

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

*June 28-29, 2025*

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



## **THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

### **THE FRUIT OF JOY!**

#### **AS WE GATHER**

If you have ever enjoyed a homegrown tomato or plucked a ripe peach straight from the tree, you know there is no substitute for good fruit. Today, the Holy Spirit is continuing the work begun in your Baptism, bringing forth good fruit. Too often, we imagine bearing good fruit is a result of our own careful cultivation, paying special attention to getting things right. The Spirit takes another approach. Just as the flavor of fresh fruit is a delight to our senses, the Spirit delights our soul with the tantalizing tastes of joy, kindness, gentleness, and love! The Spirit teaches us to crave what is good and, in so doing, leads believers to produce the fruit the Lord always intended. Today, Pastor is emphasizing the fruit of “joy,” according to Philippians 4:4-7.

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

Prelude

“Ode to Joy”

Ludvig von Beethoven  
arr. Diana Gaide

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn

“Joy to the World”

LSB 387

Invocation

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

People: **Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES**     *Ezekiel 17:22–24, adapt.*

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

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

Pastor: Thus says the Lord GOD: “I Myself will take a sprig and plant it on a high and lofty mountain,

People: **that it may bear branches and produce fruit.**

Pastor: And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD;

People: **I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree,**

Pastor: dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish.

People: **I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it.”**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

People: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Pastor: Almighty Father, we confess that by our inability, insolence, and inaction, we have not made Your ways our ways.

People: **For our failure to walk in the ways of love, joy, and peace, forgive us, Lord.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, we admit we too often conform our desires to the world around us, adopting its compromised standards for living.

People: **For our failure to value the gifts of patience, kindness, and goodness, forgive us, Lord.**

Pastor: Holy Spirit, our very natures are set against You, Your Gospel proclamation, and the fruit You intend to bring.

People: **For our failure to manifest the fruits of faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, forgive us, Lord.**

**For Jesus’ sake, melt our sinful hearts, and mold us into the reflections of Your righteousness that You call us to be.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, Jesus, to die for you, and for His sake forgives You all Your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the

Word made flesh and by His authority, I therefore 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 (4:00 only)    “Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”    *LSB 636*  
Verse 1**

**SONG OF PRAISE (9:00 only – Youth Praise Team and Congregation)**

**“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**

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**“I’VE GOT THE JOY”**

**Traditional**

**I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart  
Down in my heart, down in my heart!  
I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart  
Down in my heart to stay!**

**CHORUS**

**And it’s the greatest, grandest feeling,  
And it’s a feeling here to stay!  
And it’s a joy that needs revealing,  
So I just want to say...**

**I’ve got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus down in my heart  
Down in my heart, down in my heart!  
I’ve got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus down in my heart  
Down in my heart to stay! (CHORUS)**

**I’ve got the peace that passes understanding down in my heart  
Down in my heart, down in my heart!  
I’ve got the peace that passes understanding down in my heart  
Down in my heart to stay! (CHORUS)**

**I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart  
Down in my heart, down in my heart!  
I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart  
Down in my heart to stay!**

**✂ WORD ✂**

**Old Testament Reading: 1 Kings 19:9b-21**

*(The Lord brings Elijah assurance that he is not alone in resisting the temptations of idolatry.)*

**There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” He said, “I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.”**

