

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

October 4-5, 2025

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



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

YOUR UNWORTHY PASTOR

AS WE GATHER

This is a difficult day for your pastor. For you are, in a sense, listening in to our Lord speaking to him of His high expectations as His called and ordained servant. It all has to do with addressing his sins with the cutting accusation of God's Law, but with the goal of applying the comforting healing and hope of God's Gospel of forgiveness and strength. Yet, if you listen carefully, you will discover that it's not only about your pastor's frailty or sins, but it is also Christ addressing your sins and need through him. The pastor's calling is, at once, a most difficult one but also the most joyous and fulfilling calling and vocation. Your pastor has the responsibility and obligation not to mislead you into sin but to apply the remedy for it. Preaching and teaching the Word of Christ, and administering that Word of forgiveness of sin and new life through the Sacraments, is not primarily the pastor's work but is indeed the work of Christ Himself. The pastor pours baptismal water, and the believer dies and is raised with Christ. The pastor does no magical incantation, but Christ speaks through him. The bread and wine are Christ's body and blood for you that takes away your sin (and the pastor's!), imparting forgiveness and eternal life. Pray for your pastor, as he prays for you. Forgive your pastor, as he lives by the same forgiveness he declares to you.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Prelude "The Lord, My God, Be Praised" arr. Brad Hall

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn "The Lord, My God, Be Praised" *LSB 794*

Invocation

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 43:4; Habakkuk 2:4, adapt.*

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

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

Pastor: Behold the proud, his soul is not upright,

People: **but the righteous shall live by his faith.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Luke 17:1, 5; 2 Timothy 1:8–9*

Pastor: When the Lord Jesus warned His disciples, "Temptations to sin are sure to come," the apostles said, "Increase our faith!" Let us confess our own weakness and sin, asking the same of our gracious and merciful God.

People: **O God, Your Law is true and my delight. Yet because we still feebly struggle against sin, we confess our weakness and failure to live according to Your holy will. Our lack of faithfulness toward You causes us to hesitate or even refuse to love and forgive our neighbors. O God, increase our faith! Forgive us and renew our minds and spirit that we may serve You by faithfully serving our neighbor.**

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, "by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of His own purpose and grace, which He gave us in Christ Jesus," I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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.**

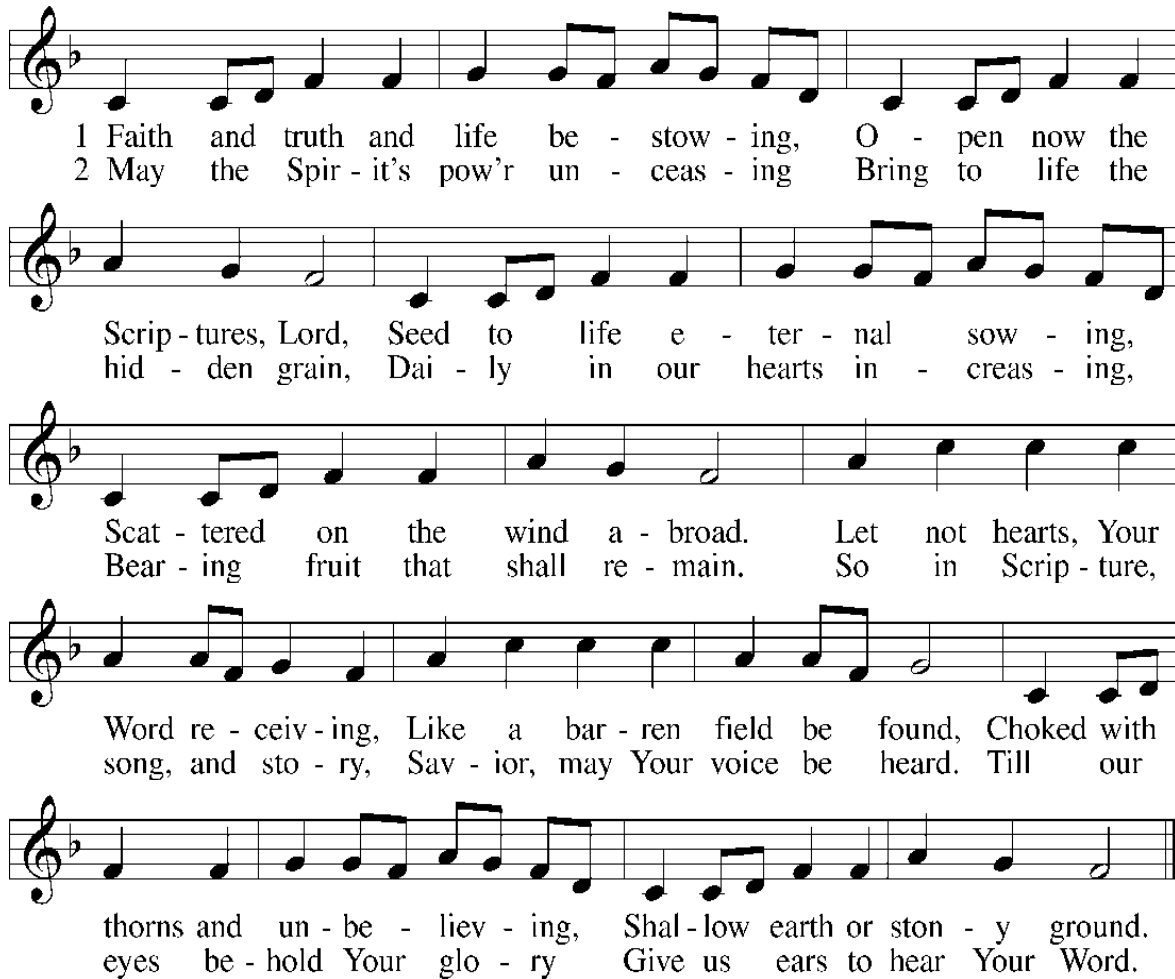
Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Faith and Life Bestowing"

