

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

September 7, 2025

8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / EDUCATION SUNDAY

FOLLOWING JESUS

AS WE GATHER

Bette Davis once quipped that growing old isn't for sissies. Neither is the Christian life. To be a disciple of Christ requires both courage and strength. Thanks be to God that these are not qualities inherent in the person but the gift of God and the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. The same Spirit who calls and gathers the elect also enlightens and sanctifies them in the one true faith. Through the resources of the Word and Sacraments, God is at work in us so that we may know the cost of discipleship, the scope of the battle before us, and the stakes as salt of the earth. He who calls us is faithful, and He will "bring to completion" all that He has begun in us. Today, we kick-off and celebrate the Educational Ministries at Ascension, which is one of three means God uses to "bring it to completion."

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Prelude

"O Come, Little Children"

Diane Bish

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn

"A Christian Home"

CH 451



1 O give us homes built firm up - on the Sav - ior, _____ Where Christ is Head and
2 O give us homes with god - ly fa - thers, moth - ers, _____ Who al - ways place their
3 O give us homes where Christ is Lord and Mas - ter, _____ The Bi - ble read, the

Coun - sel - or and Guide; _____ Where ev - 'ry child is taught His love and fav - or _____
hope and trust in Him; _____ Whose ten - der pa - tience tur - moil nev - er both - ers, _____
pre - cious hymns still sung; _____ Where pray'r comes first in peace or in di - sas - ter, _____

— And gives his heart to Christ, the Cru - ci - fied; _____ How sweet to know that,
— Whose calm and cour - age trou - ble can - not dim; _____ A home where each finds
— And praise is nat - ural speech to ev - ery tongue; _____ Where moun - tains move be -

tho' his foot - steps wa - ver, _____ His faith - ful Lord is walk - ing by his side.
joy in serv - ing oth - ers, _____ And love still shines, tho' days be dark and grim.
fore a faith that's vast - er, _____ And Christ suf - fi - cient is for old and young.

Invocation

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Most holy and merciful Father,

People: **we confess to You, and to one another, and to the whole company of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

Pastor: We have not loved You with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

People: Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.

Pastor: We have taken for granted Your grace and mercy and lived as though You did not matter and we mattered most of all.

People: Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.

Pastor: We confess to You, O Lord, that we have done the evil Your Word prohibits and have not done the good You command.

People: Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.

Pastor: We confess that we have hidden our sin from You and from one another and have not confessed honestly before You or to those whom we have hurt.

People: We are truly sorry for the sins we have committed in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done that is wrong and by our failure to do what is right. Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.

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. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

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.

