

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

*September 21, 2025*

10:30 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 ✂

### Gathering Song

### GREAT ARE YOU LORD

Leonard | Ingram | Jordan

You give life You are love  
You bring light to the darkness  
You give hope You restore ev'ry heart that is broken  
And great are You Lord

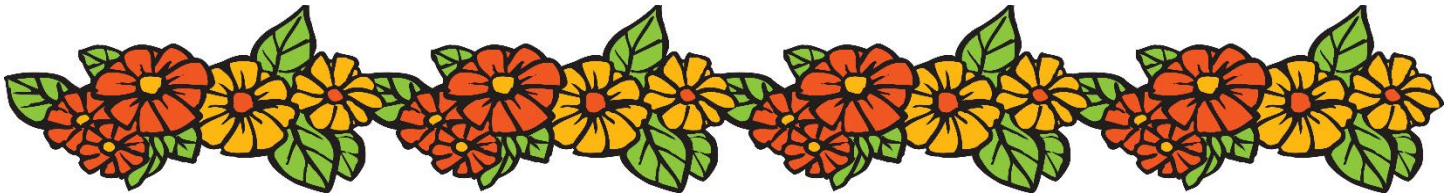
It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise  
We pour out our praise  
It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise to You only (Repeat from Beginning)

And all the earth will shout Your praise  
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing  
Great are You Lord (Repeat)

It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise  
We pour out our praise  
It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise to You only

CCLI Song # 6460220 David Leonard | Jason Ingram | Leslie Jordan © 2012 Open Hands Music (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) So Essential Tunes (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) Integrity's Praise! Music (Admin. by Integrity Music) Little Way Creative (Admin. by Integrity Music) For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) CCLI License # 1903595

### Pastoral Greeting



### Opening Song

### Blessed Be Your Name

Matt Redman

Blessed be Your name In the land that is plentiful  
Where Your streams of abundance flow Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be Your name When I'm found in the desert place  
Though I walk through the wilderness Blessed be Your name

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll Turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in Lord Still I will say

**CHORUS: Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your name**  
**Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your glorious name**

Blessed be Your name When the sun's shining down on me  
When the world's all as it should be Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be Your name On the road marked with suffering  
Though there's pain in the offering Blessed be Your name

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll Turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in Lord Still I will say **CHORUS**

You give and take away You give and take away  
My heart will choose to say Lord blessed be Your name  
You give and take away You give and take away  
My heart will choose to say Lord blessed be Your name **CHORUS**

CCLI Song # 3798438 Beth Redman | Matt Redman © 2002 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com  
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## 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.**

✂ 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.

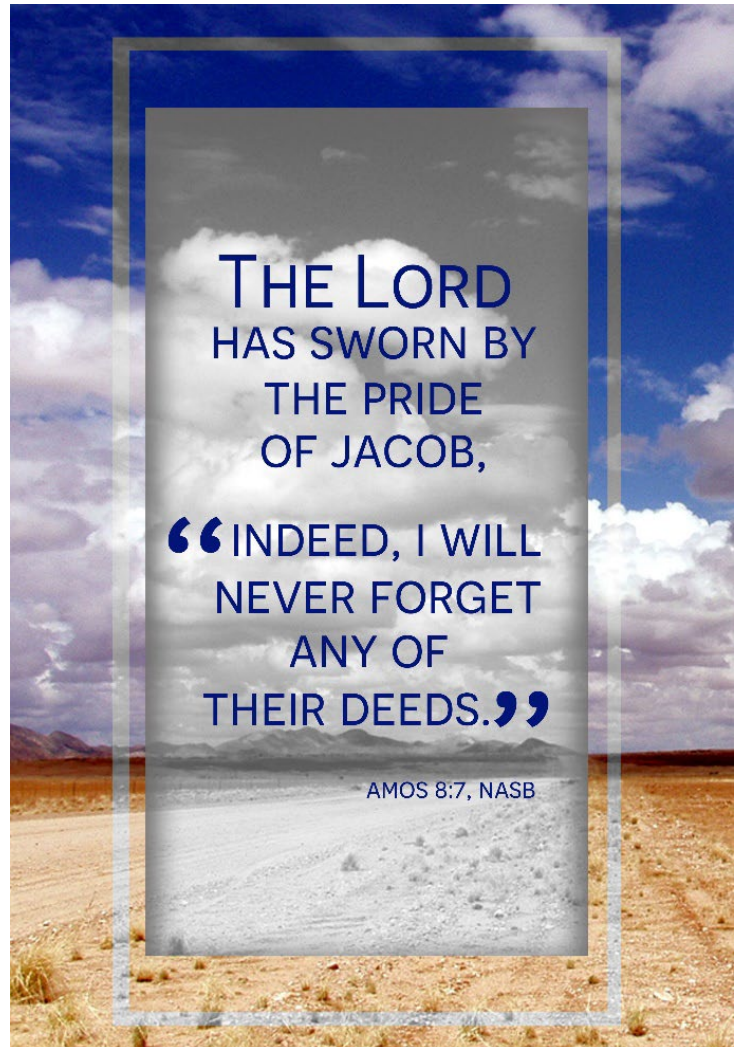
**Epistle: 1 Timothy 2:1-8**  
*(Pray for all people.)*

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 Holy Gospel.*

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.

