

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

October 19, 2025
10:30 a.m. Sunday



NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PERSISTENCE PAYS

AS WE GATHER

From an early age, many of us learned that persistent pestering is rude, as parents make this clear to children who repeatedly ask for the same things over and over. We are thankful that our heavenly Father never grows weary of our asking Him for what we need, no matter how repetitive our requests may be. As we see in Jacob's persistent proclamation, "I will not let You go unless You bless me" (Genesis 32:26), in Paul's exhortation to continually persist in what we have learned and believed (2 Timothy 3:14), and in Jesus' parable of the persistent widow (Luke 18:1–8), we know we can bring all things to our heavenly Father persistently in prayer, trusting through it all that His will would be done.

✂ PREPARATION ✂

Gathering Song

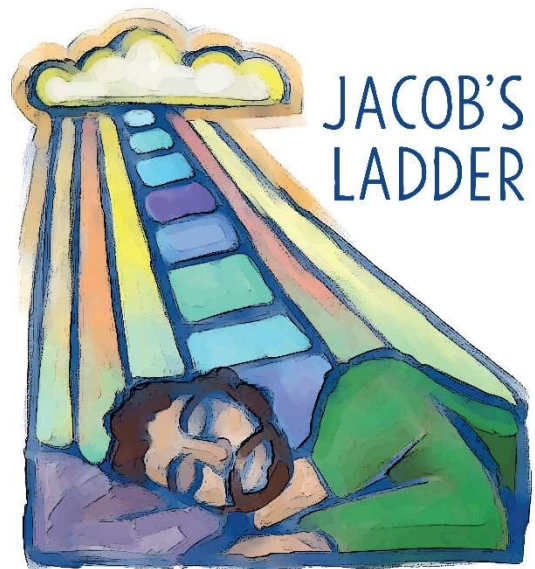
JACOB'S LADDER

We are climbing Jacob's ladder;
We are climbing Jacob's ladder;
We are climbing Jacob's ladder,
Soldiers of the cross.

Ev'ry round goes higher, higher;
Ev'ry round goes higher, higher;
Ev'ry round goes higher, higher,
Soldiers of the cross.

Sinners, do you love my Jesus?
Sinners, do you love my Jesus?
Sinners, do you love my Jesus?
Soldiers of the cross.

If you love him, why not serve him?
If you love him, why not serve him?
If you love him, why not serve him?
Soldiers of the cross.



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

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18; Philippians 4:6; 1 John 5:14; Jeremiah 29:12; Hebrews 4:16; Psalm 145:18

Pastor: Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

People: **Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.**

Pastor: This is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us.

People: **Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will hear you.**

Pastor: Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

People: **The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 34:17; 1 John 1:8–9*

Pastor: As the Psalmist writes, “When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.” Our Lord hears our cries and invites us to speak to Him in our words and thoughts—to speak to Him in prayer.

People: **We confess that we have failed to bring all things to You in persistent and persevering prayer, instead seeking our own devices and other means for the guidance, direction, and answers we seek.**

Pastor: Our Lord also invites us to bring to Him our faults and failings, our sins of what has been done and left undone, against Him and against our neighbors. We are reminded, “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Unlike Jacob, we have been quick to give up and to discount the blessings held in store for us by Your grace.

People: **Forgive us, Lord.**

Pastor: As Paul writes, we confess we have not always endured sound teaching; rather, our itching ears have been opened to things that suit our own passions and desires.

People: Forgive us, Lord.

Pastor: As in Jesus' parable, we seek out our own justice and even retribution for times we are wronged, impatient in our waiting and unrighteous in our trust in the perfect justice assured at Your time.

People: Forgive us, Lord.