**And he said, “Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the**

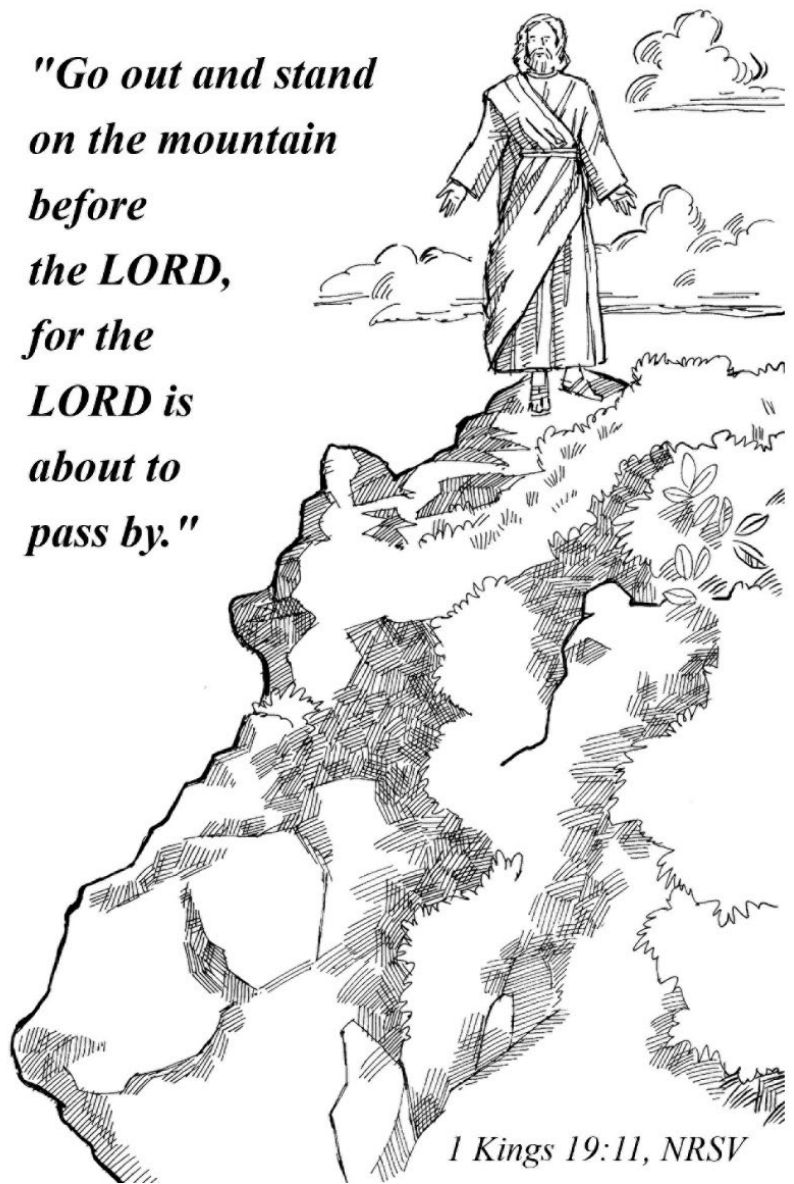
wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He said, "I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." And the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him. And he left the oxen

and ran after Elijah and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God.

*"Go out and stand  
on the mountain  
before  
the LORD,  
for the  
LORD is  
about to  
pass by."*



*1 Kings 19:11, NRSV*

**Epistle: Galatians 5:1, 13-25**

*(Rather than the desires of the flesh, the Spirit cultivates in believers the craving and the capacity for bearing good fruit.)*

