

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

October 12, 2025
10:30 a.m. Sunday



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP

AS WE GATHER

From the very beginning following the creation of humanity, the Lord made His people managers, or stewards, of His good and perfect creation. Even in our imperfect world since the fall into sin, the duty and privilege to manage all God gives is still humanity's role and responsibility. As we strive to faithfully uphold the responsibilities given, we realize it often takes sacrifice. Cain and Abel's offerings caused different responses from the Lord and led Cain to a sinful response. Paul faithfully managed the gift of the Gospel to the ends of the earth to the end of his life, even as he was "poured out as a drink offering" (2 Timothy 4:6). In Luke 18, Jesus calls us to humility in our stewardship and in our service as a faithful response to His grace. Through it all, Christ's sacrifice compels our humble sacrificial living and giving in response to all we have been given.

✂ PREPARATION ✂

Gathering Song LET IT BE SAID OF US

Fry

Let it be said of us that the Lord was our passion,
That with gladness we bore every cross we were given;
That we fought the good fight, and we finished the course;
Knowing within us the power of the risen Lord.

CHORUS: Let the cross be our glory and the Lord be our song!
By mercy made holy, by the Spirit made strong.
Let the cross be our glory and the Lord be our song!
Till the likeness of Jesus be through us made known.
Let the cross be our glory and the Lord be our song.

Let it be said of us, we were marked by forgiveness;
We were known by our love and delighted in mercy;
We were ruled by His peace, heeding unity's call,
Joined as one body that Christ would be seen by all. **CHORUS**

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Pastoral Greeting

Opening Song GRATITUDE

Brandon Lake

All my words fall short, I got nothing new
How could I express, All my gratitude
I could sing these songs, As I often do
But every song must end, And You never do

CHORUS So I throw up my hands,
And praise You again and again
'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah, hallelujah
And I know it's not much,
But I've nothing else fit for a king
Except for a heart singing hallelujah, Hallelujah
I've got one response
I've got just one move
With my arms stretched wide
I will worship You (**CHORUS**)

Come on my soul, Oh don't you get shy on me
Lift up your song 'Cause you've got a lion inside of those lungs
Get up and praise the Lord (Sing 3 times)

(CHORUS)



Invocation

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalms 111:1–8*

Pastor: Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

People: **Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.**

Pastor: Full of splendor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever.

People: **He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

Pastor: He provides food for those who fear Him; He remembers His covenant forever.

People: **He has shown His people the power of His works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

Pastor: The works of His hands are faithful and just; all His precepts are trustworthy;

People: **they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalms 32:5; 124:8*

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, approaching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

People: Our help is in the name of the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"

People: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Pastor: Since the fall into sin in the Garden of Eden, humanity has turned away from Your will and ways. We have followed our own selfish desires. From Cain's murder of Abel to Paul's unjust imprisonment for proclaiming and confessing Your name to our own misguided perceptions of self-righteousness in the name of faith, sin has continued to be present in our thoughts, words, actions, stewardship, and lives. Recognizing our waywardness and sinfulness, we come to You, O almighty God, merciful Father.

People: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and**

death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Pastor: Even in our sinfulness, God does not leave us in our fallen state nor give us the punishment we deserve. To a guilty Adam and Eve, He promised One who would bruise the head of the serpent. To a guilty Cain, He gave a mark that would spare attacks on his life. To Paul, a persecutor of Christians as Saul and a converted witness to the power of a living Savior, who faced the wrath of guilty authorities for their attempt to silence the Gospel, He brought him safely to His heavenly kingdom. To the ones guilty of haughtiness and pride, He graciously taught humbleness.

To us, imperfect stewards who are guilty of sins against God and our neighbors, our heavenly Father has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name, He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son of the Holy Spirit.

He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all.

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

Old Testament Reading: Ruth 1:1-19

(Ruth's loyalty to widow Naomi)

In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the Lord had visited his people and given them



food. So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!" Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. And they said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the Lord has gone out against me." Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, "Is this Naomi?"

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: 2 Timothy 2:1-13

(A good soldier of Jesus Christ)

You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for:

**If we have died with him, we will also live with him;
if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he also will deny us;
if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself.**

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 seventeenth chapter.

