

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

November 15, 2020

10:30 a.m. Sunday



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.

Gathering Song

Build Your Kingdom Here

Rend Collective

Come set Your rule, and reign
In our hearts again.
Increase in us, we pray.
Unveil why we're made.
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope,
Like wildfire in our very souls;
Holy Spirit, come, invade us now.
We are Your church; we need Your pow'r in us.

We seek Your kingdom first.
We hunger and we thirst;
Refuse to waste our lives,
For You're our joy and prize.
To see the captives' hearts released;
The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace.
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause.
We are Your church; we pray, revive this earth.

**CHORUS: Build Your kingdom here.
Let the darkness fear.
Show Your mighty hand.
Heal our streets and land.
Set Your church on fire.
Win this nation back.
Change the atmosphere.
Build Your kingdom here, we pray!**

Unleash Your kingdom's power,
Reaching the near and far.
No force of hell can stop
Your beauty, changing hearts.
You made us for much more than this;
Awake the kingdom seed in us.
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ.
We are Your church;
We are the hope on earth. **CHORUS**

✘ PREPARATION ✘

Pastoral Greeting



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.

Text and tune: © 1970, 1975 Celebration. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000713

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 ✘

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.

Children’s Message

Pastor John Larson

Song of the Day Knowing You
Kendrick

Graham

All I once held dear built my life upon All this world reveres and wars to own
All I once thought gain I have counted loss Spent and worthless now compared to this

**CHORUS: Knowing You Jesus knowing You There is no greater thing
You're my all You're the best You're my joy my righteousness
And I love You Lord**

Now my heart's desire is to know You more To be found in You and known as Yours
To possess by faith what I could not earn All surpassing gift of righteousness

CHORUS

Oh to know the pow'r of Your risen life And to know You in Your sufferings
To become like You in Your death my Lord So with You to live and never die

CHORUS

...love you Lord

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



HOLY COMMUNION

Lord's Prayer

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

Ancient Words

DeShazo

Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world;
They resound with God's own heart, O let the ancient words impart;
Words of life, words of hope, Give us strength, help us cope;
In this world where'er we roam, ancient words will guide us home.

**CHORUS: Ancient words, ever true, changing me, changing you;
We have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart.**

Holy words of our faith handed down to this age,
came to us through sacrifice; O heed the faithful words of Christ. **CHORUS**

Martyr's blood stains each page, they have died for this faith.
Hear them cry through the years; Heed these words and hold them dear. **CHORUS X2**

We have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart.

O let the ancient words impart.

General Communion Blessing



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 Song My Redeemer Lives

Morgan

I know He rescued my soul His blood has covered my sin I believe, I believe.
My shame He's taken away My pain is healed in His name I believe, I believe!
I'll raise a banner 'Cause my Lord has conquered the grave

**CHORUS: My Redeemer lives My Redeemer lives
My Redeemer lives My Redeemer lives**

I know He rescued my soul His blood has covered my sin I believe, I believe.
My shame He's taken away My pain is healed in His name I believe, I believe!

I'll raise a banner 'Cause my Lord has conquered the grave **CHORUS x2**

You lift my burdens I'll rise with You I'm dancing on this mountaintop
To see Your kingdom come **CHORUS x3**

Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(and Row by Row Dismissal)



Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Pastor John Larson
Michael Zehnder