**For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.**

**For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.**

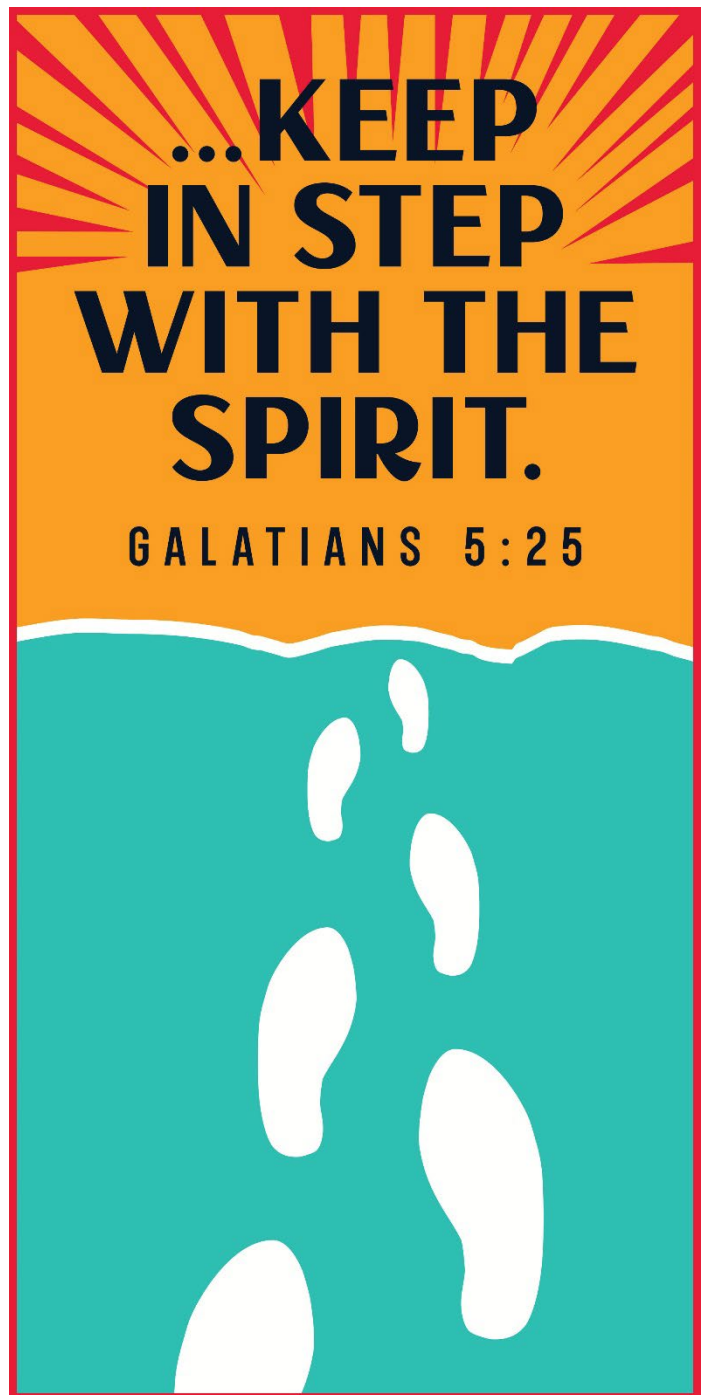
**But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.**

**If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.**

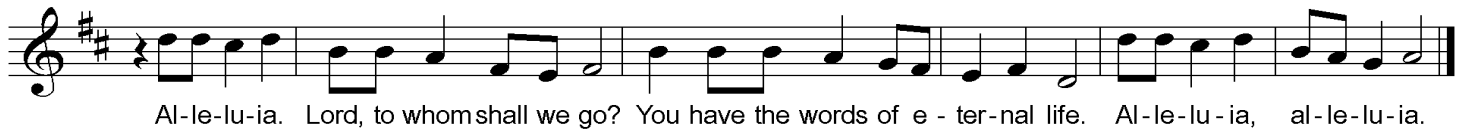
**Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.**

**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 ninth chapter.

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

**Holy Gospel: Luke 9:51-62**

*(Jesus faces the lonely task of ministry, setting His face on the saving task ahead of Him in Jerusalem.)*

**When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” But he turned and rebuked them. And they went on to another village.**

**As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”**

**Pastor:**     This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:**     **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Children’s Message (9:00)**

Jenna Lawrenz

**Hymn of the Day**     “Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng”

*LSB 813*

Verses 1-3, 7

**Sermon**     “Joy”

Pastor John Larson

Text: Philippians 4:4-7

**The Apostles’ Creed**

*(found in the back of the hymnal)*

**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 – Youth and Congregation)**

**Song**                      **GOODNESS OF GOD**

**Johnson, / Cash et al.**

I love You Lord  
Oh Your mercy never fails me All my days  
I've been held in Your hands  
From the moment that I wake up Until I lay my head  
I will sing of the goodness of God