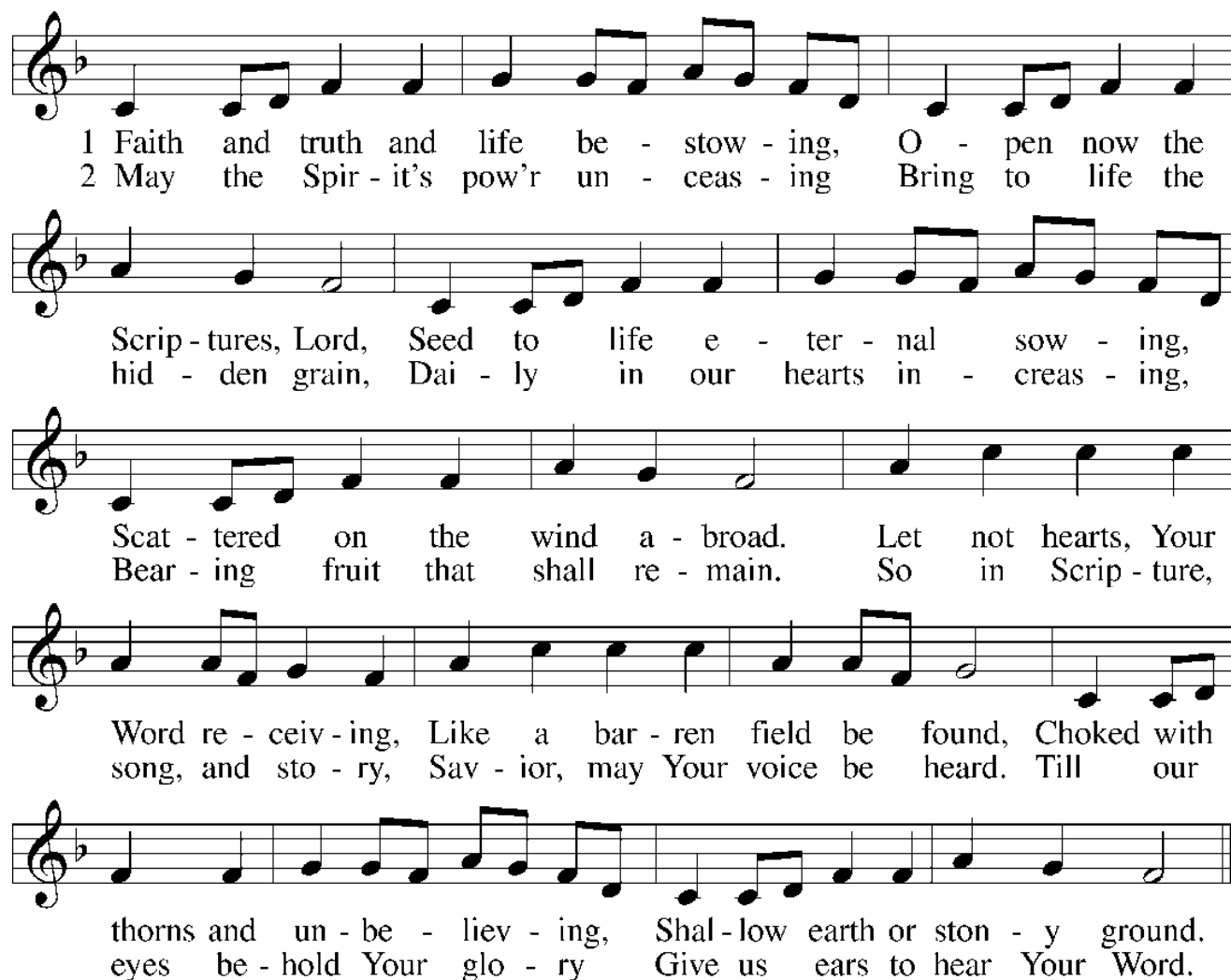
Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.





1 Faith and truth and life be - stow - ing, O - pen now the
2 May the Spir - it's pow'r un - ceas - ing Bring to life the

Scrip - tures, Lord, Seed to life e - ter - nal sow - ing,
hid - den grain, Dai - ly in our hearts in - creas - ing,

Scat - tered on the wind a - broad. Let not hearts, Your
Bear - ing fruit that shall re - main. So in Scrip - ture,

Word re - ceiv - ing, Like a bar - ren field be found, Choked with
song, and sto - ry, Sav - ior, may Your voice be heard. Till our

thorns and un - be - liev - ing, Shal - low earth or ston - y ground.
eyes be - hold Your glo - ry Give us ears to hear Your Word.

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✕ WORD ✕

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

(I have set before you this day life and good, death and evil.)

See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall



not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Philemon 1-21

(Paul's letter commending the slave Onesimus back to his master, not only as a slave but as a brother in the Lord.)

Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our beloved fellow worker and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus—I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. I would

have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a bondservant but



Paul's Plea for Onesimus

more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please rise for the Verse and the Holy Gospel.

VERSE *Galatians 6:14*

Pastor: Alleluia. Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,

People: by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Alleluia.

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel: Luke 14:25-35

(Jesus speaks of the cost of discipleship and calls on those who would follow Him to deny themselves and take up the cross.)

Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

“Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message (10:30)

Pastor Larson

Hymn of the Day "Shepherd of Tender Youth"

LSB 864

Sermon "Built to Last"

Pastor John Larson
Text: Ephesians 2:19-22

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!



