

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

October 5, 2025
10:30 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 ✂

Gathering Song

ONE THING REMAINS

Johnson

Higher than the mountains that I face,
stronger than the power of the grave.
Constant in the trial and the change.
One thing remains, one thing remains

**CHORUS: Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love.**

On and on and on and on it goes.
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul.
And I never, ever have to be afraid.
One thing remains, one thing remains.

CHORUS

In death, in life, I'm confident and covered
by the power of Your great love.
My debt is paid; there's nothing that can
separate
my heart from Your great love. **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)

Benjamin Hastings, Brandon Lake, Dante Bowe CCLI Song #7158417 © 2019 Bethel Worship Publishing; Brandon Lake Music; Maverick City Publishing; Maverick City Publishing Worldwide; SHOUT! Music Publishing Australia; Bethel Music Publishing All rights reserved. Invocation

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.**

☩ 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 through the gospel, for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and

THE WORKS OF
HIS HANDS



----- ARE -----
FAITHFUL
and **JUST.**
P S A L M 1 1 1 : 7

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 Holy Gospel.

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.**

Children's Message



*"...how often should
I forgive?
"Not **SEVEN** times,
but, I tell you,
**SEVENTY-
SEVEN**
times."*

Matthew 18:21-22, NRSV

Pastor Larson

Song of the Day

“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

LSB 575

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

**REFRAIN: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.**

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. **REFRAIN**

His oath, his covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. **REFRAIN**

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne!

**REFRAIN: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.**

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 *(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.**



PSALM 119:114, ESV

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 **WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME** **Ligertwood/Fielding**

You were the Word at the beginning One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation Now revealed in You our Christ

**CHORUS: What a beautiful Name it is, What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is, Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is, The Name of Jesus**

You didn't want heaven without us So Jesus, You brought heaven down
My sin was great, Your love was greater What could separate us now **CHORUS**

Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You
You silenced the boast, of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring, the praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again You have no rival, You have no equal
Now and forever, God you reign Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name, above all names

What a powerful Name it is, What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is, Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is, The Name of Jesus

Song**THE WONDERFUL CROSS****Tomlin**

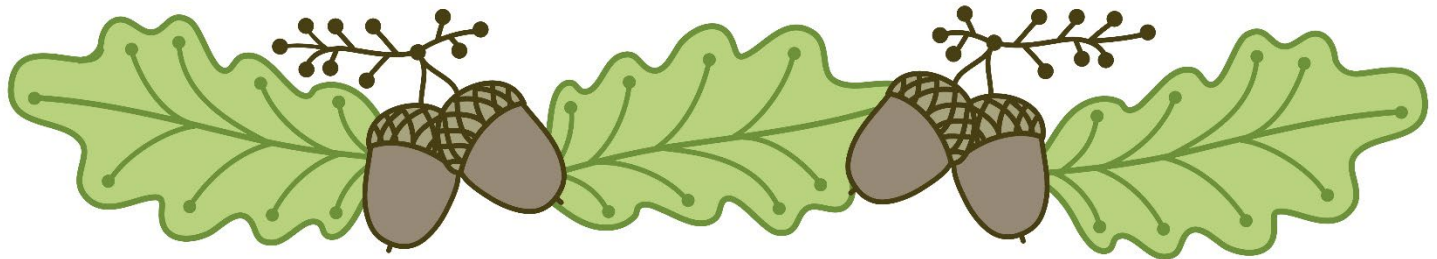
When I survey the wondrous cross,
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

**CHORUS: O, the wonderful cross, O, the wonderful cross,
Bids me come and die and find That I may truly live.
O, the wonderful cross, O, the wonderful cross,
All who gather here by grace
Draw near and bless Your name.**

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small?
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all. **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**MY LIGHTHOUSE****Rend Collective**

In my wrestling and in my doubts; In my failures You won't walk out
Your great love will lead me through; You are the peace in my troubled sea (whoa-oh),
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

In the silence, You won't let go; In the questions, Your truth will hold
Your great love will lead us through; You are the peace in my troubled sea (whoa-oh),
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

CHORUS

My lighthouse, my lighthouse; Shining in the darkness. I will follow You, oh,
My lighthouse, my lighthouse; I will trust the promise
You will carry me safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh);
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh);
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh); Safe to shore.

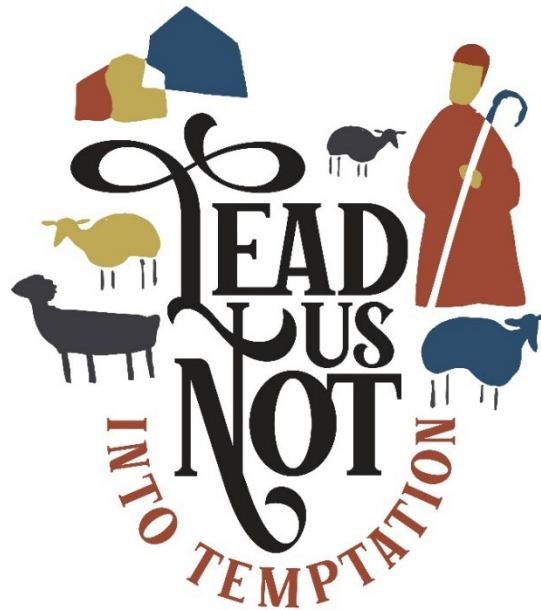
I won't fear what tomorrow brings; With each morning I'll rise and sing
My God's love will lead me through; You are the peace in my troubled sea (whoa-oh),
You are the peace in my troubled sea. **CHORUS**

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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

ELDERS

ACOLYTE

LECTORS

COMMUNION SERVERS

ALTAR GUILD

Pastor John Larson

Michael Zehnder

Nancy Nordby

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

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

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

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Tanya Schmitt, Sharon Seible, Shelia Beu



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Extended Day Preschool

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God has not given
us a spirit of
fear, ^{but} _{of}
power
^{and} _{of} **love** ^{and} _{of} a
sound mind.

2 timothy 1:7, NKJV