

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

*August 16-17, 2025*

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



## **TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

### **THE LORD IS OUR FORTRESS**

#### **AS WE GATHER**

Each of God's people has a special life story. The book of Jeremiah contains the messages of a prophet whose calling to speak the Word of the Lord brought him great distress and many difficulties. Known as the "weeping prophet," Jeremiah lived out his life faithfully in challenging historical times. Places associated with him and his life can still be seen by travelers to Jerusalem, including the cave pit where he was imprisoned and the grotto where, according to tradition, he wrote the book of Lamentations. God gave Jeremiah the ability to carry out his mission, saying: "Behold, I make you this day a fortified city . . . and iron pillar" and promised him: "I am with you . . . to deliver you" (Jeremiah 1:18–19). God's working through faithful people in each generation brings us the treasure of His Word proclaimed faithfully to this day. That transmitted sacred Word merits our most careful and thoughtful listening! Pastor is speaking on that famous Psalm 46 which coincides with our Jeremiah reading, that the Lord is our "fortified city," our "iron pillar," and our "Mighty Fortress."

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**Prelude** "Before You, Lord We Bow" Michael Burkhardt

**Pastoral Greeting**

**Opening Hymn** "Before You, Lord We Bow" *LSB 966*

**Invocation**

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

**People:** **Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES** *Psalm 119:89–94*

**Pastor:** Forever, O LORD, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

**People:** **Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You have established the earth, and it stands fast.**

**Pastor:** By Your appointment they stand this day, for all things are Your servants.

**People:** **If Your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.**

**Pastor:** I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life.

**People:** **I am Yours; save me, for I have sought Your precepts.**



## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**Pastor:** Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

**People:** **Gracious God, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful and unclean. Daily we do things we ought not do and do not live up to our calling as Your people. We are not always careful listeners to Your Word and take for granted those who faithfully proclaim it to us. We know that we justly deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity. But trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is solely in the merits of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us remission of all our sins and lead us to renewed lives that reflect Your goodness and love.**

**Pastor:** God is gracious and merciful and hears our supplications and joyfully restores us to His fold. By the command of our Lord Jesus Christ and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen.**

**INTROIT** *Psalm 55:1, 12–14, 16; antiphon: v. 22*

**Pastor:** Cast your burden on the LORD, and He will sustain you;  
He will never permit the righteous to be moved.

**People:** **Give ear to my prayer, O God,  
and hide not Yourself from my plea for mercy!**

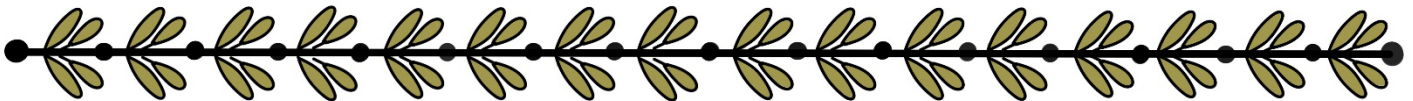
**Pastor:** For it is not an enemy who taunts me—then I could bear it;  
it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me—then I could hide from him.

**People:** **But it is you, a man, my equal,  
my companion, my familiar friend.**

**Pastor:** We used to take sweet counsel together;  
within God's house we walked in the throng.  
But I call to God, and the LORD will save me.

**People:** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Pastor:** Cast your burden on the LORD, and He will sustain you;  
He will never permit the righteous to be moved.



**HYMN OF PRAISE (4:00 only) “Sing Praise to God the Highest Good” LSB 819  
Verses 1, 5**

**SONGS OF PRAISE (9:00 – Youth Band and Congregation)**

**Song** **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**

## Song

## HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD!

Tomlin—Reeves—Cash

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty;  
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.  
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,  
And trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice.

**CHORUS: How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!  
And all will see how great, how great is our God!**

And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands;  
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.  
The Godhead, three in one, Father, Spirit, Son,  
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb. **CHORUS**

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## ✂ WORD ✂

**Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 23:16-29**  
*(The prophets bring words of warning from God.)*

Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord. They say continually to those who despise the word of the Lord, ‘It shall be well with you’; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you.’”

For who among them has stood in the council of the Lord  
to see and to hear his word,  
or who has paid attention to his word and listened?

Behold, the storm of the Lord!

Wrath has gone forth,  
a whirling tempest;  
it will burst upon the head of the wicked.

The anger of the Lord will not turn back  
until he has executed and accomplished  
the intents of his heart.

In the latter days you will understand it clearly.

“I did not send the prophets,  
yet they ran;

I did not speak to them,  
yet they prophesied.

But if they had stood in my council,

then they would have proclaimed my words to my people,  
and they would have turned them from their evil way,  
and from the evil of their deeds.



**“Am I a God at hand, declares the Lord, and not a God far away? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’ How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the Lord. Is not my word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?**

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 46; antiphon: v. 7 (*Basis for Today’s Sermon*)**

### **God is Our Fortress**

Pastor      God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

**People      Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,  
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,**

Pastor      though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

**People      There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

Pastor      God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;  
God will help her when morning dawns.