Pastor: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

✠ **WORD** ✠

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 32:22-30

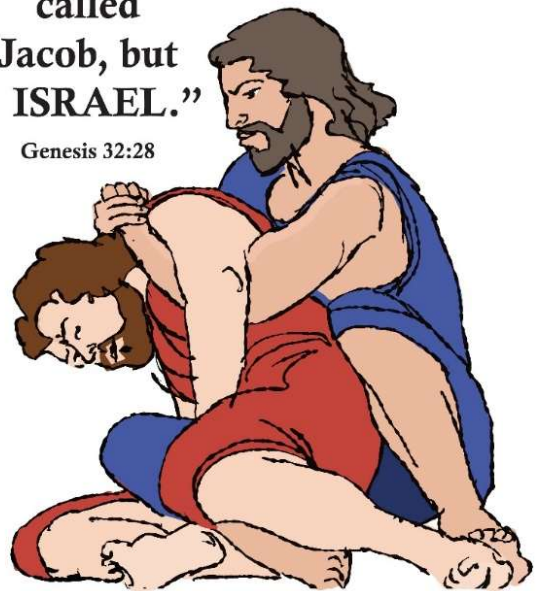
(Jacob wrestles with God.)

The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. And Jacob was left alone.

And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered.""

"Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but **ISRAEL.**"

Genesis 32:28



Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

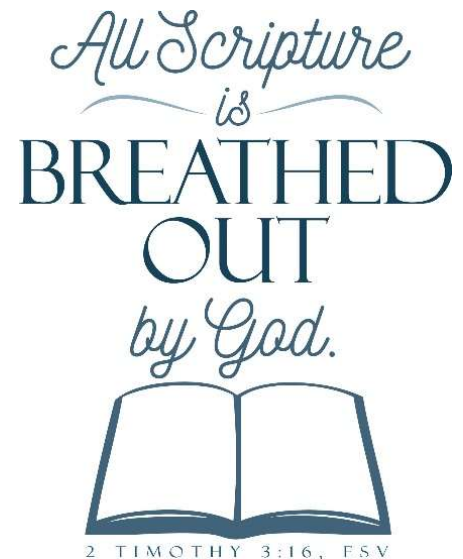
People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

(Continuing in and preaching the Word)

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. But as for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.



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 eighteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

(The parable of the persistent widow)

