

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

*March 22, 2026*  
10:30 a.m. Sunday



## **FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

### **JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE**

#### **AS WE GATHER**

While Lent focuses on Christ's suffering and upcoming death, these Readings turn to the resurrection and life. Ezekiel takes us to the valley of the dry bones, and we hear the promise "you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves" (Ezekiel 37:13). Romans 8 finishes with the promise "He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you" (v. 11). John 11 tells of Lazarus coming out of the tomb after four days, but the climax comes earlier when Jesus declares He is the resurrection and life. Psalm 130 starts with a cry from the depths to God that asks the Lord to be attentive to our pleas, but it ends with the hope we have in the Lord. Every Sunday, including those in Lent, is a celebration of Christ's resurrection.

✘ PREPARATION ✘

**Gathering Song      DEATH WAS ARRESTED      Kersh/Coker/Baltzglier/Smith**

Alone in my sorrow and dead in my sin  
Lost without hope with no place to begin  
Your love made a way to let mercy come in  
When death was arrested and my life began

Ash was redeemed only beauty remains  
My orphan heart was given a name  
My mourning grew quiet my feet rose to dance  
When death was arrested and my life began

**CHORUS: Oh Your grace so free washes over me  
You have made me new now life begins with You  
It's Your endless love pouring down on us  
You have made us new now life begins with You**

Released from my chains I'm a pris'ner no more  
My shame was a ransom He faithfully bore  
He cancelled my debt and He called me His friend  
When death was arrested and my life began **CHORUS**

Our Savior displayed on a criminal's cross  
Darkness rejoiced as though Heaven had lost  
But then Jesus arose with our freedom in hand  
That's when death was arrested and my life began **CHORUS**

Oh we're free free forever we're free  
Come join the song of all the redeemed  
Yes we're free free forever amen  
When death was arrested and my life began **(REPEAT)**

CCLI Song # 7046448 Adam Kersh | Brandon Coker | Heath Baltzglier | Paul Taylor Smith © 2015 Seems Like Music (Admin. by BMG Rights Management [c/o Music Services, Inc.]) Adam Kersh Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Booker Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Centricity Songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Paul Taylor Smith Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Music At North Point (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) For use solely with the SongSelect. Terms of Use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) CCLI License # 1903595

**Pastoral Greeting**

**Opening Song      OUR GOD SAVES      Baloché/Brown**

In the name of the Father in the name of the Son  
In the name of the Spirit Lord we come  
We're gather'd together to lift up Your name  
To call on our Savior to fall on Your grace **(REPEAT)**

Hear the joyful sound of our offering  
As Your saints bow down as Your people sing  
We will rise with You lifted on Your wings  
And the world will see that

**CHORUS: Our God saves our God saves There is hope in Your name  
Mourning turns to songs of praise Our God saves our God saves**

Hear the joyful sound of our offering  
As Your saints bow down as Your people sing  
We will rise with You lifted on Your wings  
And the world will see that

**CHORUS (x2)**

CCLI Song # 4972837 Brenton Brown | Paul Baloche © 2007 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (IMI)) Leadworship Songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (IMI)) For use solely with the SongSelect. Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 1903595

## **Invocation**

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

**People:** **Amen.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *Psalm 51:1-9*

**Pastor:** Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;

**People:** **according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**

**Pastor:** Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

**People:** **and cleanse me from my sin!**

**Pastor:** For I know my transgressions,

**People:** **and my sin is ever before me.**

**Pastor:** Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,

**People:** **so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.**

**Pastor:** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,

**People:** **and in sin did my mother conceive me.**

**Pastor:** Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being,

**People:** **and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

*Silence for personal confession.*

**Pastor:** Most merciful Father in heaven,

**People:** **I am a sinner. I have no one to blame. The fault is my own. I deserve to be punished. I am truly sorry for my sins. Yet, for the sake of the loving sacrifice of Your only Son, Jesus Christ, I dare to beg for Your forgiveness because the punishment for sin was taken out on Him. Therefore, remove from me the guilt of my sin and wash me that I may be whole again. Help me to be faithful today, tomorrow, and each day, by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Pastor:** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore

