

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

September 20-21, 2025

4:00 p.m. Saturday and 8:00 a.m. Sunday



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE TIME IS RIPE

AS WE GATHER

The Divine Service is unlike our other activities during the week—in the marketplace, our place of employment, or our school—where we struggle to be “the people of God” amid the temptations and confusing details of living in a world still disfigured by sin, tragedy, selfishness, and death. By our own fault, we daily fall short of our calling as Christians. We are reminded today of the judgment of God’s Law by the prophet Amos against our worry over money and our own needs that distract us from the often-greater needs of others and even our own true need of faith and reliance on God above all. Each day of the week, the demands of the Ten Commandments of God call us back to our need for forgiveness and God’s mercy, grace, help, and love. So, we gather here for Divine Service, that is, God attending to our real needs. We come to repent of our sin and failure, and to receive forgiveness and new life and hope. That forgiveness and hope comes solely from the God who “loved the world” so much “that He gave His only Son” to die for you (John 3:16). We do not have to wait and wonder until the Day of Judgment. By your Baptism into Christ, by His mighty and reliable Word of forgiveness spoken over and into you, and by your connection with the body and blood of your crucified and risen Lord Jesus, you are being delivered from all evil, redeemed, restored, and forgiven for everlasting life in the kingdom of God already here and now.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Piano Prelude “Variations on ‘How Firm a Foundation’” Arr. Joseph Martin

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn “How Firm a Foundation” *LBW 728*

Invocation

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 43:4; 113:7*

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

People: **to God my exceeding joy.**

Pastor: The LORD raises the poor from the dust

People: **and lifts the needy from the ash heap.**



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins in the light of God’s holy Commandments.

Pastor: Thus says the Lord: “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.”

People: **Lord God, we confess to You that we often forget Your Word by allowing other concerns of daily living and our own desires take priority over Your ways of mercy and love. Forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: Thus says the Lord: “You shall not murder.”

People: **Lord God, we confess to You that we have hurt and harmed our neighbors, especially by our neglect of the needs of others. Forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: Thus says the Lord: “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.”

People: **Lord God, we confess to You our rash words, harsh judgments, and false accusations against our neighbor, but even more our failure to defend and help those who have been wrongfully shamed, abused, or accused. Forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: God, our Savior, desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For the sake of the one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, and by His command, I proclaim to you His Word: 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

“All Glory Be to God on High”

LSB 947

Verses 1-2

1 All glo - ry be to God on high And thanks for all His
2 We praise and laud and wor - ship You; We give You thanks for -

fa - vor; No harm can touch or ter - ri - fy A
ev - er, O Fa - ther, for Your rule is true And

child of God for - ev - er. God shows His good and
just and chang - es nev - er. With bound - less pow'r, Your

gra - cious will And grants His peace, the world to fill—
might - y reign Ful - fills what - ev - er You or - dain.

All strife at last has end - ed.
Lord, grant us ev - 'ry bless - ing!

✂ WORD ✂

Old Testament Reading: Amos 8:4-7

(The coming day of bitter mourning)

Hear this, you who trample on the needy
and bring the poor of the land to an end,
saying, “When will the new moon be over,
that we may sell grain?

And the Sabbath,
that we may offer wheat for sale,
that we may make the ephah small
and the shekel great
and deal deceitfully with false balances,
that we may buy the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and sell the chaff of the wheat?”

The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
“Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: 1 Timothy 2:1-8

(Pray for all people.)

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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*



Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter-nal life. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

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

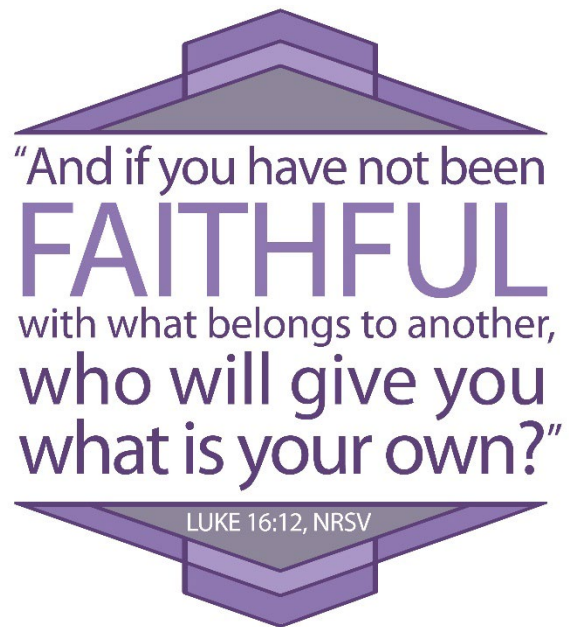
People: Glory to You, O Lord.