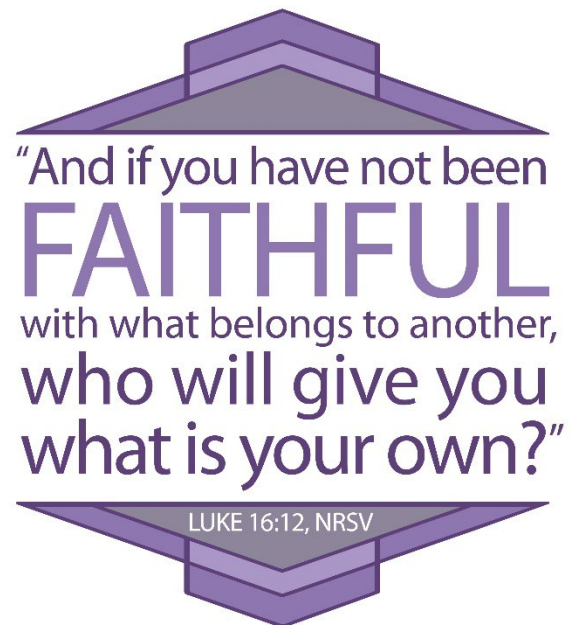
“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who 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.

**Children’s Message**



Jenna Lawrenz

## Song of the Day

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

LSB 770

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear –  
All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged – Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness – Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge – Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.

## 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** *(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**

### **GRAVES INTO GARDENS**

**Lake / Brown / Furtick / Hammer**

I searched the world but it couldn't fill me  
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade  
Are never enough  
Then You came along and put me back together  
And every desire is now satisfied here in Your love

### **CHORUS**

Oh there's nothing better than You  
There's nothing better than You  
Lord there's nothing  
Nothing is better than You

I'm not afraid to show You my weakness  
My failures and flaws  
Lord You've seen them all  
And You still call me friend  
'Cause the God of the mountain  
Is the God of the valley  
There's not a place

Your mercy and grace won't find me again...**CHORUS 2x**

You turn mourning to dancing  
You give beauty for ashes  
You turn shame into glory  
You're the only one who can

You turn graves into gardens  
You turn bones into armies



You turn seas into highways  
You're the only one who can...**CHORUS**

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## **Song ONE THING REMAINS**

Higher than the mountains that I face,  
stronger than the power of the grave.  
Constant in the trial and the change.  
One thing remains, one thing remains

**CHORUS: Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.  
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.  
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.  
Your love.**

On and on and on and on it goes.  
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul.  
And I never, ever have to be afraid.  
One thing remains, one thing remains. **CHORUS**

In death, in life, I'm confident and covered  
by the power of Your great love.  
My debt is paid; there's nothing that can separate  
my heart from Your great love. **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 Song ALL THE PEOPLE SAID AMEN! Maher**

You are not alone if you are lonely.  
When you feel afraid, you're not the only.  
We are all the same, in need of mercy,  
To be forgiven and be free.  
It's all you got to lean on, But thank God, it's all you need.

**CHORUS: And all the people said, "amen." Whoa.  
And all the people said, "amen."  
Give thanks to the Lord, for His love never ends.  
And all the people said, "amen."**



If you're rich or poor, well, it don't matter.  
Weak or strong, you know love is what we're after.  
We're all broken, but we're all in this together.  
God knows we stumble and fall,  
And He so loved the world, He sent His son to save us all. **CHORUS**

Blessed are the poor in spirit who are torn apart.  
Blessed are the persecuted and the pure in heart.  
Blessed are the people hungry for another start,  
For theirs is the kingdom, the kingdom of God. **CHORUS**

## **Congregational Concerns**

### **Dismissal**

**Pastor:** Go in peace.  
Serve the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**



## **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*

*303-730-2514 [director@alcpreschool.com](mailto:director@alcpreschool.com)*

do JUSTICE  
love KINDNESS  
walk HUMBLY  
with your God

Micah 6:8, NRSV