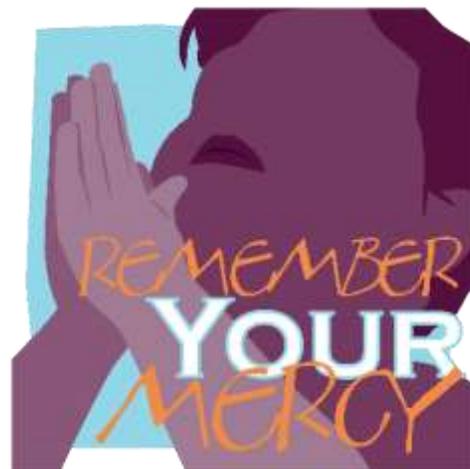


# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

*February 27 and 28, 2021*

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



## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

### The God Who Brings Us Together

**AS WE GATHER** *(Based on Ephesians 4:1-16)*

Pastor continues his seventh week taking us through the book of Ephesians. Today we are in the beginning of chapter four. Paul asks us to live a life WORTHY of the calling the Lord has put on our lives since Christ has died for us. What might a "worthy life" look like? Giving money? Attending Church regularly? Doing good works of service for others?

The answer might surprise you. He says "keep your unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." That's how you live a "life worthy" - by being one and living as one. Paul gives examples of what this looks like: "humble," "gentle," "patient," "bearing with one another in love."

Given the way our world acts today, especially in the world of politics, where disunity, anger, hatred, accusations, cancel culture and even vengeance are at play, we have nowhere else to turn to for good examples except Scripture itself. Paul first asks us to remember who we are in Christ, stressing that there is only ONE Lord, ONE faith, ONE baptism, ONE God and Father of us all. There is not a two-party system of equals or three branches of government to keep each other in check in the Lord. There is only "ONE God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." And He has distributed gifts to His church of pastors, teachers, evangelists, etc., with ONE purpose: that we "reach UNITY in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature."

UNITY. This is impossible for us to achieve in the world, in culture or in politics. But in Christ, living out our faith, it is a MUST and is a sign of true Christian maturity. Anything less is to be like "infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming."

✂ PREPARATION ✂

Prelude

“Jig Fugue in C Major”

Dietrich Buxtehude

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn

“Onward, Christian Soldiers”

LSB 662

Verses 1-3



1 On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, March - ing as to war,  
2 Like a might - y ar - my Moves the Church of God;  
3 Crowns and thrones may per - ish, King - doms rise and wane,



With the cross of Je - sus Go - ing on be - fore.  
Broth - ers, we are tread - ing Where the saints have trod.  
But the Church of Je - sus Con - stant will re - main.



Christ, the roy - al mas - ter, Leads a - gainst the foe;  
We are not di - vid - ed, All one bod - y we,  
Gates of hell can nev - er 'Gainst that Church pre - vail;



For - ward in - to bat - tle See His ban - ners go!  
One in hope and doc - trine, One in char - i - ty.  
We have Christ's own prom - ise, And that can - not fail.

*Refrain*



On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, March - ing as to war,



With the cross of Je - sus Go - ing on be - fore.

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Invocation

## Confession and Absolution

Incorporating *Genesis 17:7; Psalm 22:27;*  
*Romans 5:6, 9–10*

Pastor: God established an everlasting covenant with Abraham,

**People: but our faith has waxed and waned. O Lord, forgive our forgetfulness of Your unchanging grace.**

Pastor: David wrote, “All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,”

**People: but we have failed to remind one another of God’s mercy and love. O Lord, forgive our hesitancy to share the news of Your gracious presence.**

Pastor: Paul wrote that because Christ died for the ungodly, we are justified by His blood,

**People: but we have tried to hide our sinfulness. O Lord, forgive our blindness to the necessary sacrifice of our Savior.**

Pastor: God sent His Son into the world with one purpose: to save us from the wrath of God. “For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.” As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. Thanks be to God.**

✠ **WORD** ✠

## Kyrie

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace we have with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For peace among the families of the nations and in coming generations, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For all who rejoice here for our access by faith into this grace in which we stand, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: By Your purposeful suffering, rejection, death, and resurrection—help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-16

(Paul encourages us to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.)

