

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

*August 2-3, 2025*

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



## **EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

### **THE WISDOM OF BEING RICH TOWARD GOD**

#### **AS WE GATHER**

There is a lot of “wisdom” floating around our world on how to become wealthy. Some of the celebrities of our modern age are people like Jeff Bezos, Warren Buffett, Bill Gates, and Elon Musk. They are people who seem to have a super abundance of everything. Many of us spend at least one-third of our lives working to accumulate enough wealth to hopefully retire in comfort and security. Yet, as Jesus reminds us, our focus is misplaced when we mistakenly believe that our investments, our retirement funds, and our possessions are actually our own—that we earned them all by ourselves. As we gather, we come together today to worship the King of all creation who generously gives us everything that we have for this world and the next.

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**Prelude** "God of Grace and God of Glory" Paul Manz

**Pastoral Greeting**

**Opening Hymn** "God of Grace and God of Glory" LSB 850

### Invocation

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

**OPENING SENTENCES** *Psalm 24:1–2; 127:2; 147:9; Matthew 6:26; James 1:17; Exodus 20:3; Colossians 3:5–6*

**Pastor:** The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

**People:** **He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry.**

**Pastor:** Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

**People:** **It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for He gives to His beloved sleep.**

**Pastor:** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

**People:** **The First Commandment reminds us, "You shall have no other gods before Me."**

**Pastor:** Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

**People:** **On account of these the wrath of God is coming.**



### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**Pastor:** Almighty God,  
**People:** **You are the giver of everything we have. Yet, we are guilty of coveting the possessions, experiences, and social standing of others. We sin by valuing these things above You. For Jesus' sake, forgive our sins. Renew us in Your knowledge and conform us to Your image by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Pastor: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). We receive the riches of God's forgiveness because of Jesus. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all of 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 seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those who labor, those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**People: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**



HE HAS MADE  
**everything  
beautiful**  
IN ITS TIME.

ECCLESIASTES 3:11

# HYMN OF PRAISE “Great is Thy Faithfulness”

LSB 809  
Verses 1,3



1 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;  
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,  
There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee.  
Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;  
Thou chang - est not: Thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;  
Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,  
As Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!  
*Refrain*  
Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness!  
Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;  
All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vid - ed;  
Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

Text: Public domain Tune: Public domain

## ✂ WORD ✂

**Old Testament Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-26**

*(Enjoying your work is a gift from God.)*

**Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher,  
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.**

**I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. I have seen**

everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.

I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Colossians 3:1-11

*(Live as the people you are in Christ.)*

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.



Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

*Please rise for the Verse and the Holy Gospel.*

**VERSE**     *Colossians 3:23–24a*

Pastor: Alleluia.

**People:** **Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward.**

Pastor: Alleluia.

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

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

**Holy Gospel: Luke 12:13-21**

*(Trust in the Giver of all that is good.)*

Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Children’s Message (9:00)**

Stephanie Roettjer

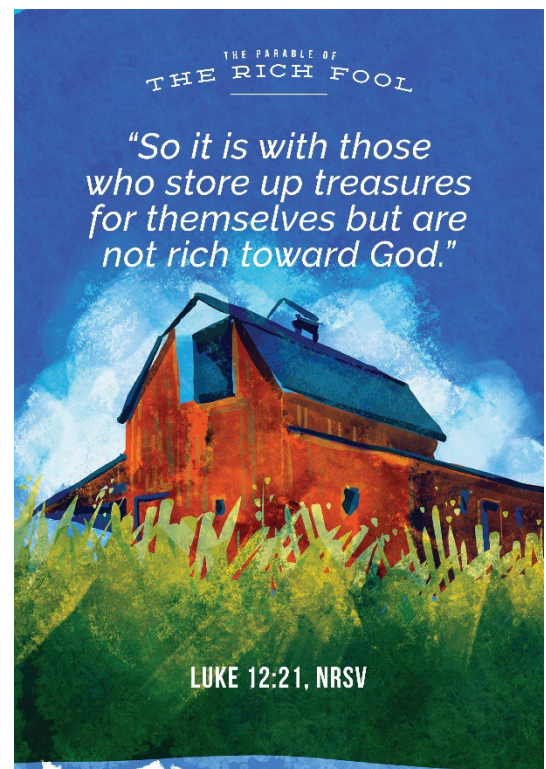
**Hymn of the Day**     “All Depends on Our Possessing”

LSB 732

Verses 1-3, 6

**Sermon**     “Rich in Things or Rich in Soul?”

Rev. Michael Zehnder  
Text: Book of Ecclesiastes



## 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)**

"Seek Ye First"

Carol Tournquist



## ✠ 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, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O God, the giver of every good and every perfect gift, that in Your mercy You sent Your Son that though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, so that we by His poverty might become rich. It is through His life, death, and resurrection that we receive the riches of Your kingdom—forgiveness, life, and salvation. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud 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 Piano Music**                      "Praise and Thanksgiving"    Dino Kartsonakis

**Hymn**    "God Himself is Present"    *LSB 907*

**Hymn**    "Seek Ye First"    *LSB 712*

**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**                      "Praise and Thanksgiving"    *LSB 789*

**Congregational Concerns**

**Dismissal**

**Pastor:**    Go in peace.  
                 Serve the Lord.

**People:**    **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**    "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"    Edward Wetherill

**SERVING IN WORSHIP**

<b>LITURGIST AND CELEBRANT</b>	Rev. Michael J. Zehnder
<b>ORGANIST / PIANIST</b>	Diana Gaide
<b>ELDERS</b>	4 p.m. Jeff Dunker; 9:00 a.m. Benjamin Dallet
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	9:00 a.m. Juliette Dallet
<b>LECTORS</b>	4 p.m. Dave Olsson; 9:00 a.m. Norm Finrock
<b>COMMUNION SERVERS</b>	4:00 p.m. Dave Olsson
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Barbara Rutter, Cathy Utecht