

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

*November 14 and 15, 2020*

5:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.



## TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Enter into the joy of your Master

### **As We Gather**

**We read today about three servants. Two were good and faithful. One was evil and faithless. Two enter into the joy of their master. One does not. Our Lord has entrusted us with many good and gracious gifts and sends us into the world to make disciples and multiply the gifts we have received. Yet, it is not our own work that leads us into the joy of our Master; rather, it is our Master's work on our behalf. Jesus' saving work of death and resurrection brings us into the joy of our Master.**



WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT!

✂ PREPARATION ✂

Prelude "Praise Everlasting"

David Paxton

Pastoral Greeting

Tolling of the Bell

Opening Hymn "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

LSB 411



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.  
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.  
I want to look at Je - sus.  
I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.  
Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,  
When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.  
And show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
We shall know the joy of Je - sus.



*Refrain*  
In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.



The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

## Invocation

### Confession of Sins

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

## Absolution

✠ WORD ✠

### Spoken Kyrie (Divine Service, Setting One)

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**People: Amen.**

### Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

(Let us live as children of the light.)

**Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation**

through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30**

(The parable of the ten virgins.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

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

**“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.**

**“At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’**

**“Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps.**

**The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’**

**“‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’**

**“But while they were on their way to buy**

**the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.**

**“Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’**

**“But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’**

**“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”**

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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



## Verses 1-4



1 Saints, see the cloud of wit - ness - es sur - round us;  
 2 These saints of old re - ceived God's com - men - da - tion;  
 3 They call to us, "Your tim - id foot - steps length - en;  
 4 Come, let us fix our sight on Christ who suf - fered,



Their lives of faith en - cour - age and as - tound us.  
 They lived as pil - grim - heirs of His sal - va - tion.  
 Throw off sin's weight, your halt - ing weak - ness strength - en.  
 He faced the cross, His sin - less life He of - fered;



Hear how the Mas - ter praised their faith so  
 Through faith they con - quered flame and sword and  
 We kept the faith, we shed our blood, were  
 He scorned the shame, He died, our death en -



fer - vent: "Well done, My ser - vant!"  
 gal - lows, God's name to hal - low.  
 mar - tyred; Our lives we bar - tered."  
 dur - ing, Our hope se - cur - ing.

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**Sermon** "How Well Do You Know Jesus?"

Pastor John Larson  
 TEXT: Matthew 25:14-30

### Nicene Creed (Divine Service, Setting One)

**People:** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third

day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

### Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy...

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Offering *Offerings will be collected at the back, in the Narthex.*

### ☩ 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 (Divine Service, Setting One)

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.**

#### Words of Institution

#### Lord's Prayer

People: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy**



**HOLY COMMUNION**

kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

LSB 338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;  
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text and tune: Public domain

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” (Organ)

Michael Burkhardt

## General Communion Blessing

*The body & the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ*



*strengthen you and keep you  
in His grace.*



## Benediction (Divine Service, Setting One)

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.

People: Amen.

## Closing Hymn

## “Great is Thy Faithfulness”

LSB 809



1 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;  
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest,  
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



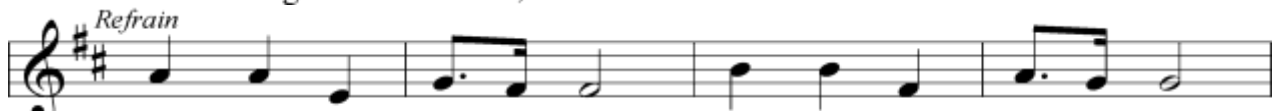
There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee.  
Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove;  
Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;



Thou chang - est not: Thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;  
Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



As Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness!



Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;



All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vid - ed;



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

## Congregational Concerns

### Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** "The Heavens are Telling"  
(and Row by Row Dismissal)

Ludwig van Beethoven

*For to all those  
who have, more  
will be given,  
and they will  
have an  
abundance.*

*Matthew 25:29, NRSV*





**Serving in Worship**

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Pastor John Larson  
Michael Zehnder



For you are all

# Children of Light

and children of the day.

1 Thessalonians 5:5, NRSV