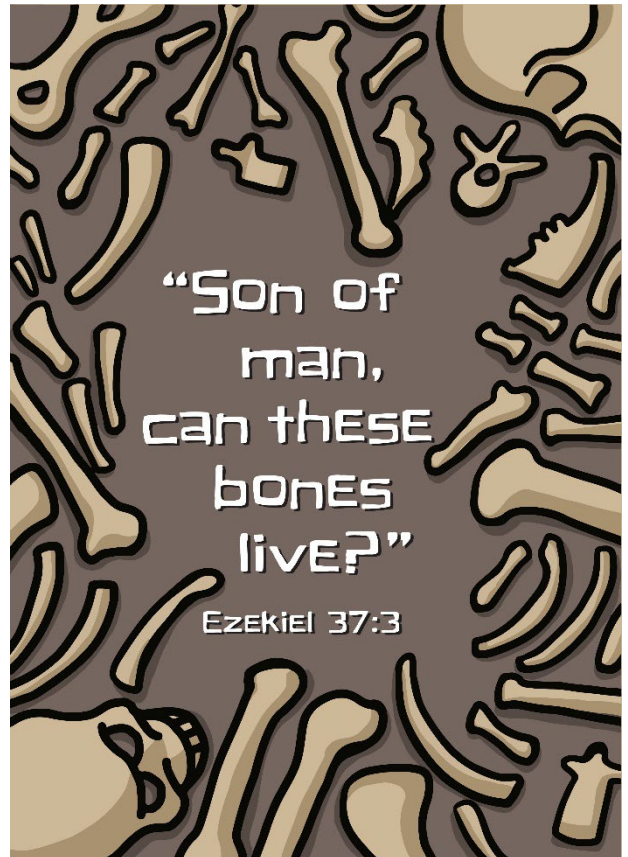
forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

☩ WORD ☩

**Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14**

*(Ezekiel prophesies over the bones, and the Lord brings them to life.)*

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”



So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no

breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.’ Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle: Romans 8:1-11**

*(The Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead will also give life to you.)*

**There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**

**You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.**

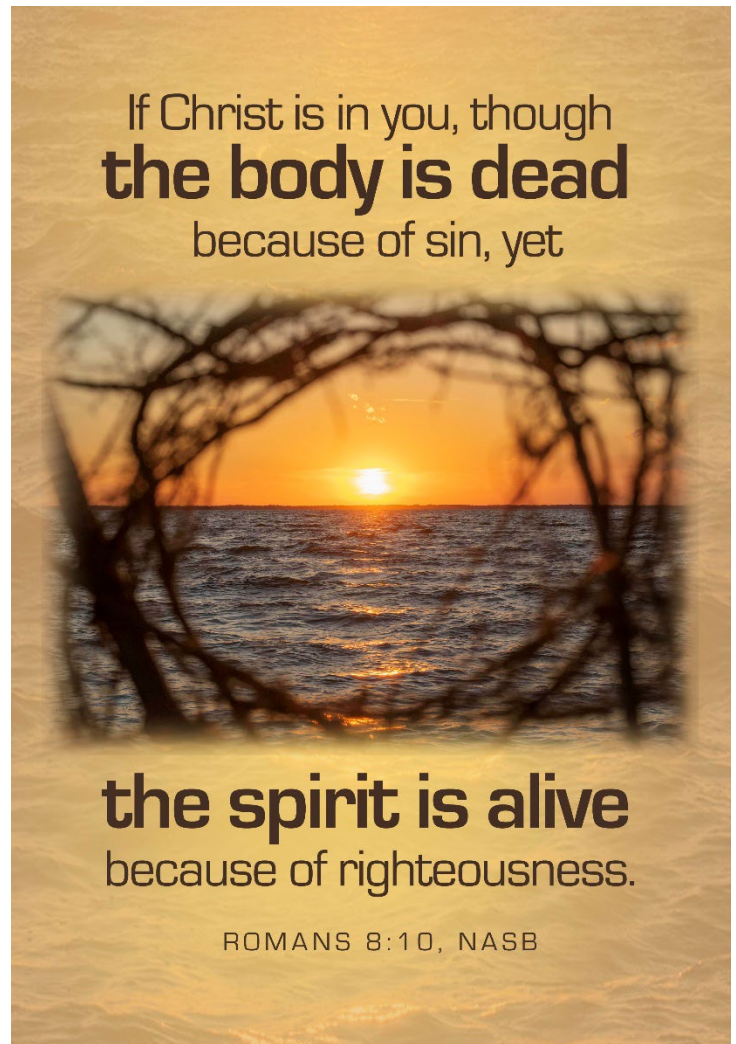
Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise for the Holy Gospel.*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