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

Holy Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

(Jesus cleanses ten lepers.)

On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee.

And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying,

“Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.”

When he saw them he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.”

And as they went they were cleansed.

Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus

answered, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” And he said to him,

“Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Song of the Day “Take My Life and Let It Be”

LSB 784

Sermon “Blessed to Give”

Pastor John Larson

Text: Acts 20:35

The Nicene Creed

(found in the back of the hymnal)



Prayer of the Church – Stewardship Sunday

Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord for His church, for all Christians, and for everyone as they have need...God of mercy, You have made known to us Your Word, and from that Word we have come to know Jesus. Guard our unity in Christ, and give us the Holy Spirit, that we may work together in peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Send down upon Your church, Your Body, the grace of Your Holy Spirit that we may be united in faith and in the confession of Your name. Keep us from thinking too highly of ourselves than we ought. Give strength, wisdom, and understanding to those who confess your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Hear the prayers of those who cry out to You in any need or want and daily and richly supply Your people with all they need for this body and life. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Give ear to Your people and to those who govern in every place, that we may enjoy the blessing of good government and good leaders and so reflect this gift by faithful stewardship of Your gifts and good citizenship wherever we live. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lift up those who have been brought low by illness, affliction, a troubled heart or mind, or grief over the loss of those whom they love, that Your grace may support, defend, and heal them in the day of trouble. [Hear us especially for . . .] Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: By the power of Your Holy Spirit, bring us to repentance and faith that no sin may prove harmful to us and we may be strengthened and nourished in faith by this Holy Communion with the body and blood of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Though we have every treasure of this moment, without Your grace we live in poverty of life and spirit. Grant to us eyes to see, ears to hear, and a grateful heart to give thanks to You for all Your kindness to us, and inspire us to be faithful in tithes and offerings and generous to those in need. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**



Additional petitions may be included here.

Pastor: As You are one, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, make us one people on earth, united in the confession of Your name, until that day when every barrier and division shall be overcome and Your church on earth and Your church in heaven shall be one forevermore; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray.

People: **Amen.**

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

GRACE LIKE RAIN

Todd Agnew

Amazing grace how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found Was blind but now I see so clearly

CHORUS: Hallelujah grace like rain falls down on me
Hallelujah all my stains are washed away
(They're washed away)

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed **CHORUS**

INSTRUMENTAL

When we've been there ten thousand years Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing Your praise Than when we'd first begun **CHORUS X2**

Hallelujah yeah Hallelujah yeah
Hallelujah yeah oh yeah
Hallelujah all my stains are washed away
They're washed away

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Song

FREELY FREELY

Carol Owens

God forgave my sin in Jesus' name
I've been born again in Jesus' name
And in Jesus' name I come to you
To share His love as He told me to

CHORUS: He said freely freely
You have received
Freely freely give
Go in My name
And because you believe
Others will know that I live

All pow'r is giv'n in Jesus' name
In earth and heav'n in Jesus' name
And in Jesus' name I come to you
To share His pow'r as He told me to **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 LORD, REIGN IN ME

Brown

Over all the earth, You reign on high,
every mountain stream, every sunset sky.
But my one request, Lord, my only aim
is that You'd reign in me again.

**CHORUS: Lord, reign in me, reign in Your power;
over all my dreams, in my darkest hour.
You are the Lord of all I am,
so won't You reign in me again.**

Over every thought, over every word,
may my life reflect the beauty of my Lord;
'Cause You mean more to me than any earthly thing.
So won't you reign in me again. **CHORUS X2**

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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 / ORGANIST

Michael Zehnder

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Stephanie Roettjer

CHOIR ACCOMPANIST

Diana Gaide

ELDERS

4:00 pm Jim Wert; 8:00 am John Klepetka; 10:30 am David Pearman

ACOLYTE

8:00 am Ellise Friend; 10:30 am Parker Aldrich

LECTORS

4:00 pm Mike Price; 8:00 am Joyce Lord; 10:30 am Sherry Hitztaler

COMMUNION SERVERS

4:00 pm Mike Price 10:30 am Sherry Hitztaler

ALTAR GUILD

Tanya Schmitt, Sharon Seible, Shelia Beu

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Extended Day Preschool

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