### **CHORUS**

All my life You have been faithful  
All my life You have been so so good  
With every breath that I am able  
I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice You have led me through the fire  
In darkest night You are close like no other  
I've known You as a father I've known You as a friend  
I have lived in the goodness of God **CHORUS**

Your goodness is running after It's running after me  
Your goodness is running after It's running after me  
With my life laid down I'm surrendered now  
I give You everything Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me (Repeat)

### **CHORUS**



Ben Fielding, Brian Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, Jenn Johnson CCLI Song #7117726 © 2018 Capitol CMG Paragon; SHOUT! Music Publishing Australia; Fellow Ships Music; So Essential Tunes; Bethel Music Publishing For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License #1903595

## ✠ 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 valid, worthy, and constructive 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 perfect obedience fulfilled the Law on our behalf, and by His death and resurrection secured the blessings of salvation for all who would believe and trust in Him. You feed Your faithful people, grafted as branches onto Christ, the Vine, in this Supper with the fruits of His cross, that in receiving the true body and blood of the Savior, we might be forgiven and equipped for every good work, until in eternity 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 (4:00 only)**    "ProceSSIONal of Joy"

Hal Hopson

**Hymn (4:00 only)**                      "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

LSB 341

**Songs (9:00 – Youth and Congregation)**

## DEATH WAS ARRESTED

Kersh / Coker / Balltzglier / Smith

Alone in my sorrow and dead in my sin  
Lost without hope with no place to begin  
Your love made a way to let mercy come in  
When death was arrested and my life began

Ash was redeemed only beauty remains  
My orphan heart was given a name  
My mourning grew quiet my feet rose to dance  
When death was arrested and my life began

**CHORUS: Oh Your grace so free washes over me  
You have made me new now life begins with You  
It's Your endless love pouring down on us  
You have made us new now life begins with You**

Released from my chains I'm a pris'ner no more  
My shame was a ransom He faithfully bore  
He cancelled my debt and He called me His friend  
When death was arrested and my life began **CHORUS**

Our Savior displayed on a criminal's cross  
Darkness rejoiced as though Heaven had lost  
But then Jesus arose with our freedom in hand  
That's when death was arrested and my life began **CHORUS**

Oh we're free free forever we're free  
Come join the song of all the redeemed  
Yes we're free free forever amen  
When death was arrested and my life began **(REPEAT)**

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**Song**

**JESUS MESSIAH**

**Tomlin**

He became sin, who knew no sin;  
that we might become His righteousness;  
He humbled Himself, and carried the cross.  
Love so amazing, love so amazing.

**CHORUS: Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names;  
Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.  
The Rescue for sinners, the ransom from heaven;  
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.**

His body, the bread; His blood, the wine;  
Broken and poured out, all for love.  
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn.  
Love so amazing, love so amazing. **CHORUS**

All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You;  
All the glory to You, God, the light of the world. **CHORUS**

Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all. The Lord of all! The Lord of all.

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## 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** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" *LSB 803*

## Congregational Concerns

### Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** "Toccata in D Major – Allegro" J.S. Bach



## SERVING IN WORSHIP

**OFFICIANT**

Pastor John Larson

**MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP**

Michael Zehnder

**ORGANIST**

Diana Gaide

**ELDERS**

4 p.m. Arvin Michel; 9:00 a.m.; Benjamin Dallet

**ACOLYTE**

9:00 a.m. Jacob Williams

**LECTORS**

4 p.m. Dick Castleman; 9:00 a.m. Joyce Dowdy

**COMMUNION SERVERS**

4:00 p.m. Dick Castleman

**ALTAR GUILD**

Barbara Rutter, Athenia Michel