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



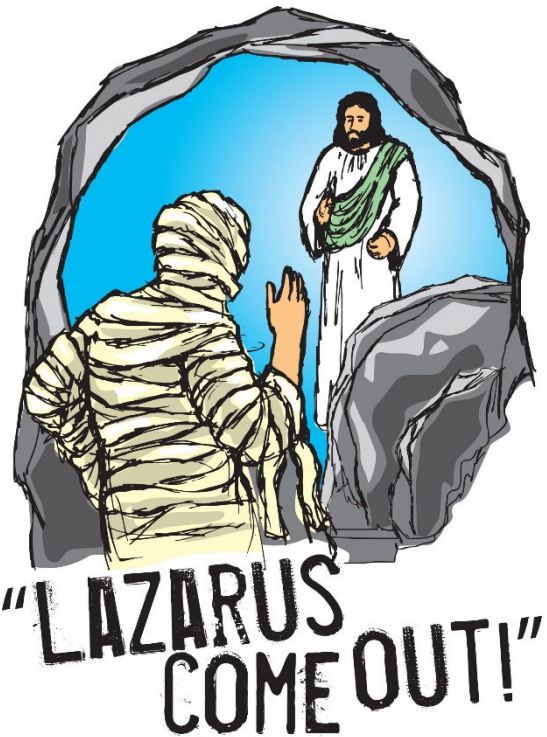
## Holy Gospel: John 11:1-45

*(Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.)*

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."



When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

### Children's Message

Stephanie Roettjer

### Song of the Day MY REDEEMER LIVES

Morgan

I know He rescued my soul  
His blood has covered my sin  
I believe, I believe.  
My shame He's taken away  
My pain is healed in His name I believe, I believe!  
I'll raise a banner 'Cause my Lord has conquered the grave

**CHORUS: My Redeemer lives My Redeemer lives  
My Redeemer lives My Redeemer lives**

I know He rescued my soul  
His blood has covered my sin  
I believe, I believe.  
My shame He's taken away

*(continued on next page)*

My pain is healed in His name  
I believe, I believe!

I'll raise a banner  
'Cause my Lord has conquered the grave

**CHORUS x2: My Redeemer lives My Redeemer lives  
My Redeemer lives My Redeemer lives**

You lift my burdens I'll rise with You  
I'm dancing on this mountaintop  
To see Your kingdom come

**CHORUS x3**



**Sermon**

“Be God’s Ezekiel Today”

Rev. Kelly Crabbe  
Text: Ezekiel 37:1-14

**The Apostles’ Creed**

*(found in the back of the hymnal)*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:** Because the Lord has inclined His ear to us, let us call upon the One who delivers us in our time of need.

Lord of life, You look upon the ways in which sin has withered our existence, and You speak Your words of life over us. Bless all pastors, that they may speak that same word with the faithfulness of Ezekiel, for the benefit of Your church and her mission,

**People: for Jesus is the resurrection and the life.**

**Pastor:** Loving Father, You claimed us as children in Holy Baptism, setting us free from the law of sin and death by sending Your own Son in the likeness of human flesh. Help us to forsake the ways of sinful flesh and to walk according to the Spirit who lives in us,

**People: for Jesus is the resurrection and the life.**

**Pastor:** Fearless Lord, even in the threat of death You pursue those You love. Give us courage to follow You into those places where death taunts and persecution lingers. Help us to fix our eyes on the One who is the founder and perfecter of our faith,

**People: for Jesus is the resurrection and the life.**

**Pastor:** Almighty God, precious in Your sight is the death of Your saints. Strengthen our leaders, our government, and all You have put in place to protect us, that they look upon every life entrusted to their protection with the same care,

**People: for Jesus is the resurrection and the life.**

**Pastor:** Merciful Lord, You deliver those who cry to You from the depths of distress and anguish. Visit the sick, the dying, and the grieving, [*especially . . .*]. Bring them Your peace, especially as they might question Your ways and

Your timing. Comfort them with the hope of life everlasting, when Your Word will restore their bodies again,

**People:** **for Jesus is the resurrection and the life.**

*(other intercessions may be offered here)*

**Pastor:** Receiving the fullness of Your Spirit and offering these prayers to You, O gracious Lord, we trust that You hear and answer us according to Your good and gracious will,

**People:** **for Jesus is the resurrection and the life. 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 the 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)**

LSB 160

**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** "Give Me Jesus (In the Morning When I Rise)" **WOV 777**  
**Blue Hymnal Supplement**

**Song** **THERE IS A REDEEMER** **Green**  
**BOB 211**

**There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.  
Thank you, oh, my Father, for giving us your Son,  
And leaving your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.**

**Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names,  
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.  
Thank you, oh, my Father, for giving us your Son,  
And leaving your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.**

**When I stand in glory I will see his face,  
There I'll serve my King forever, in that holy place.  
Thank you, oh, my Father, for giving us your Son,  
And leaving your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.**

