

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

*September 28, 2025*

10:30 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 ✂

### Gathering Song

### GREAT ARE YOU LORD

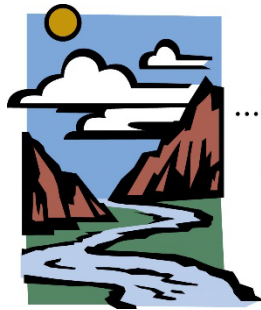
Leonard | Ingram | Jordan

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



...HOW WIDE AND LONG  
AND HIGH AND DEEP  
IS THE LOVE OF CHRIST.

EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV

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

### HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US

Townend

How deep the Father's love for us  
How vast beyond all measure  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure  
How great the pain of searing loss  
The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross  
My sin upon His shoulders  
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything  
No gifts no power no wisdom  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ  
His death and resurrection  
Why should I gain from His reward  
I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart  
His wounds have paid my ransom

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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; 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.**



✂ 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.”**

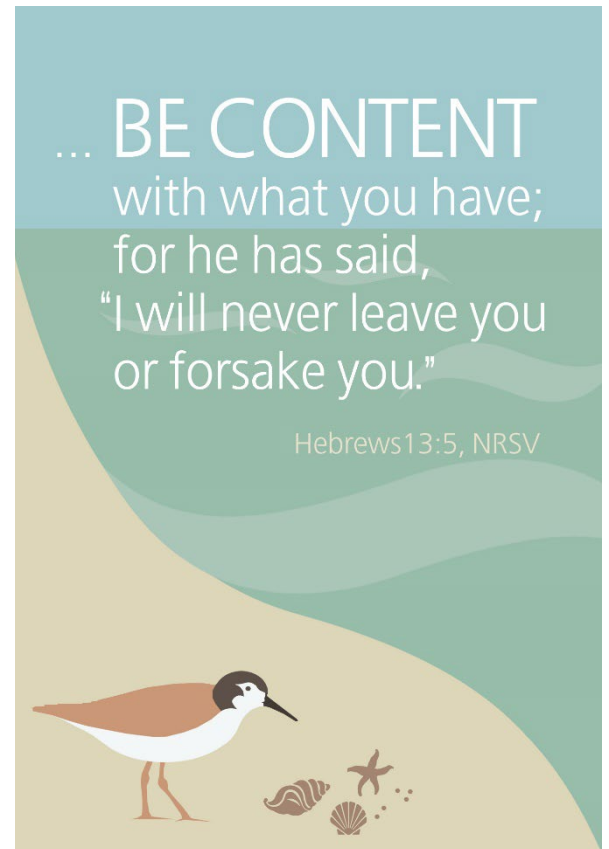
**Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.**

**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 Holy Gospel.*

**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 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**



**Lazarus & The Rich Man**



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.

## Children's Message

Stephanie Roettjer

## Song of the Day

## CORNERSTONE

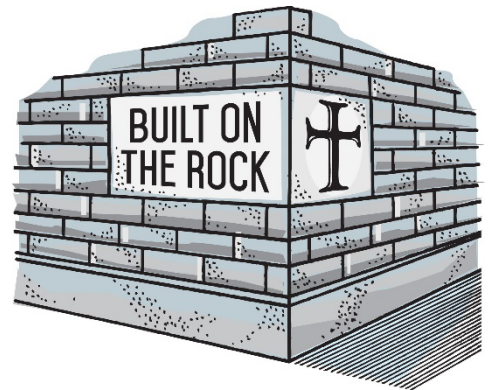
Myrin

My hope is built on nothing less,  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name.

**CHORUS: Christ alone. Cornerstone.**  
**Weak made strong in the Savior's love.**  
**Through the storm, He is Lord. Lord of all.**

When darkness seems to hide His face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale,  
My anchor holds within the veil. **CHORUS**

When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh may I then in Him be found.  
Dressed in His righteousness alone.  
Faultless to stand before the throne. **CHORUS**



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## Sermon

"No Exceptions: No Excuses"

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 (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** 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.**

**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**

**Song LORD I NEED YOU**

**Maher**

Lord, I come, I confess.  
Bowing here, I find my rest.  
And without You, I fall apart.  
You're the one that guides my heart.