LSB 584



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: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

(Though evil seems to prevail, "the righteous shall live by his faith.")

The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw.

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not hear?

Or cry to you "Violence!"
and you will not save?

Why do you make me see iniquity,
and why do you idly look at wrong?

**Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.**

**So the law is paralyzed,
and justice never goes forth.**

**For the wicked surround the righteous;
so justice goes forth perverted.**

**I will take my stand at my watchpost
and station myself on the tower,
and look out to see what he will say to me,
and what I will answer concerning my complaint.**

And the Lord answered me:

**“Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so he may run who reads it.**

**For still the vision awaits its appointed time;
it hastens to the end—it will not lie.**

**If it seems slow, wait for it;
it will surely come; it will not delay.**

**“Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him,
but the righteous shall live by his faith.**

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

(“Guard the good deposit entrusted to you.”)

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,

To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, or God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light

**THE WORKS OF
HIS HANDS**



----- ARE -----
**FAITHFUL
and JUST.**

P S A L M 1 1 1 : 7

through the gospel, for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted 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 *John 6:68*



Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter-nal life. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

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

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

Holy Gospel: Luke 17:1-10

(Temptations to sin)

And he said to his disciples, "Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

"Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and recline at table'? Will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink'? Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'"

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn of the Day

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

LSB 575

Sermon

"Increase Our Faith"

Pastor John Larson

Text: Luke 17:1-10

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

Offering Music (8:00) “Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise”
arr. Franklin D. Ashdown

✠ 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)

LSB 160

Proper 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, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven 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 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" arr. Amanda Husberg

Hymn "The Infant Priest Was Lowly Born" *LSB 624*
Verses 1-3, 6-7

Hymn "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" *LSB 702*

General Communion Blessing



**BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO TRUSTS IN THE LORD, AND
WHOSE HOPE IS THE LORD. JEREMIAH 17:7, NKJV**

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 "Savior Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise" *LSB 917*

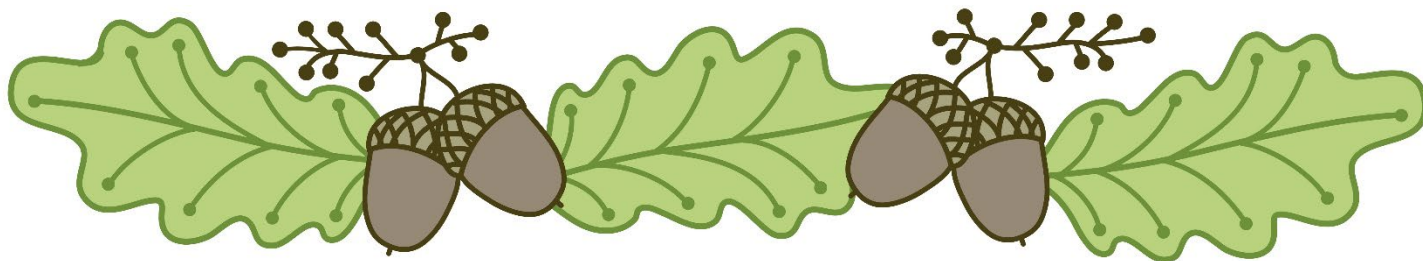
Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace.
Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" arr. Ryan Meyer



SERVING IN WORSHIP

PREACHER / CELEBRANT

Pastor John Larson

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP

Michael Zehnder

ORGANIST

Nancy Nordby

ELDERS

4:00 pm Jeff Dunker; 8:00 am John Klepetka; 10:30 am Michael Lawrenz

ACOLYTE

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

LECTORS

4:00 pm Anita Baresel; 8:00 am Joyce Dowdy; 10:30 am Jackie Warren

COMMUNION SERVERS

4:00 pm Anita Baresel; 10:30 am Jackie Warren

ALTAR GUILD

Tanya Schmitt, Sharon Seible, Shelia Beu



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