Holy Gospel: Luke 16:1-15

(The parable of the dishonest manager)

He also said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’ And the manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.’ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ He said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.



“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

LSB 700

Sermon “I Urge You”

Pastor John Larson
Text: 1 Timothy 2:1-8

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 and 10:30 am - collected in back; 8:00 am – collected in the pews)

Offering Music (8:00)

“Aria”

Flor Peeters

✠ 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, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. 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

“Built on a Rock”

Arr. Ovid Young

Hymn

“What Is This Bread”

LSB 629

Hymn

“God Loved the World So That He Gave”

LSB 571



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

“What is the World to Me”

LSB 730

Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

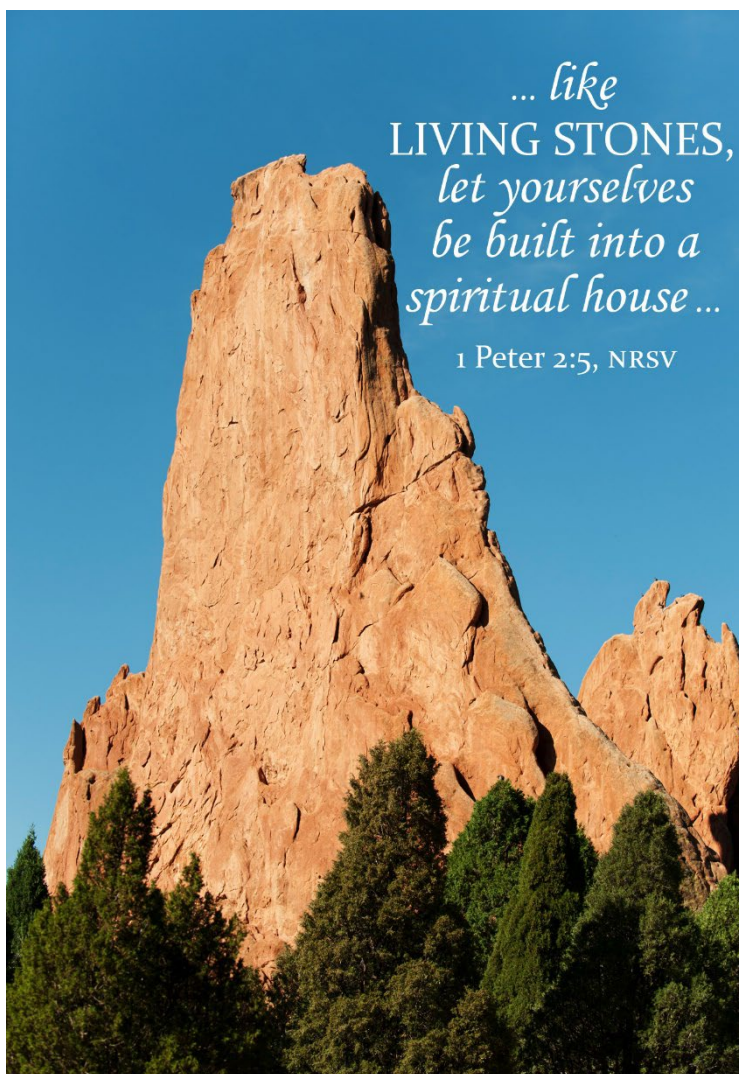
Pastor: Go in peace.
Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Festival Voluntary”

Flor Peeters



SERVING IN WORSHIP

PREACHER / CELEBRANT

Pastor John Larson

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP

Michael Zehnder

ORGANIST

Diana Gaide

ELDERS

4:00 pm Jeff Dunker; 8:00 am Benjamin Dallet; 10:30 am Michael Lawrenz

ACOLYTE

8:00 am Juliette Dallet; 10:30 am Jacob Williams

LECTORS

4:00 pm Curt Engle; 8:00 am David Kaiser; 10:30 am Jude Donovan

COMMUNION SERVERS

4:00 pm Curt Engle; 10:30 am Jude Donovan

ALTAR GUILD

Barbara Rutter, Lynne Nelson, Sharon Seible



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Extended Day Preschool

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