

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

June 21-22, 2025

4:00 p.m. Saturday and 9:00 a.m. Sunday



SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
“WISDOM FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT”
AND “PEACE”

AS WE GATHER

The season of Pentecost has arrived! With the arrival of the Holy Spirit, this season of the Church Year is marked by growth. We see evidence of the growth the Spirit is seeking in this week’s Readings. The Lord and giver of life seeks to see His people grow faithful hearts through faithful worship, resulting in faithful service. When the way ahead isn’t as clear or as comfortable as we would like, we rely on the Lord’s wisdom, leading us back to His faithful servant, Jesus Christ, who clears the obstacles of our sinfulness and comforts us with His Word and sacramental gifts.

The sermon texts today from John chapters 14 and 16 come directly from the mouth of Jesus. He admits realistically that life on earth will be one trial and trouble after the next. But He also makes a wonderful promise that during and in spite of any trouble, He is our source and reason for PEACE even during any calamity. Practically speaking, **that means we don’t need to worry or be afraid**, not even of an uncertain future. “Overcoming the world” means He has triumphed over the forces of evil, sin, and death. The result of this victory is not just a single salvation event, but a **continuous, abiding triumph of peace** throughout time, extending beyond the physical realm to encompass the spiritual realm, where He has defeated Satan and the evil systems of the world that are in opposition to God’s will. He wins! Which means WE WIN!

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Prelude

“A Song of Peace”

David Hegarty

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

LSB 849

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Isaiah 52:10; 48:17; 55:6*

Pastor: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful,

People: **and kindle in them the fire of Your love.**

Pastor: The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,

People: **and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

Pastor: Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:

People: **“I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you in the way you should go.”**

Pastor: Seek the LORD while He may be found;

People: **call upon Him while He is near.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Isaiah 46:12–13*

Pastor: Seeking our Lord, His wisdom, and His grace, we confess:

People: **Almighty and all-merciful God, in wisdom You have created all things, and in grace, You seek the lost and erring. Yet, through our selfish choices and sinful nature, we ignore Your wisdom and refuse Your grace. We prefer our own way, resisting the Holy Spirit and His work of bringing forth the fruits of faithfulness. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, console and correct us, that we might forsake our wicked ways and unrighteous thoughts and turn to You, the God who has compassion and abundant pardon.**

Pastor: The Lord is gracious, for He declares, “Listen to Me, you stubborn of heart, you who are far from righteousness: I bring near My righteousness; it is not far off, and My salvation will not delay.” The Lord has brought His righteousness in giving His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for you. Through Him, and Him alone, you have forgiveness, life, and salvation. In the stead and by the command of Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE “Lift Up Your Heads, O Faithful Flock” (CW 2019)



1 Lift up your heads, O faith - ful flock. Be - hold, our
2 Like fire His com - ing shall de - stroy All those who
Sav - ior shall re - turn. Then shall a new day end the
live in hate and sin. E - ter - nal peace and heav'n - ly
night, Then may we gloom and e - vil spurn. The sun of
joy Our Sav - ior then shall ush - er in. Like calves giv'n
righ-teous-ness shall rise, With heal - ing in His wings, a sign:
free-dom from their pen We'll jump for joy and sing a - gain:
The new day dawns with joy. New songs shall we em-ploy.
Praise Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son! The new day has be - gun!

✧ WORD ✧

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 65:1-9

(The Lord who redeems declares to the nations, "Here am I!" seeking their hearts and their faithfulness.)

I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me;

I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me.

I said, "Here I am, here I am,"

to a nation that was not called by my name.

I spread out my hands all the day

to a rebellious people,

who walk in a way that is not good,

following their own devices;

a people who provoke me

to my face continually,

sacrificing in gardens

and making offerings on bricks;

who sit in tombs,

and spend the night in secret places;

who eat pig's flesh,

and broth of tainted meat

is in their vessels;

who say, "Keep to yourself,

do not come near me,

for I am too holy for you."

These are a smoke in my nostrils,

a fire that burns all the day.

Behold, it is written before me:

"I will not keep silent, but I will repay;

I will indeed repay into their lap

both your iniquities and your fathers' iniquities together,

says the Lord;

because they made offerings on the mountains

and insulted me on the hills,

I will measure into their lap

payment for their former deeds.

Thus says the Lord:

