

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

*September 27-28, 2025*

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



## **SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

### **THE TIME IS RIPE**

### **AS WE GATHER**

Though it sounds like a contradiction, the “poor rich man” in today’s parable of Jesus apparently never really heard or just ignored the dire warning of God’s prophets like Amos against trusting in earthly gain and riches to the exclusion of trusting faith in the merciful promises of God. The temptation of earthly wealth infects all people throughout history to this day, regardless of outward circumstances, rich and poor alike. Paul sums up the challenge for faith as he contrasts the “great gain” (or profit) of godly faithfulness and the temptations (or pitfalls) of temporary riches. We all know the sentence of Paul, “The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil” (1 Timothy 6:10), which is so often misquoted as only “money is the root of all evil.” Money is not the problem. There’s no sin in possessing earthly riches. The deeper question is what or who is the object of our love and trust. The Christian’s true riches are in Christ Jesus, namely, the new life we have been given through our baptismal faith. It is the life we can take with us through and beyond the grave and gate of death. “Praise the LORD, O my soul! I will praise the LORD as long as I live” (Psalm 146:1–2), which will be forever!

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

Piano Prelude

“Praise the Almighty”

Paul Manz

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn

“Praise the Almighty”

LBW 797

Invocation

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

People: **Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES**     *Psalm 43:4; 146:3, 5*

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

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

Pastor: Put not your trust in princes, in whom there is no salvation.

People: **Blessed is he whose hope is in the LORD his God.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**     *1 Timothy 1:17; Psalm 125:1*

Pastor: The First Commandment is first because “we should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.” Let us in true repentance and good faith direct the fear, love, and trust of our hearts and minds “to the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God.”

People: **Merciful God, the good fight of faith is fierce, the warfare between our love for You and the temptations of the world around us is long, even never-ending. We confess we have not loved You above all things, we are afraid at many times, and there is nothing and no one on earth worthy of our trust. In You, O Lord, we put our trust. In Your grace and forgiveness, let us never be ashamed. Deliver us in Your righteousness for the sake of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son.**

Pastor: “Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.” By your Baptism into Christ, God has pledged the forgiveness of all your sins and promised the eternal life to which you were called. Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

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

“Glory Be to God the Father”

LSB 506  
Verses 1-2

1 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther, Glo - ry be to  
2 Glo - ry be to Him who loved us, Washed us from each  
God the Son, Glo - ry be to God the Spir - it:  
spot and stain; Glo - ry be to Him who bought us,  
Great Je - ho - vah, Three in One! Glo - ry,  
Made us kings with Him to reign! Glo - ry,  
glo - ry While e - ter - nal a - ges run!  
glo - ry To the Lamb that once was slain!

✂ WORD ✂

**Old Testament Reading: Amos 6:1-7**

*(Woe to those at ease in Zion.)*

**“Woe to those who are at ease in Zion,  
and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria,  
the notable men of the first of the nations,  
to whom the house of Israel comes!**

**Pass over to Calneh, and see,  
and from there go to Hamath the great;  
then go down to Gath of the Philistines.**

**Are you better than these kingdoms?  
Or is their territory greater than your territory,  
O you who put far away the day of disaster  
and bring near the seat of violence?**

**“Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory  
and stretch themselves out  
on their couches,  
and eat lambs from the flock  
and calves from the midst of the stall,  
who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp  
and like David invent for themselves**

**instruments of music,  
who drink wine in bowls  
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,  
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!**

**Therefore they shall now be the first  
of those who go into exile,  
and the revelry of those who stretch  
themselves out shall pass away.”**

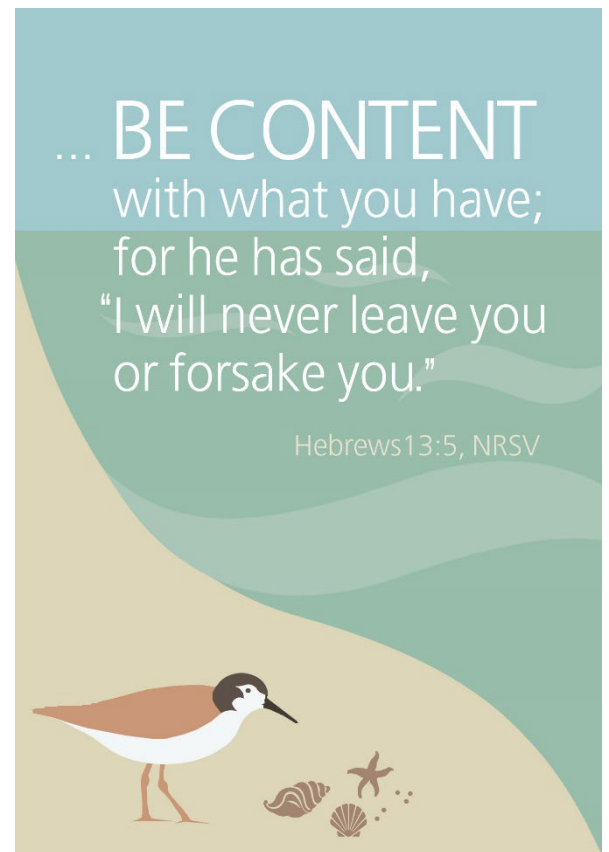
**Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.**

