

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

November 22, 2020

10:30 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.

Gathering Song

Who Do You Say I Am

Fielding/Morgan

Who am I that the highest King Would welcome me?
I was lost but He brought me in Oh His love for me
Oh His love for me

**CHORUS: Who the Son sets free Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God Yes I am**

Free at last, He has ransomed me His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me **CHORUS**

In my Father's house There's a place for me
I'm a child of God Yes I am

I am chosen Not forsaken I am who You say I am
You are for me Not against me I am who You say I am

I am chosen Not forsaken I am who You say I am
You are for me Not against me I am who You say I am
I am who You say I am **CHORUS**

In my Father's house There's a place for me
I'm a child of God Yes I am



✘ PREPARATION ✘

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Song

Be Unto Your Name

Lynn DeShazo

We are a moment, You are forever,
Lord of the ages God before time.
We are a vapor, You are eternal,
Love everlasting reigning on high.
Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty,
Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain.
Highest praises honor and glory,
Be unto Your name, Be unto Your name.

We are the broken, You are the healer,
Jesus Redeemer mighty to save.
You are the love song we'll sing forever,
Bowing before You blessing Your name
Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty,
Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain.
Highest praises honor and glory,
Be unto Your name, Be unto Your name.

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: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

(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.

Children's Message

Christa Kirschner

Song of the Day

Ancient Of Days

Gary Sadler

Blessing and honor glory and power Be unto the Ancient of Days
From ev'ry nation all of creation Bow before the Ancient of Days

**CHORUS: Ev'ry tongue in heaven and earth
Shall declare Your glory Ev'ry knee shall bow at
Your throne In worship You will be exalted O God
And Your kingdom shall not pass away
O Ancient of Days**

Blessing and honor glory and power Be unto the Ancient of Days
From ev'ry nation all of creation Bow before the Ancient of Days **CHORUS**

Your kingdom shall reign Over all the earth Sing unto the Ancient of Days
For none can compare To Your matchless worth
Sing unto the Ancient of Days **(Repeat)**

CHORUS

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

Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me

Robinson/Thompson/Farren

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love my deep and boundless peace

To this I hold my hope is only Jesus For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine Yet not I but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour he will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need his power is displayed

To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome Yet not I but through Christ in me

No fate I dread I know I am forgiven
The future sure the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And he was raised to overthrow the grave

To this I hold my sin has been defeated Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free Yet not I but through Christ in me

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me home
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold my hope is only Jesus All the glory evermore to him
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat Yet not I but through Christ in me

When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me
Yet not I but through Christ in me

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 Forever (His Love Endures Forever)

Tomlin

Give thanks to the Lord—Our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good He is above all things
His love endures forever—Sing praise sing praise

With a mighty hand—And an outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn—His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise

Forever God is faithful—Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us—Forever forever

From the rising to the setting sun—His love endures forever
And by the grace of God—We will carry on
His love endures forever—Sing praise sing praise

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