

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

January 10-11, 2026

4:00 p.m. Saturday, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD THE SPIRIT-MARKED SERVANT AS WE GATHER

All people are descendants of the first man, Adam. After the worldwide flood of God's judgment of sin, Noah and his sons became the progenitors of all mankind. It was of the lineage of Shem

(Genesis 11) that the man Abram was born. The descendants of Abram/Abraham were named Hebrews or Jews, after Judah, one of Jacob's sons; this naming pertained to all of Israel after the Babylonian exile. To this day, they are referred to as God's "chosen people" after the words of Moses: "For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth" (Deuteronomy 7:6). They were chosen to be the lineage of the Messiah, the deliverer, the Christ. Faithful to His promise, God took on flesh "of the house and lineage of David" (Luke 2:4) as the incarnate Son of God and Son of Mary of Nazareth.

Today we hear that divine promise in Isaiah 42, identifying Jesus as God's chosen servant. From the beginning, however, we are told He is not only to be King of the Jews alone but a light to lighten the Gentiles also. The great news is that He is the Savior of and for all people, the descendants not only of Abraham but also of Adam and Noah! By repentance of sin and faith in Christ, worked by the same Spirit that marked Jesus as the chosen one at His Baptism, now all who are baptized into Christ—Jew or Gentile—are the chosen people of God. Praising and thanking God for calling and saving us, we echo the Gospel to all people in the words of the Psalm: "Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples!" (Psalm 117:1).



.✠ PREPARATION ✠

Prelude

“Beautiful Savior”

Dale Wood

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

LSB 344

Invocation

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 43:4; Psalm 117*

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

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

Pastor: Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples!

People: **For great is His steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Jesus Christ is God’s chosen one, who came and who comes again today to call everyone to salvation from sin and death and who makes all who are baptized in His name to be the chosen sons and daughters of God. Marked by the sacred waters of Holy Baptism, let us receive God’s assurance and promise of forgiveness.

People: **Almighty God, our dear Father in heaven, in Holy Baptism You have marked us with the sign of the holy cross upon our foreheads and upon our hearts to mark us as people of Your choosing to be redeemed by Christ the crucified. Open our eyes to Your light of freedom and forgiveness and to Your calling of us to be Your own chosen people of Your eternal kingdom.**

Pastor: Upon this your confession, the almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit, has forgiven you all your sins. God strengthen you with His grace to life ✠ everlasting.

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

"Father Welcomes"

LSB 605

Refrain



Fa - ther wel-comes all His chil - dren To His fam - 'ly



through His Son. Fa - ther giv - ing His sal - va - tion,



Life for - ev - er has been won.



1 Lit - tle chil-dren, come to Me, For My king - dom
2 In the wa - ter, in the Word, In His prom - ise,
3 Let us dai - ly die to sin; Let us dai - ly



is of these. Life and love I have to give,
be as - sured: Those who are bap - tized and be - lieve
rise with Him, Walk in the love of Christ our Lord,



Refrain

Mer - cy for your sin.
Shall be born a gain.
Live in the peace of God.

✂ WORD ✂

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

(The LORD's chosen servant)

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be discouraged
till he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his law.
Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people on it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
“I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the Lord; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to carved idols.
Behold, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth
I tell you of them.”