**People      The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.**

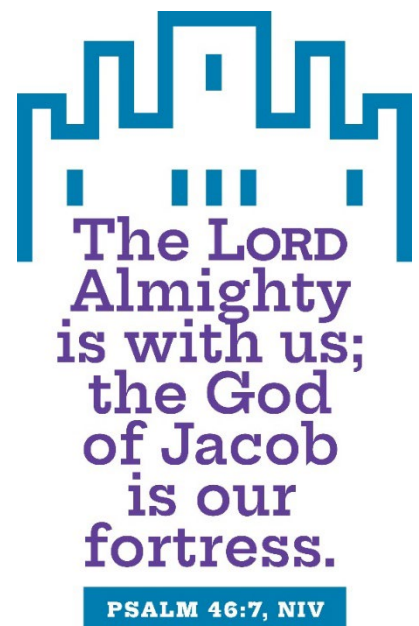
Pastor      The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

**People      Come, behold the works of the Lord,  
how he has brought desolations on the earth.**

Pastor      He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;  
he burns the chariots with fire.

**People:      “Be still, and know that I am God.  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth!”**

**People:      The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**



**Epistle: Hebrews 11:17-31; 12:1-3**

*(Running the Christian race)*

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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

**VERSE**     *Jeremiah 23:29a, 28b*

People:     Alleluia. Is not My word like fire, declares the LORD? What has straw in common with wheat? Alleluia.



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

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

**Holy Gospel: Luke 12:49-56**

*(Jesus speaks of His purpose of being on earth.)*

**I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."**

**He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, 'A shower is coming.' And so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"**

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

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

**Children's Message (9:00)**

Christa Lawrenz

**Hymn of the Day** "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

LSB 657

**Sermon** "A Fortress"

Pastor John Larson

Text: Psalm 46

**The Nicene 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)



## Song During Offering (9:00 – Youth Band and Congregation)

### WHO YOU SAY I AM

Hillsongs

Who am I that the highest King Would welcome me?  
I was lost but He brought me in Oh His love for me  
Oh His love for me

**CHORUS: Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God  
Yes I am**

Free at last, He has ransomed me  
His grace runs deep  
While I was a slave to sin Jesus died for me  
Yes He died for me **CHORUS**

In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God Yes I am

I am chosen Not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me Not against me  
I am who You say I am

I am chosen Not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me Not against me  
I am who You say I am  
I am who You say I am **CHORUS**

In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God Yes I am

GOD'S  
RICHES  
AT  
CHRIST'S  
EXPENSE

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### ✠ 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** *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.**

### **DISTRIBUTION MUSIC**

**Special Organ Music (4:00 only)** "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

Michael Burkhardt

**Hymn (4:00 only)** "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" *LSB 655*

**Hymn (4:00 only)** "Be Strong in the Lord" *LSB 665*

**Song (9:00 – Youth Band and Congregation)**

### **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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## Song (9:00 – Youth Band and Congregation)

### YOU ARE MY KING (AMAZING LOVE)

Foote

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken. I'm accepted; You were condemned.  
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me because You died and rose again.

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken. I'm accepted; You were condemned.  
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me  
because You died and rose again.

### CHORUS

Amazing love, how can it be That You, my King,  
would die for me?

Amazing love, I know it's true; It's my joy to honor You.  
In all I do I honor You. **(REPEAT)**

You are my King. You are my King.  
Jesus, You are my King. Jesus, You are my King.  
**(CHORUS)**

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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 "Thy Strong Word"

LSB 578  
Verses 1-4

## Congregational Concerns

### Dismissal

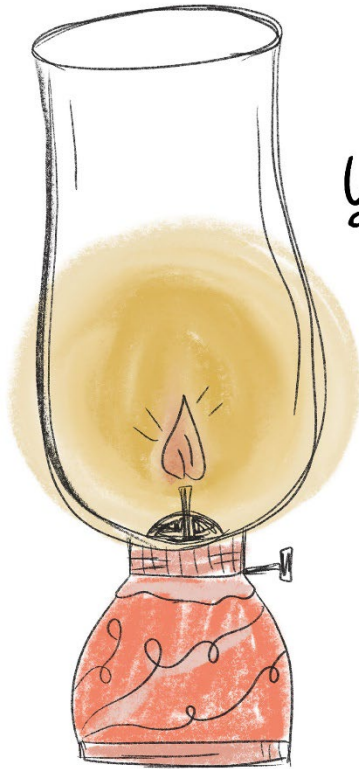
Pastor: Go in peace.  
Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"  
(quoting J.S. Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor)

arr. Rick Seaton





YOUR WORD IS  
A LAMP FOR  
MY FEET,  
A LIGHT ON  
MY PATH.

PSALM 119:105, NIV

### SERVING IN WORSHIP

**OFFICIANT AND CELEBRANT**  
**MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP / ORGANIST**  
**YOUTH BAND DIRECTOR**  
**ELDERS**  
**LECTORS**  
**COMMUNION SERVERS**  
**ALTAR GUILD**

Pastor John Larson  
Michael Zehnder  
Stephanie Roettjer

4 p.m. Jeff Dunker; 9:00 a.m. Arvin Michel  
4 p.m. Dave Olsson; 9:00 a.m. Larry Nisbet  
4:00 p.m. Dave Olsson  
Barbara Rutter, Cathy Utecht



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