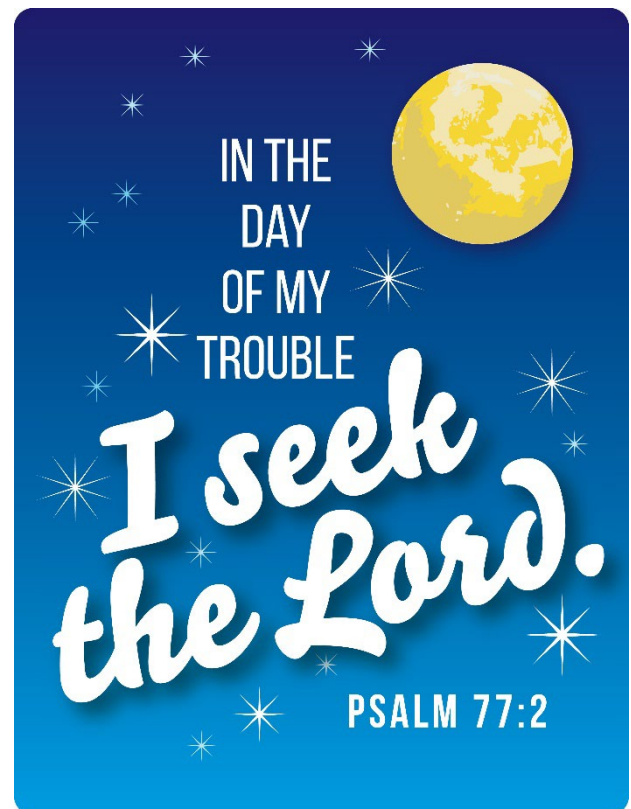
"As the new wine is found in the cluster,

and they say, 'Do not destroy it,

for there is a blessing in it,'

so I will do for my servants' sake,

and not destroy them all.



**I will bring forth offspring from Jacob,
and from Judah possessors of my mountains;
my chosen shall possess it,
and my servants shall dwell there.**

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Galatians 3:23–4:7

(The baptized have put on Christ, becoming sons and heirs, with hearts that are home to the Holy Spirit.)

Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please rise for the Verse and the Holy Gospel.

VERSE *John 6:68*



Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eighth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel: Luke 8:26-39

(Jesus travels beyond Galilee to break the bonds of darkness, transforming a demoniac into a missionary.)

Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.

When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. And those

who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.



Children's Message (9:00)

Pastor Larson

Hymn of the Day "When Peace, Like a River"

LSB 763

Sermon "Peace"

Pastor John Larson
Text: John 14:27;16:33

STATEMENT OF FAITH

CATECHISM *The Third Petition*

Pastor: The Third Petition

People: **Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

Pastor: What does this mean?

People: **The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.**

Pastor: How is God's will done?

People: **God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.**

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy ...

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Sharing of the Peace

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

You may now greet one another in the name of the Lord using...Peace be with you!

Offering (4:00 pm - collected in back; 9:00 am – collected in the pews)

Offering Music (9:00) "Lift Up Your Heads, O Faithful Flock" Jan Bender

✠ 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)

LSB 160

Proper Preface

Pastor: It is truly good, proper, and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by His triumph over sin and Satan has cast out the demons of darkness and has welcomed believers of all nations into His covenant of grace. Crucified, resurrected, and alive forevermore, we anticipate Christ's coming again in glory, when the fruits of His cross will be evident in the redeemed who stand blameless before His throne. So with anticipation, we join with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven to honor and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus (Divine Service, Setting One)

LSB 161

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer *Matthew 6:9-13*

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 (Divine Service, Setting One)

LSB 163

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Special Music "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy" Richard Hillert

Hymn "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy" LSB 434

Hymn "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" LSB 922

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 Hymn

"Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old"

LSB 846

Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

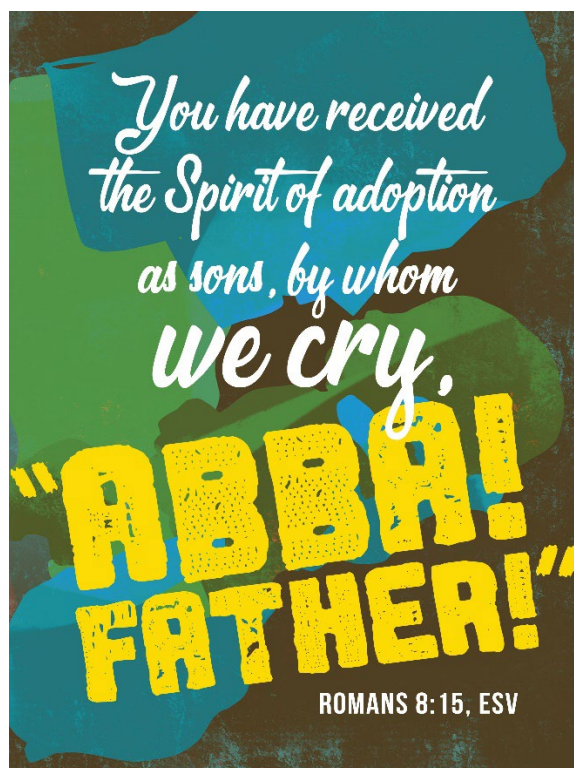
Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

Robert J. Hughes



SERVING IN WORSHIP

OFFICIANT

Pastor John Larson

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP

Michael Zehnder

ORGANIST

Linda Olsen

ELDERS

4 p.m. Jeff Dunker; 9:00 a.m.; Bob Olsen

ACOLYTE

9:00 a.m. Maria Olson

LECTORS

4 p.m. Dave Olsson; 9:00 a.m. Jackie Warren

COMMUNION SERVERS

4:00 p.m. Dave Olsson

ALTAR GUILD

Barbara Rutter, Athenia Michel