

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

August 23-24, 2025

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



ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

A TEMPLE

AS WE GATHER

To be the “favorite child” in a family is often a source of competition and sometimes a source for comedy. Years ago, a pair of sibling entertainers, the Smothers Brothers, made their family relationship a staple of their onstage humor when Tom, the older brother, would remind Dickie, the younger, “Mom always did like you best.” As we gather with God’s people at worship week by week, we can be certain that our gracious God values all of us and is pleased to see us grow in grace year by year. In Psalm 84 is a verse where the psalmist exclaims to God, “For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere” (v. 10). There is nothing better for God’s favorite people. Today, Pastor reminds us from 1 Corinthians 6 that our bodies are the temples and courts of the Lord Himself.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Prelude (Piano / Organ Duet) “O Worship the King” Raney
Mary Wenkheimer, pianist

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn “O Worship the King” *LSB 804*
(Verses 1-3, 5)

Invocation

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 103:1–2, 8, 13, 21–22*

Pastor: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

People: **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.**

Pastor: As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows
compassion to those who fear Him.

People: **The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in
steadfast love.**

Pastor: Bless the LORD, all His hosts, His ministers, who do His will!

People: **Bless the LORD, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the
LORD, O my soul!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now confess our sins to God, our Father.

People: **Have mercy on us, Lord, and grant us Your forgiveness. We confess
that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of our sins, those
known to us and those unknown as well. Create in us clean hearts,
gracious Lord, and put new and right spirits within us that we may be
reconciled to You and at peace with all people. We trust in Christ
alone for the forgiveness that we seek today and at all times. Give us
the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us into paths of righteousness and
finally bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and
remission of all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by
His authority, 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

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

LSB 783

Verses 1-3, 5-6



1 Take my life and let it be Con - se - crat - ed,
2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse
3 Take my voice and let me sing Al - ways, on - ly
5 Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no
6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its



Lord, to Thee; Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them
of Thy love; Take my feet and let them be Swift and
for my King; Take my lips and let them be Filled with
long - er mine; Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall
treasure store; Take my - self, and I will be Ev - er,



flow in cease - less praise, Let them flow in cease - less praise.
beau - ti - ful for Thee, Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
mes - sag - es from Thee, Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.
be Thy roy - al throne, It shall be Thy roy - al throne.
on - ly, all for Thee, Ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee.

✂ WORD ✂

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 66:18-23

(The glory of the Lord shall be declared.)

For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the Lord, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the Lord, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the Lord. And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the Lord.

“For as the new heavens and the new earth
that I make
shall remain before me, says the Lord,
so shall your offspring and your name remain.
From new moon to new moon,
and from Sabbath to Sabbath,
all flesh shall come to worship before me,
declares the Lord.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Hebrews 12:4-29

(An exhortation to faithful, peaceful living.)

In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
nor be weary when reproved by him.
For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives.”

It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.



Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

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 tenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel: Luke 13:22-30

(Jesus shares insights into His kingdom that is to come.)

He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, “Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’ In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

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 “Holy Spirit, Love Divine”

LSB 496

Sermon “A Temple”

Pastor John Larson

Text: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20



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)

✠ 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 proper that we should give thanks and praise to You, O Lord. As a father shows compassion to his children, You have shown Your saving love in Jesus Christ and have rescued us from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Grant that, in response to our salvation, we may live to Your glory, awaiting that time when Jesus, who is our host at this Holy Meal, prepares for us and all the faithful the eternal heavenly banquet. Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us that we may rejoice in the gifts before us and thank You with songs of praise and hearts filled with love, evermore praising you and singing ...

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 "Singing in My Soul" Thomas A. Dorsey
Dave Olsson, guitarist and soloist

Hymn "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" *LSB 686*

Hymn "How Great Thou Art" *LSB 801*

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 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer" *LSB 918*

Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace.
 Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer" Paul Manz

SERVING IN WORSHIP

PREACHER/CELEBRANT	Pastor John Larson
MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP	Michael Zehnder
ORGANIST	Linda Olsen
PIANIST	Mary Wenkheimer
GUITARIST / SOLOIST	Dave Olsson
ELDERS	4 p.m. Michael Lawrenz; 9:00 a.m.; Bob Olsen
ACOLYTE	9:00 a.m. Brynn Aldrich
LECTORS	4 p.m. Anita Baresel; 9:00 a.m. Dennis Lord
COMMUNION SERVERS	4:00 p.m. Anita Baresel
ALTAR GUILD	Cathy Utecht, Barbara Rutter

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