Copyrights © 1982 Ears To Hear Music Administrators Capitol CMG Publishing

## 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 SAVIOR MY GOD

Aaron Shust

I am not skilled to understand what God has willed what God has planned  
I only know at His right hand Stands  
One who is my Savior

I take Him at His word and deed Christ died to save me this I read  
And in my heart I find a need  
Of Him to be my Savior

That He would leave His place on high And come for sinful man to die  
You count it strange so once did I  
Before I knew my Savior

**CHORUS: My Savior loves my Savior lives  
My Savior's always there for me  
My God He was my God  
He is My God is always gonna be (REPEAT)**

Yes living dying let me bring My strength my solace from this spring  
That He who lives to be my King  
Once died to be my Savior

That He would leave His place on high And come for sinful man to die  
You count it strange so once did I  
Before I knew my Savior **CHORUS**

My Savior lives my Savior loves  
My Savior lives my Savior loves my Savior lives

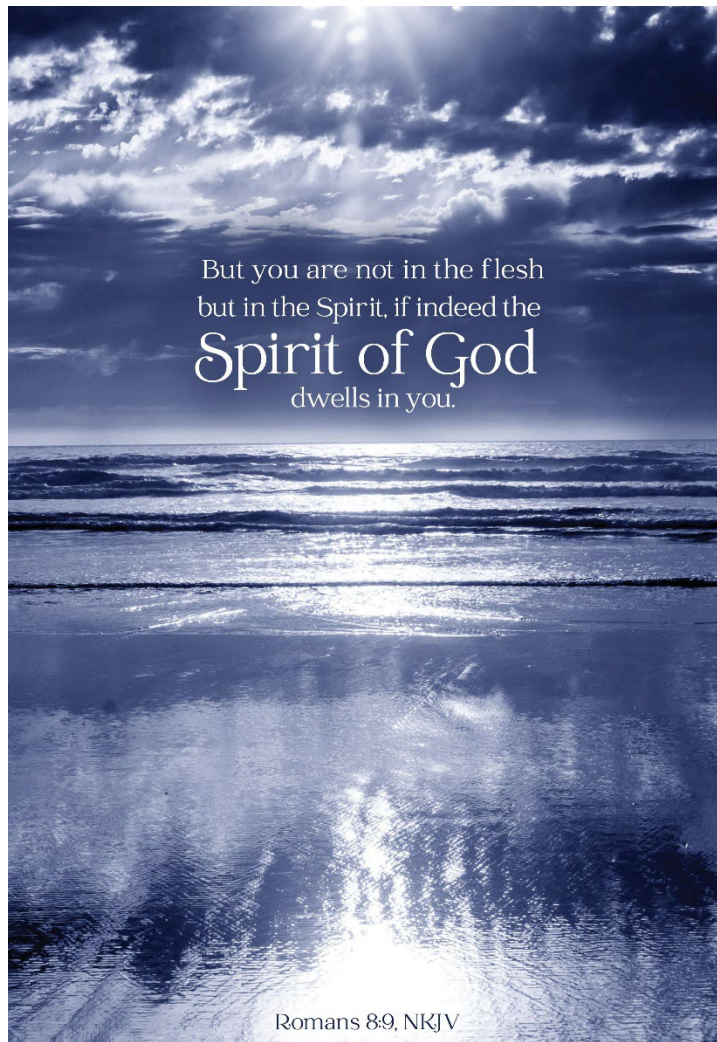
CCLI Song # 4592255 Aaron Shust | Dorothy Greenwell © 2005 Bridge Building Music, Inc. (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) For use solely with the SongSelect. Terms of Use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) CCLI License # 1903595

## Congregational Concerns

### Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace.  
Serve the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**





## SERVING IN WORSHIP

**PREACHER / CELEBRANT**

Rev. Kelly Crabbe

**MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP / ORGANIST**

Michael Zehnder

**ELDERS** 4:00 pm Jim Wert; 8:00 am Benjamin Dallet; 10:30 am Michael Lawrenz

**ACOLYTE** 8:00 am Benjamin Dallet; 10:30 am Abby Williams

**LECTORS** 4:00 pm Dick Castleman; 8:00 am Joyce Dowdy; 10:30 am Roland Scott

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

**ALTAR GUILD** Tanya Schmitt, Charmaine Rohde, Cathy Utecht



*Ascension Lutheran Church*

*1701 West Caley Avenue, Littleton, Colorado 80120*

*[www.alutheran.org](http://www.alutheran.org)*

*(303) 794-4636 [office@alutheran.org](mailto:office@alutheran.org)*

*Extended Day Preschool*

*303-730-2514 [director@alcpreschool.com](mailto:director@alcpreschool.com)*