

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

September 14, 2025

10:30 a.m. Sunday



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE JOY OF THE ANGELS

AS WE GATHER

The charge against Jesus was always the same—He keeps the wrong company. But Jesus has come for sinners, and if you are not a sinner, He does not have anything for you. To emphasize why He has come, our Lord tells the stories of ninety-nine sheep left behind to find one who is lost and a woman who rejoices over finding one lost coin. You are that lost sheep and lost coin for whom Christ has come and in whom heaven rejoices. Jesus has come for you and for you He has offered Himself upon the cross and been laid in the tomb. This is the heavenly joy of the angels above, and it is our earthly joy as well. Christ came for us!

✂ PREPARATION ✂

Gathering Song

ANCIENT OF DAYS

Gary Sadler | Jamie Harvill

Blessing and honor glory and power
Be unto the Ancient of Days
From ev'ry nation all of creation
Bow before the Ancient of Days

**CHORUS: Ev'ry tongue in heaven and earth Shall declare Your glory
Ev'ry knee shall bow at Your throne In worship
You will be exalted O God And Your kingdom shall not pass away
O Ancient of Days**

Blessing and honor glory and power
Be unto the Ancient of Days
From ev'ry nation all of creation
Bow before the Ancient of Days **CHORUS**

Your kingdom shall reign Over all the earth
Sing unto the Ancient of Days
For none can compare To Your matchless worth
Sing unto the Ancient of Days **(Repeat)**

CHORUS

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Pastoral Greeting

Opening Song

YOU NEVER LET GO

Redman

Even though I walk through the valley Of the shadow of death
Your perfect love is casting out fear
And even when I'm caught in the middle
Of the storms of this life I won't turn back I know You are near

**CHORUS: And I will fear no evil—For my God is with me
And if my God is with me
Whom then shall I fear—Whom then shall I fear
Oh no You never let go
Through the calm and through the storm
Oh no You never let go—In ev'ry high and ev'ry low
Oh no You never let go—Lord You never let go of me**

And I can see a light that is coming For the heart that holds on
A glorious light beyond all compare
And there will be an end to these troubles
But until that day comes We'll live to know You here on the earth **CHORUS**

I can see a light That is coming for the heart that holds on
And there will be an end to these troubles
But until that day comes
Still I will praise You—Still I will praise You

Oh no You never let go
Through the calm and through the storm
Oh no You never let go—In ev'ry high and ev'ry low
Oh no You never let go—Lord You never let go of me

CCLI Song # 4674166 Beth Redman | Matt Redman © 2005 Thankyou Music For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 1903595

Invocation

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: O Lord, my God, I cry to You for help.

People: **Heal and restore me, O Lord.**

Pastor: Most holy and merciful Father,

People: **like sheep, O Lord, we have strayed and wandered from You. We have sinned against You and one another. We have done the evil You forbid, and we have not done the good You desire. There is no health in us. O merciful and divine Shepherd, cover our sins with Your forgiveness, clothe us with Your perfect righteousness, and preserve us in this faith and fear, that we may be kept to the day when Your Son comes to judge all people. Have mercy, O Lord, and fulfill Your Word to us in Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ 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.**

Pastor: He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. His peace be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

✠ WORD ✠

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-24

(The Lord promises to rescue His sheep and to set up a shepherd who will lead them to eternal life.)

“For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from

all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

“As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord God: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

“Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the Lord; I have spoken.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:5-17

(Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.)

The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their



fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please rise for the Holy Gospel.

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

(Jesus tells the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin.)

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Children’s Message

Christa Kirschner

The Nicene Creed

(found in the back of the hymnal)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for ourselves and for all people as they have need.

O merciful Shepherd, You came into the world to save sinners. Grant to us forgiveness of our sins, renewal of our lost lives, and the grace to serve You in willing obedience all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O merciful Shepherd, grant us grace that we know Your Word as the sound of Your voice. Grant to us faithful pastors who will rightly divide Your Word of truth and bless all church workers and those in training to serve us in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O merciful Shepherd, guard against all false doctrine and against those who teach in conflict with Your Word that the sheep of Your flock be preserved in faith to know and believe rightly by the power of Your Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O merciful Shepherd, give us good and faithful leaders who will govern us according to Your will and lead us and all nations in the ways of peace, justice, and virtue, that we live good, holy, and upright lives without fear or threat. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O merciful Shepherd, You do not abandon Your sheep even when they are wounded and infirm. Deliver the weak, the suffering, the troubled in mind, and those with hearts weighed low with grief, [*especially . . .*]. We pray that they be healed and comforted according to Your will and delivered from all that afflicts them on the day when You raise Your people to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O merciful Shepherd, You daily and richly supply all things good and beneficial to us and guard us against the evil one. Give us a discerning mind and a generous heart that as You have done for us, we do for others in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**



Pastor: O merciful Shepherd, You set Your Table before us in the presence of our enemies. Grant to all who commune this day repentance and faith that they receive this holy food for their good and keep us united as one in doctrine and life. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O merciful Shepherd, hear us and grant us all things beneficial to us and profitable for our salvation, but keep from us all things harmful. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

(Other intercessions may be added here)

Pastor: Into Your hands, O merciful Shepherd, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, and confident that You will hear and answers us, O Lord.

People: Amen.

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 *(collected in back)*

✠ 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

Song

JESUS, NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

Hearn

Jesus, name above all names,
beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us,
blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

Jesus, loving Shepherd,
Vine of the branches, Son of God;
Prince of Peace, Wonderful counselor,
Lord of the universe, Light of the world.

Jesus, Way of Salvation,
King of Kings, Lord of Lords,
The Way, the Truth, and the Life,
Mighty Creator, my Savior and Friend.

YOU
ARE
LOVED!

Song

HE KNOWS MY NAME

Walker

I have a Maker, He formed my heart.
Before even time began, my life was in His hand.
He knows my name, He knows my ev'ry thought.
He sees each tear that falls and hears me when I call.

I have a Father, He calls me His own.
He'll never leave me no matter where I go.
He knows my name, He knows my ev'ry thought.
He sees each tear that falls and hears me when I call,
He hears me when I call.

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 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

Congregational Concerns + Julie Hall from the HAAT Force

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace.
Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



SERVING IN WORSHIP

PREACHER / CELEBRANT
MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP / ORGANIST
CHOIR DIRECTOR
CHOIR ACCOMPANIST

Pastor John Larson
Michael Zehnder
Stephanie Roettjer
Diana Gaide

ELDERS 4:00 pm Jeff Dunker; 8:00 am Arvin Michel; 10:30 am Michael Lawrenz
ACOLYTE 8:00 am Juliette Dallet; 10:30 am Jacob Williams
LECTORS 4:00 pm Mike Price; 8:00 am Carrie Friend; 10:30 am Jude Donovan
COMMUNION SERVERS 4:00 pm Mike Price; 10:30 am Jude Donovan
ALTAR GUILD Barbara Rutter, Lynne Nelson, Sharon Seible



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