

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

November 21 and 22, 2020

5:00 p.m. Saturday, 8:00 a.m. Sunday



LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

People of His Pasture

AS WE GATHER

Today is the Last Sunday of the Church Year. This Sunday is traditionally filled with themes of Christ's roles as King and Judge. But consider these words from Psalm 95: "We are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand." We are God's chosen sheep. He is our Shepherd. We follow Him as He goes to seek the lost, bring back the stray, and bind up the injured.

✧ PREPARATION ✧

Prelude "Beautiful Savior"

David Cherwien

Pastoral Greeting

Tolling of the Bell

Opening Hymn "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

LSB 711

Verses 1-3



1 Sav - ior, like a shep - herd lead us; Much we
 2 We are Yours; in love be - friend us, Be the
 3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, Poor and



need Your ten - der care. In Your pleas - ant pas - tures
 guard - ian of our way; Keep Your flock, from sin de -
 sin - ful though we be; You have mer - cy to re -



feed us, For our use Your fold pre - pare.
 fend us, Seek us when we go a - stray.
 lieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly



bought us; we are Yours. Bless - ed Je - sus,
 chil - dren when we pray. Bless - ed Je - sus,
 let us turn to You. Bless - ed Je - sus,



bless - ed Je - sus, You have bought us; we are Yours.
 bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to You.

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 ✘

Old Testament:

(God will search for His 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."

"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.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

(The separation of the sheep and the goats.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th Chapter.

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

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my



Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I

needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

"He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day "The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns" *LSB 532*
Verses 1-3, 5



1 The Head that once was crowned with thorns Is
2 The high - est place that heav'n af - fords Is
3 The Joy of all who dwell a - bove, The
5 They suf - fer with their Lord be - low, They



crowned with glo - ry now; A roy - al di - a -
His, is His by right, The King of kings and
Joy of all be - low To whom He man - i -
reign with Him a - bove, Their prof - it and their



dem a - dorns The might - y Vic - tor's brow.
Lord of lords, And heav'n's e - ter - nal Light;
fests His love And grants His name to know.
joy to know The mys - t'ry of His love.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon "Royal Shepherding"

Pastor John Larson
TEXT: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Apostles' Creed

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. 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 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

"Beautiful Savior"

LSB 537



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of
2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in
3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of



God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love Thee, Tru - ly I'd
flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is
spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines
God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -



serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
pur - er, He makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.
pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.
ra - tion Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

Tune and text: Public domain

"Beautiful Savior" (Organ)

Michael Burkhardt

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.**

Refrain



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim Till



all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Cap - tain trod,
2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
5 Let ev - 'ry race and ev - 'ry lan - guage tell
6 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:



Refrain

Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell.
Praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

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Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude “Lift High the Cross”
(and Row by Row Dismissal)

John Leavitt

Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Pastor John Larson
Michael Zehnder