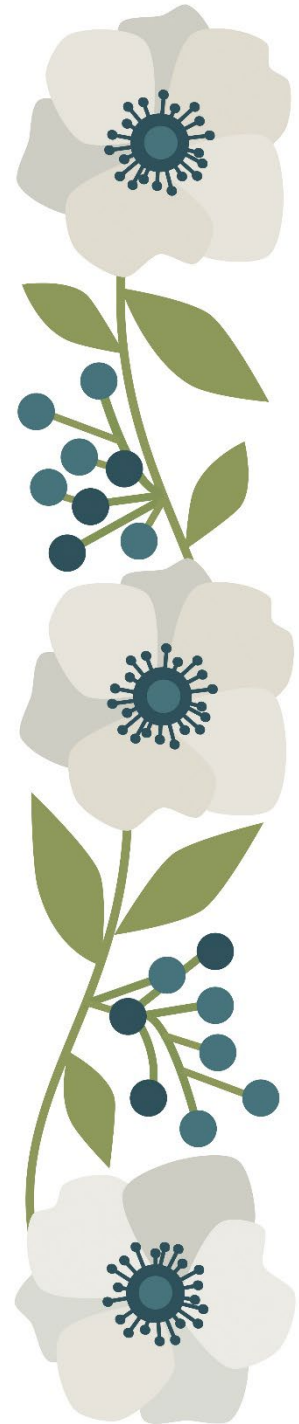
Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Romans 6:1-11

(Dead to sin, alive to God)

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was



raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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*



Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

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

Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

(The Baptism of Jesus)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children's Message (10:30)

Stephanie Roettjer

Hymn of the Day

"Beautiful Savior"

LSB 537

Sermon

"A Gift and a Calling"

Pastor John Larson
Text: Romans 6:1-11

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

Offering Music (8:00)

“Beautiful Savior”

Nancy Nordby

✠ 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, whom You anointed by the Holy Spirit at His Baptism as the chosen Messiah, that in His mission to take away the sin of the world, all men may be made Your chosen people by the faith given in Your baptismal covenant with them. 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 “Children of the Heavenly Father” John Vieke

Hymn “Children of the Heavenly Father” *LSB 725*

Hymn “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” *LSB 739*

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 “How Great Thou Art” *LSB 801*

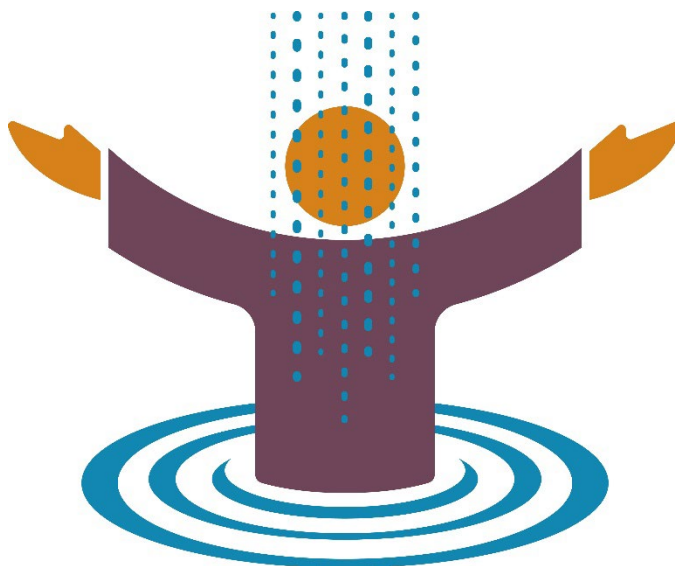
Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace.
 Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude “Triumphal March” G.F. Handel





SERVING IN WORSHIP

OFFICIANT / PREACHER	Pastor John Larson
MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP	Michael Zehnder
ORGANIST	Nancy Nordby
ELDERS	4:00 pm Jeff Dunker; 8:00 am David Pearman; 10:30 am Michael Lawrenz
ACOLYTE	8:00 am Ellise Friend; 10:30 am Maria Olson
LECTORS	4:00 pm Anita Baresel; 8:00 am Dennis Lord; 10:30 am Sherry Hitztaler
COMMUNION SERVERS	4:00 pm Anita Baresel; 10:30 am Sherry Hitztaler
ALTAR GUILD	Shelia Beu, Charmaine Rohde, Cathy Utecht



Ascension Lutheran Church
1701 West Caley Avenue, Littleton, Colorado 80120
www.alutheran.org
(303) 794-4636 office@alutheran.org
Extended Day Preschool
303-730-2514 director@alcpreschool.com