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

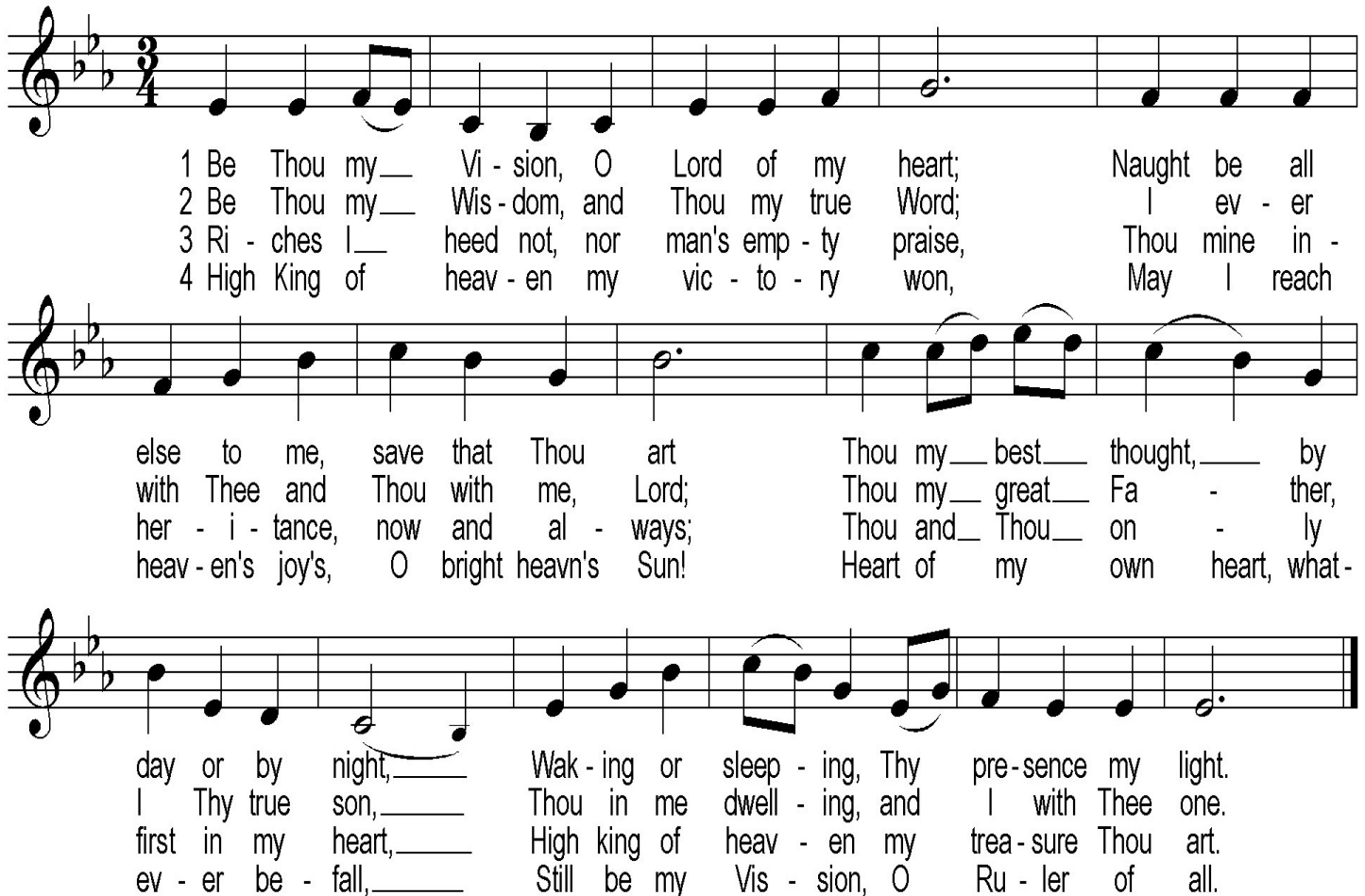
Children's Message

Jenna Lawrenz

Song of the Day

"Be Thou My Vision"

BOB 20



1 Be Thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all
2 Be Thou my Wis - dom, and Thou my true Word; I ev - er
3 Ri - ches I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise, Thou mine in -
4 High King of heav - en my vic - to - ry won, May I reach
else to me, save that Thou art Thou my best thought, by
with Thee and Thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Fa - ther,
her - i - tance, now and al - ways; Thou and Thou on - ly
heav - en's joy's, O bright heav'n's Sun! Heart of my own heart, what -
day or by night, Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pre - sence my light.
I Thy true son, Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with Thee one.
first in my heart, High king of heav - en my trea - sure Thou art.
ev - er be - fall, Still be my Vis - sion, O Ru - ler of all.

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Sermon

"The Life of Jacob"

Pastor John Larson

Text: Genesis 32:22-30

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 **GOODNESS OF GOD**
Johnson, / Cash et al.

I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me All my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God



CHORUS

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice You have led me through the fire
In darkest night You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God **CHORUS**

Your goodness is running after It's running after me
Your goodness is running after It's running after me
With my life laid down I'm surrendered now
I give You everything Your goodness is running after
It's running after me (Repeat)

CHORUS

Ben Fielding, Brian Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, Jenn Johnson CCLI Song #7117726 © 2018 Capitol CMG Paragon; SHOUT! Music Publishing Australia; Fellow Ships Music; So Essential Tunes; Bethel Music Publishing For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License #1903595

Song

HOW HE LOVES US

McMillan/Crowder

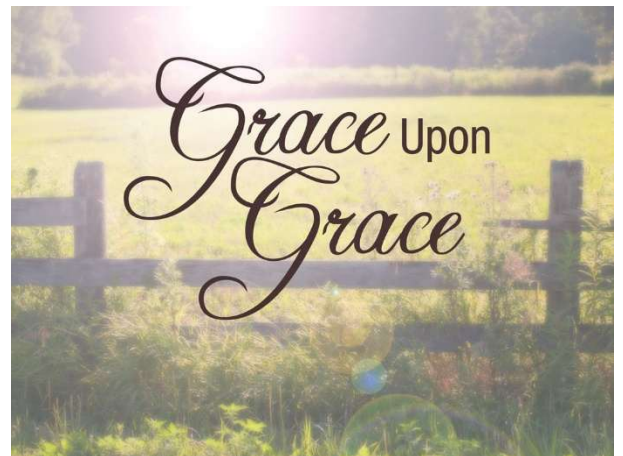
He is jealous for me,
Love's like a hurricane, I am a tree,
Bending beneath the weight of His wind and mercy.
When all of a sudden,
I am unaware of these afflictions eclipsed by glory,
And I realize just how beautiful You are,
And how great Your affections are for me.

