESV
Faith SMALL AS A MUSTARD SEED
Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT: Pastor John Larson
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES: Michael Zehnder
ORGAN ASSISTANT: Ann Kaneko
CHOIR ACCOMPANIST: Diana Gaide
YOUTH BAND: Ashley Boeding, Brooke Boeding, Larry Boeding, Lilly Brinkman, Kayden Erling, Will Kopriva

ELDER
8:00: Scott Luethy
10:30: Mike Lawrenz

LECTOR
8:00: Annette Wolfer
10:30: Jude Donovan

ACOLYTE
8:00: Chrissy Coon
10:30: Espen Erling

USHERS
8:00: Joyce Dowdy, Camryn Goff, Athenia Michel, Carol Stamp
10:30: Linda Achziger, Mary Hert, Judy Koester, Sharon Seibel

SERVER
10:30: Jude Donovan

ALTAR GUILD
Dawn Munson, Judy Peterson, Cathy Utecht, Barb Williams

FLOWERS
The Mills Family, in loving memory of Kevin on his birthday.

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“INCREASE OUR FAITH!”
LUKE 17:5