**As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one**

another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”

(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Verse *Joel 2:13b*

Pastor: Return to the LORD, your God,

People: **for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Amen.**

**Holy Gospel: Mark 8:27-38**

(Truly knowing Christ means following Him.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 8th Chapter.

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

Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Christ."

Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter

took him aside and began to rebuke him.

But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

### Hymn of the Day

### "Bind Us Together"

Red 43

Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that can - not be bro - ken. *Fine*

Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er, Bind us to - geth - er with love. \_\_\_\_\_

There is on - ly one God. \_\_\_\_\_ There is on - ly one King. \_\_\_\_\_

There is on - ly one bo - dy, \_\_\_\_\_ That is why I sing: \_\_\_\_\_ *D.C. al Fine*

### Sermon

### "The God Who Brings Us Together"

Pastor John Larson

TEXT: Ephesians 4:1-16

### 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.**

**Agnus Dei**      Genesis 22:8; John 1:29; Revelation 7:17

Pastor: Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb."

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: John said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

People: **Christ, have mercy.**

Pastor: John saw "the Lamb in the midst of the throne."

People: **Lord, have mercy and grant us Your peace. Amen.**

## DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

"Love in Christ is Strong and Living"

LSB 706



1 Love in Christ is strong and liv - ing, Bind - ing faith - ful  
2 Love is pa - tient and for - bear - ing, Clothed in Christ's hu -  
3 Love in Christ a - bides for - ev - er, Faint - ing not when



hearts in one; Love in Christ is true and giv - ing.  
mil - i - ty, Gen - tle, self - less, kind, and car - ing,  
ills at - tend; Love, for - giv - ing and for - giv - en,



May His will in us be done.  
Reach - ing out in char - i - ty.  
Shall en - dure un - til life's end.

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## Special Music (Organ)

"Here's One"

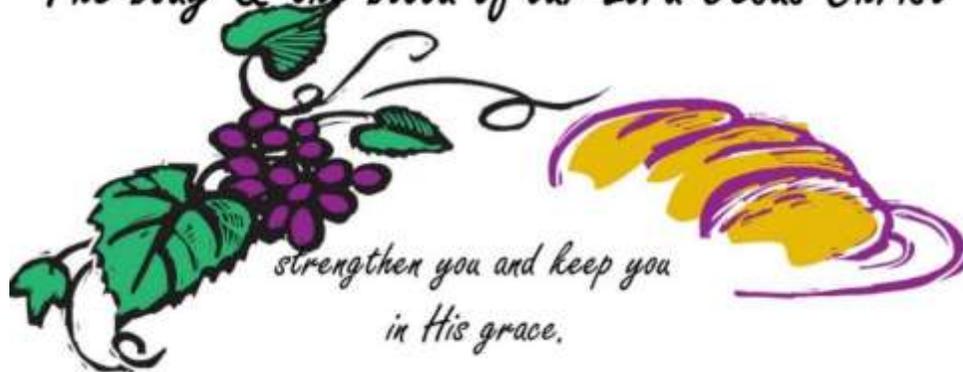
arr. Mark Hayes

*("Spirituals" have a long-standing traditional use during the Lenten season. Our Ascension Chorale has sung this one before. The main words fit well with the thanksgiving theme of communion. They are:*

*"Talk about a child who do love Jesus...here's one!")*

## 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 Hymn

“The Church’s One Foundation”  
(Verses 1-2, 4)

LSB 644



1 The Church’s one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
2 E - lect from ev - ’ry na - tion, Yet one o’er all the earth;  
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.  
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.  
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more



From heav’n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;  
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,  
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.  
And to one hope she press - es With ev - ’ry grace en - dued.  
And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.

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## Congregational Concerns

### Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** “Onward Christian Soldiers”  
(and Row by Row Dismissal)

arr. George Whiting

## Serving in Worship

**OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT**  
**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES**

Pastor John Larson  
Michael Zehnder