And, oh, how He loves us, oh,
Oh, how He loves us, How He loves us all.

And we are His portion and He is our prize,
Drawn to redemption by the grace in His eyes.
If His grace is an ocean, we're all sinking.
And Heaven meets earth like an unforeseen kiss,
And my heart turns violently inside of my chest.
I don't have time to maintain these regrets
When I think about the way...

That He loves us, Oh, how He loves us,
Oh, how He loves us, Oh, how He loves.

Yeah, He loves us, Oh, how He loves us,
Oh, how He loves us, Oh, how He loves. **2X**



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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

PRAISE

Lake, Moore, Brown, et al

I'll praise in the valley
Praise on the mountain
I'll praise when I'm sure
Praise when I'm doubting
I'll praise when outnumbered
Praise when surrounded
'Cause praise is the water
My enemies drown in

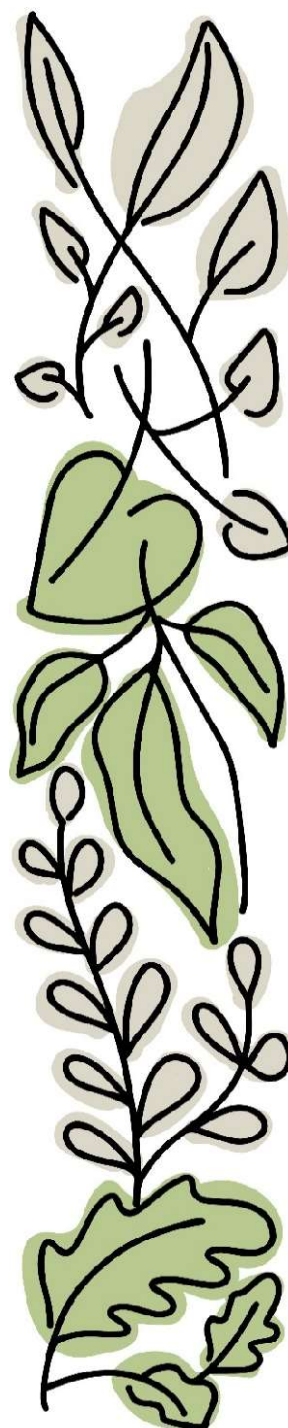
As long as I'm breathing, I've got a reason to
Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul

I'll praise when I feel it
And I'll praise when I don't
I'll praise 'cause I know
You're still in control
'Cause my praise is a weapon
It's more than a sound
My praise is the shout
That brings Jericho down
As long as I'm breathing, I've got a reason to...

Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul
I won't be quiet
My God is alive
How could I keep it inside
Praise the Lord oh my soul

I'll praise 'cause You're sovereign
Praise 'cause You reign
Praise 'cause You rose and defeated the grave
I'll praise 'cause You're faithful
Praise 'cause You're true
Praise 'cause there's nobody greater than You

Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul
I won't be quiet, my God is alive



How could I keep it inside?
Praise the Lord oh my soul

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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

YOUTH PRAISE BAND

ELDERS

4:00 pm Benjamin Dallet; 8:00 am Arvin Michel; 10:30 am Michael Lawrenz

ACOLYTE

8:00 am Juliette Dallet; 10:30 am Abby Williams

LECTORS

4:00 pm Dick Castleman; 8:00 am Margo Pasha; 10:30 am Roland Scott

COMMUNION SERVERS

4:00 pm Dick Castleman; 10:30 am Roland Scott

ALTAR GUILD

Tanya Schmitt, Sharon Seible



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Extended Day Preschool

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