

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

*November 8, 2020*

10:30 a.m. Sunday



## **TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

What Encouraging Words!

### **AS WE GATHER**

**We hear today the extremely encouraging words from the apostle Paul concerning our everlasting life. Paul tells us, “We will always be with the Lord.” What comforting words! What encouraging words! You have the assurance that when Jesus returns, you will spend everlasting life in His gracious presence.**

## Gathering Song

### 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.

### ✘ PREPARATION ✘

## Pastoral Greeting

### Opening Song

#### Heaven Is In My Heart

Graham Kendrick

**CHORUS: Oh!... heaven is in my heart, Oh!... heaven is in my heart  
Oh!... heaven is in my heart, Oh!... heaven is in my heart**

The kingdom of our God is here (Heaven is in my heart)  
The presence of His majesty (Heaven is in my heart)  
And in His presence joy abounds (Heaven is in my heart)  
The light of holiness surrounds (Heaven is in my heart) **CHORUS**

His precious life on me He spent (Heaven is in my heart)  
To give me life without an end (Heaven is in my heart)  
In Christ is all my confidence (Heaven is in my heart)  
The hope of my inheritance (Heaven is in my heart) **CHORUS**

We are a temple for His throne (Heaven is in my heart)  
And Christ is the foundation stone (Heaven is in my heart)  
He will return to take us home (Heaven is in my heart)  
The Spirit and the Bride say come (Heaven is in my heart) **CHORUS**

## 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.**

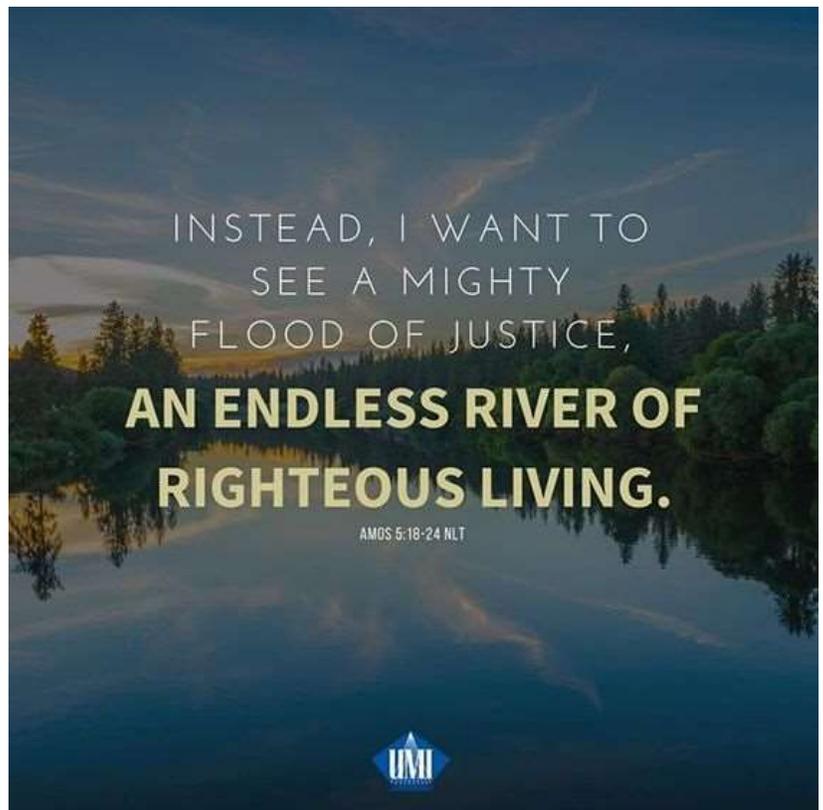
## Absolution

✂ WORD ✂

**Old Testament Reading: Amos 5:18-24**

(The Day of the Lord is coming.)

Woe to you who long for the day of the Lord! Why do you long for the day of the Lord? That day will be darkness, not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him. Will not the day of the Lord be darkness, not light—pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness? “I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me. Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!



Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

(The parable of the ten virgins.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25<sup>th</sup> 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

Christa Kirschner

### Song of the Day      EVERLASTING GOD

Brown—Riley

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
Wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord  
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
Wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord

Our God You reign forever  
Our Hope our strong Deliv'rer

**CHORUS: You are the everlasting God  
The everlasting God  
You do not faint  
You won't grow weary  
You're the defender of the weak  
You comfort those in need  
You lift us up on wings like eagles**

**Sermon**      "Is God Angry?"

Pastor John Larson  
TEXT: Amos 5:18-24

### 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.**

## Verses 1-3



1 God, who made the earth and heav - en, Dark - ness and light:  
 2 And when morn a - gain shall call us To run life's way,  
 3 Guard us wak - ing, guard us sleep - ing, And when we die,



You the day for work have giv - en, For rest the night. May Your  
 May we still, what - e'er be - fall us, Your will o - bey. From the  
 May we in Your might - y keep - ing All peace - ful lie. When the



an - gel guards de - fend us, Slum - ber sweet Your mer - cy send us,  
 pow'r of e - vil hide us, In the nar - row path - way guide us,  
 last dread call shall wake us, Then, O Lord, do not for - sake us,

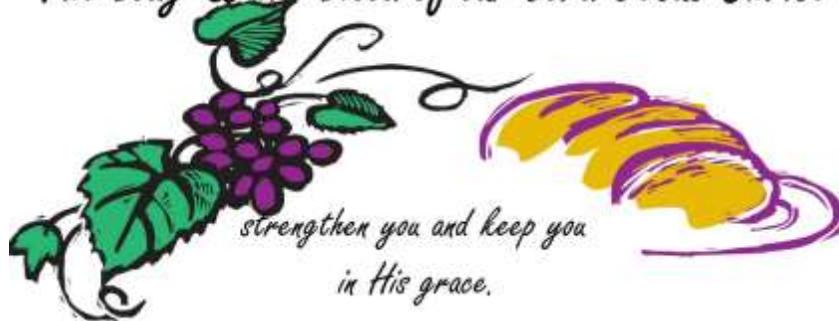


Ho - ly dreams and hopes at - tend us All through the night.  
 Nev - er be Your smile de - nied us All through the day.  
 But to reign in glo - ry take us With You on high.

Tune and text: Public domain

## General Communion Blessing

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



## 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**

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

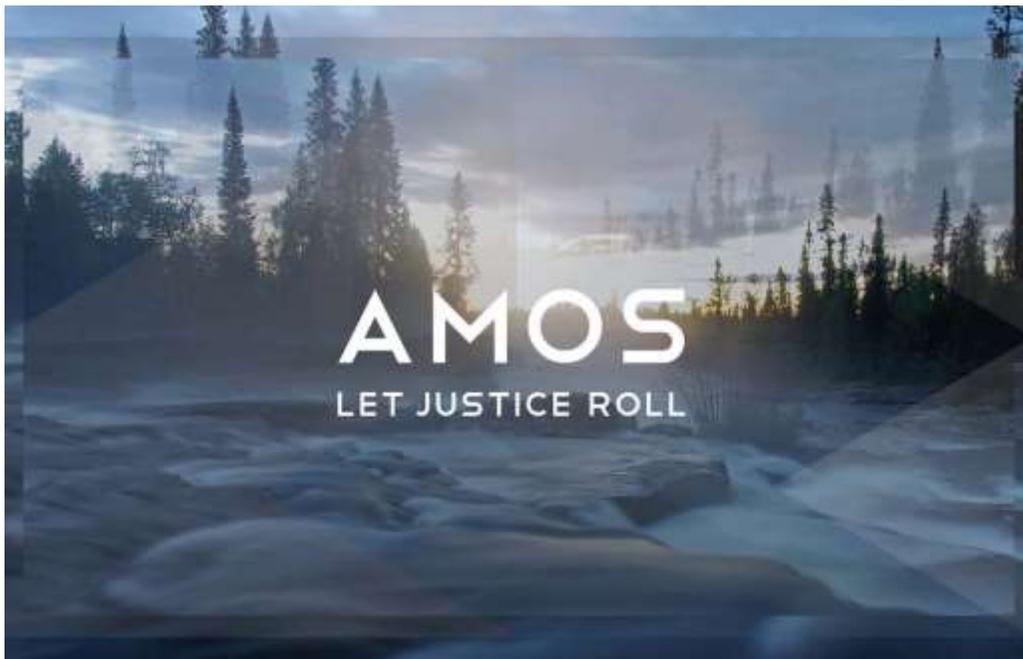
**Congregational Concerns**

**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

Rev. Michael Paulison  
Michael Zehnder