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle: 1 Timothy 6:6-19**

*(True contentment of faith)*

**But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.**



**But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.**

**As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.**

**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*



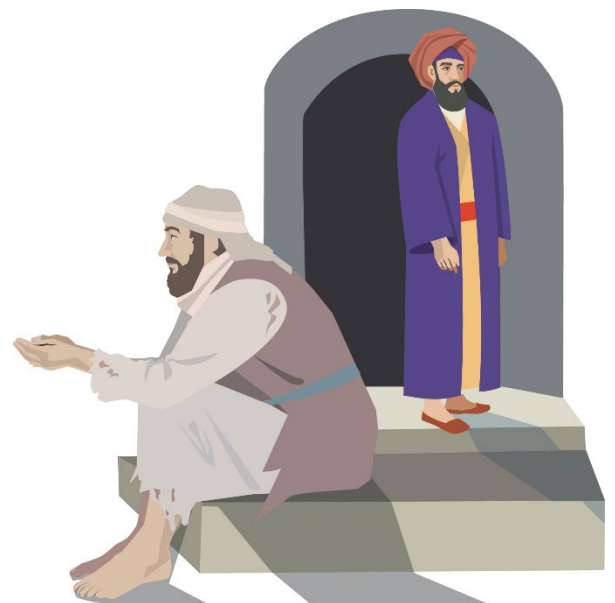
**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixteenth chapter.

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

**Holy Gospel: Luke 16:19-31**

*(The rich man and Lazarus)*

**“There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and**



**Lazarus & The Rich Man**



send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house—for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day “I Am Content!”

LSB 468  
Verses 1-2,4

Sermon “No Excuses: No Exceptions”

Pastor John Larson  
Text: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

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

Offering Music (8:00) “Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land” arr. Mark Arnold  
Gloria Dei Ringers

## ✠ 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** *2 Timothy 4:22*

**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.**

### **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. Through Him, Your majesty is praised by all the holy angels and celebrated with one accord by the heavens and all the powers therein. The cherubim and seraphim sing Your praise, and with them 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 Organ Music** "Fight the Good Fight"

Michael Burkhardt

**Hymn** "Fight the Good Fight"

*LSB 664*

**Hymn** "Seek Ye First"

*LSB 712*

### **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 "Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense"

LSB 741  
Verses 1-4

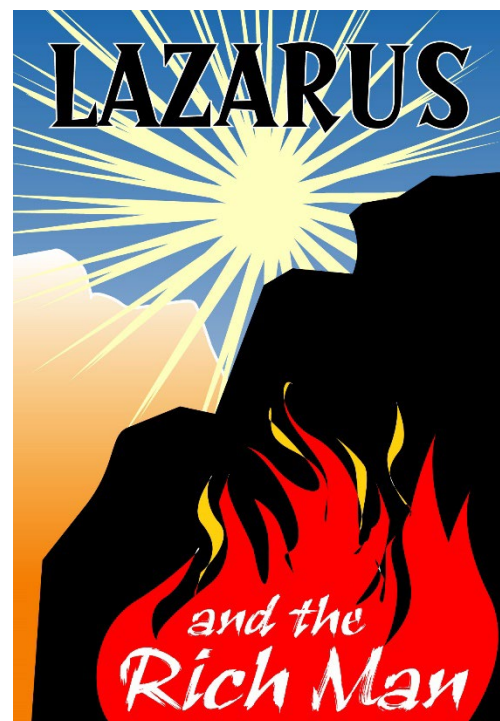
## Congregational Concerns

### Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace.  
Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude "Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense"  
Paul Manz



## SERVING IN WORSHIP

**PREACHER / CELEBRANT**

Pastor John Larson

**MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP / ORGANIST**

Michael Zehnder

**HANDBELL DIRECTOR**

Stephanie Roettjer

**ELDERS**

4:00 pm Bob Olsen; 8:00 am Arvin Michel; 10:30 am Michael Lawrenz

**ACOLYTE**

8:00 am Tobin Lawrenz; 10:30 am Parker Aldrich

**LECTORS**

4:00 pm Dick Castleman; 8:00 am Dawn Munson; 10:30 am Margo Pasha

**COMMUNION SERVERS**

4:00 pm Dick Castleman; 10:30 am Margo Pasha

**ALTAR GUILD**

Barbara Rutter, Lynne Nelson, Sharon Seible

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