**CHORUS: Lord, I need You, oh, I need You. Ev'ry hour I need You.  
My one defense, my righteousness; Oh, God, how I need You.**

**CHORUS: Lord, I need You, oh, I need You. Ev'ry hour I need You.  
My one defense, my righteousness; Oh, God, how I need You.**

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more.  
Where grace is found is where You are.  
And where You are, Lord, I am free.  
Holiness is Christ in me. **CHORUS**

So, teach my song to rise to You When temptation comes my way.  
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You.  
Jesus, You're my hope and stay. **CHORUS**

**Song        ONCE AGAIN (JESUS CHRIST)**

**Matt Redman**

Jesus Christ, I think upon Your sacrifice;  
You became nothing, poured out to death.  
Many times, I've wondered at your gift of life,  
And I'm in that place once again, I'm in that place once again.

**CHORUS: Once again, I look upon the cross where You died.  
I'm humbled by Your mercy and I'm broken inside.  
Once again I thank You, once again I pour out my life.**

Now You are exalted to the highest place,  
King of the Heavens, where one day I'll bow.  
But for now, I marvel at this saving grace,  
And I'm full of praise once again, I'm full of praise once again. **CHORUS**

Thank You for the cross. Thank You for the cross.  
Thank You for the cross, my friend.  
Thank You for the cross. Thank You for the cross.  
Thank You for the cross, my friend. **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

## BEAUTIFUL ONE

Hughes

Wonderful, so wonderful, is Your unfailing love.  
Your cross has spoken mercy over me.  
No eye has seen, no ear has heard,  
no heart could fully know  
how glorious, how beautiful You are.

**CHORUS: Beautiful One, I love You,  
beautiful One, I adore,  
beautiful One, my soul must sing.**

Powerful, so powerful, Your glory fills the skies,  
Your mighty works displayed for all to see.  
The beauty of Your majesty awakes my heart to sing.  
How marvelous, how wonderful You are. **CHORUS**

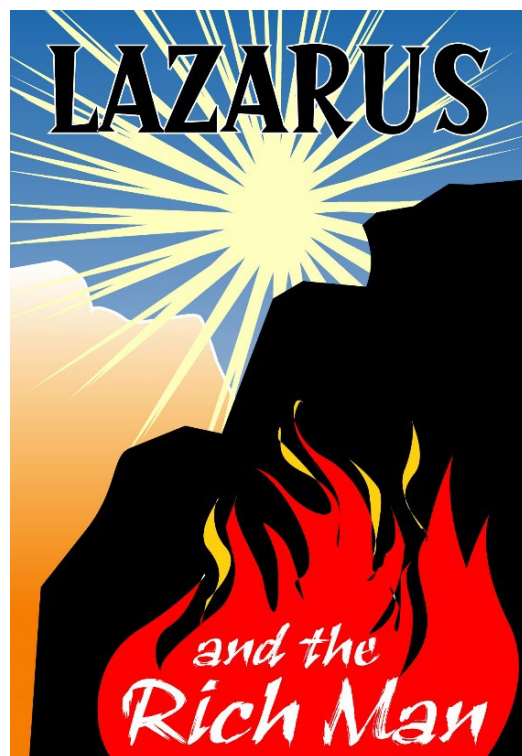
My soul, my soul must sing My soul, my soul must sing  
My soul, my soul must sing: Beautiful One!

## Congregational Concerns

### Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace.  
Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



## SERVING IN WORSHIP

**PREACHER / CELEBRANT**

**MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP / ORGANIST**

**HANDBELL DIRECTOR**

**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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*Extended Day Preschool*

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

Faith comes from hearing  
**THE MESSAGE,**  
and the message  
is heard through the  
**WORD OF CHRIST.**

Romans 10:17, NIV

