

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

August 9-10, 2025

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



NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WALKING BY FAITH

AS WE GATHER

In His earthly life, Jesus chose to be a “peripatetic” teacher. Rather than staying in one place and having His learners come to Him, He went from place to place with disciples or followers who listened to the truths He taught as they went along. Walking with Jesus was the greatest of blessings! Whether we hear the Gospel teachings of our Lord in the same setting week by week and year by year or find ourselves in a variety of worship locations and settings, we, too, find blessing in hearing Him as did His first followers. The hymn writer Sigismund von Birken invites us simply: “Let us ever walk with Jesus” (LSB 685:1). May we be blessed in our walking and in our listening today! Our Hebrews 11 reading is that famous chapter in the Bible where the great saints of old accomplished great things “by faith.” Today Pastor reminds us from Romans 8:28 that God works out all things for our good: if we have faith in Him and love him.”

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Prelude "How Firm a Foundation" Michael Burkhardt and
Trey Clegg

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn "How Firm a Foundation" *LSB 728*

Invocation

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 34:1–4, 8, 22*

Pastor: I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

People: **My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.**

Pastor: Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!

People: **I sought the LORD, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears.**

Pastor: Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

People: **The LORD redeems the life of His servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us humble ourselves before God, confess our sins to Him, and ask His gracious forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **We now confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and before one another, that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have given in to anxiety and have not always put our trust in God and His gracious provision for our lives. We have not always been good stewards of the many gifts that God graciously gives us and have focused on keeping things for ourselves rather than sharing them with others. We have missed opportunities to share the love of Christ with those around us and have not sought out the best for the people of our family circles, our neighborhoods, and our communities. We pray our God to have mercy on us, to forgive us all our sins, to lead us into lives of growing faith and increasing charity, and finally to bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: God is faithful and keeps His promises of full pardon for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, granting mercy and forgiveness for those who repent and turn to Him. 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 “O God Our Help in Ages Past”

LSB 733
Verses 1-3



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad-ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,



Our shel - ter from the storm-y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.

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✠ WORD ✠

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 15:1-6

(God makes a special promise to Abraham.)

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no

offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Hebrews 11:1-16

(The examples of faith exhibited by some of God’s people.)

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.



By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they

desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please rise for the Verse and the Holy Gospel.

VERSE *Luke 12:32*

Pastor: Alleluia.

People: **Fear not, little flock, for it is Your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Alleluia.**

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

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

Holy Gospel: Luke 12:22-34

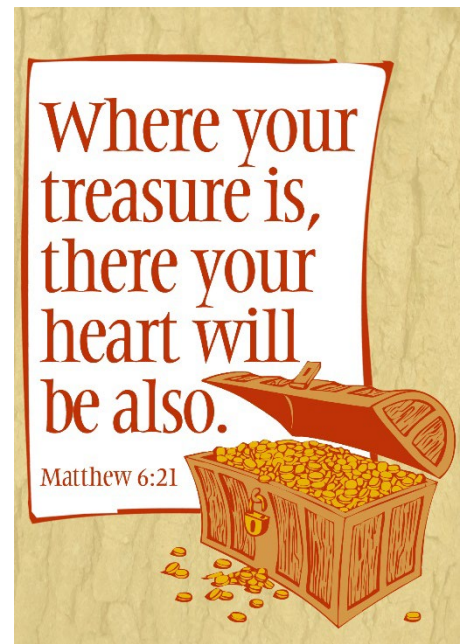
(Jesus calls His disciples to make serving Him the priority.)

And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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



Children's Message (9:00)

Pastor John

Hymn of the Day "If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee"

LSB 750
Verses 1-3, 7

Sermon "God in Control"

Pastor John Larson
Text: Romans 8:28

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)

Offering Music (9:00) "O That I Had a Thousand Voices" Michael Burkhardt

✠ 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, for in Jesus Christ, the servant of all, You have shown Your saving love and rescued us from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Grant that, in response to our salvation, we may live faithfully and generously, meeting the needs of others and bringing glory to Your name. 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 Organ Music	"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"	Benjamin Culli
Hymn	"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"	<i>LSB 685</i>
Hymn	"We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"	<i>LSB 720</i>

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	"O That I Had a Thousand Voices"	<i>LSB 811</i>
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Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace.
 Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude	"O That I Had a Thousand Voices"
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Paul Manz



SERVING IN WORSHIP

OFFICIANT AND CELEBRANT

Pastor John Larson

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP / ORGANIST

Michael Zehnder

ELDERS

4 p.m. Jim Wert; 9:00 a.m. Michael Lawrenz

LECTORS

4 p.m. Mike Price; 9:00 a.m. Margo Pasha

COMMUNION SERVERS

4:00 p.m. Mike Price

ALTAR GUILD

Barbara Rutter, Cathy Utecht



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