INSTALLATION AND DEDICATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND STAFF

Lori Rolling
Jackie Viren
Christa Kirschner
Krissy Schwerin
Meghan O'Connell
Katie Brehmer

Ann Kaneko
Stephanie Roettjer
Elaine English
Dianne Patterson
Jenna Lawrenz

Offering *(4:00 pm and 10:30 am - collected in back; 8:00 am – collected in the pews)*

Offering Music (8:00) "O Come, Little Children" Michael Burkhardt

✠ 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

Special Music (8:00) "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God (with 'Jesus Loves Me')"
Michael Burkhardt

Special Music – Duet (10:30) "The 91st Psalm" Lisa Lindeman, composer
Jenna Lawrenz and Christa Kirschner, soloists (and Lisa's daughters)

Hymn "Jesus Loves Me" *LSB 588*

Hymn "God Loves Me Dearly" *LSB 392*

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**

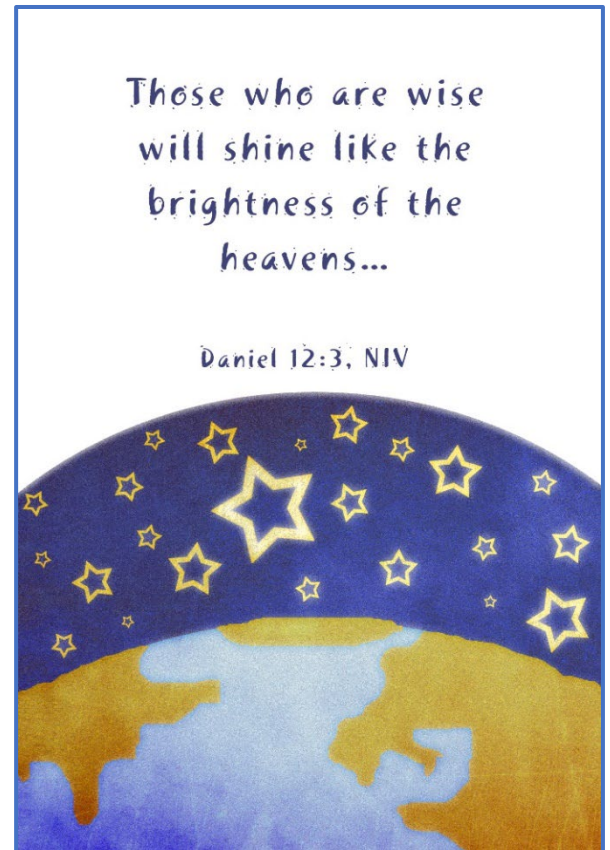
Closing Hymn "Earth and All Stars" *LSB 817*
Verses 1-3, 5-6

Congregational Concerns

Distribution of Bibles (3rd Graders) and Luther's Small Catechisms (7th Graders)

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace.
Serve the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**
Postlude "Toccata Brevis"
Daniel Gawthrop



SERVING IN WORSHIP

PREACHER / CELEBRANT	Pastor John Larson
MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP / ORGANIST	Michael Zehnder
SOLOISTS	Jenna Lawrenz and Christa Kirschner
DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (DCE)	Stephanie Roettjer
ELDERS	4:00 pm Jim Wert & Michael Lawrenz; 8:00 am Bob Olsen; 10:30 am David Pearman
ACOLYTE	8:00 am Colette Dallet; 10:30 am Maria Olson
LECTORS	4:00 pm Anita Baresel; 8:00 am Lisa Wert; 10:30 am Jackie Warren
COMMUNION SERVERS	4:00 pm Anita Baresel; 10:30 am Jackie Warren
ALTAR GUILD	Barbara Rutter, Lynne Nelson, Sharon Seible

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For
**THE WAYS
OF THE
LORD**
*are right, and the just
shall walk in them.*

HOSEA 14:9, KJV