

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

*May 10, 2026*

10:30 a.m. Sunday



**THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / MOTHER'S DAY**

**IS GOD'S LOVE FOR US "IFFY?"**

**AS WE GATHER**

Throughout our lives, we look for a helper. Maybe that's a parent who can hold our hand to cross the street, a spouse who can open the pickle jar, or an expert who delivers wisdom we don't have. Our Lord Jesus Christ sends us a helper, the promised Holy Spirit. The Spirit opens our heart to faith and then fills it with heavenly wisdom. Present in our Baptism and present today in worship, the Spirit keeps our hand firmly in our Savior's, so that linked by love, we can walk confidently in His promises. Today we also thank God for His love as expressed through our dear mothers.

✘ PREPARATION ✘

Gathering Song

AS THE DEER

Nystrom

As the deer pants for the water, So my soul longs after You.  
You alone are my hearts desire, And I long to worship You.

**CHORUS: You alone are my strength, my shield;  
To You alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my hearts desire, And I long to worship You.**

You're my friend and You are my brother even though you are a King.  
I love you more than any other, So much more than anything. **CHORUS**

I want You more than gold or silver, only You can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy Giver, And the apple of my eye. **CHORUS**

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Opening Song

BLESSED BE YOUR NAME

Matt Redman

Blessed be Your name In the land that is plentiful  
Where Your streams of abundance flow Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be Your name When I'm found in the desert place  
Though I walk through the wilderness Blessed be Your name

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll Turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in Lord Still I will say

**CHORUS: Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your glorious name**

Blessed be Your name When the sun's shining down on me  
When the world's all as it should be Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be Your name On the road marked with suffering  
Though there's pain in the offering Blessed be Your name

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll Turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in Lord Still I will say **CHORUS**

You give and take away You give and take away  
My heart will choose to say Lord blessed be Your name  
You give and take away You give and take away  
My heart will choose to say Lord blessed be Your name **CHORUS**

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## Pastoral Greeting

### Invocation

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

People: **Amen.**

### OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 124:8; John 14:18; Hebrews 13:6*

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: Jesus said, "I will not leave you as orphans;

People: **I will come to you."**

Pastor: So we can confidently say,

People: **"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *John 14:19*

Pastor: We confess: Father, we have neglected You and Your commandments.

People: **Forgive us, Lord.**

Pastor: Jesus, we have doubted Your Word and failed to display Your love to others.

People: **Forgive us, Lord.**

Pastor: Spirit, we have trusted our own sinful hearts rather than seeking Your truth.

People: **Forgive us, Lord.**

Pastor: O Triune God, look on us in mercy and make Your dwelling within us.

People: **Restore us as Your rescued people to seek Your holy will. Amen.**

Pastor: To save you from sin, the Father gave you His very own Son. On His cross, Jesus paid your debt and rose to declare, "because I live, you also will live." By the Spirit's power, we trust in the pardon won for us by Christ, our Lord. In the stead and by the command of Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**



✠ WORD ✠

**First Reading: Acts 17:16-31**

*(Paul preaches Jesus and the resurrection, pointing Athenians to the “unknown God” who has been raised from the dead.)*

Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and

everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live



TO AN UNKNOWN GOD

on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for “‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “‘For we are indeed his offspring.’”

Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle: 1 Peter 3:13-22**

*(Saved by Baptism, believers are prepared to give a reason for their hope in Christ the Lord.)*

**Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.**

**For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.**

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 fourteenth chapter.

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

**Holy Gospel: John 14:15-21**

*(Until He returns, Jesus promises to surround His disciples with truth by sending the Holy Spirit.)*

**If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth,**



*1 Peter 3:21, NRSV*

whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

### Children's Message

Jenna Lawrenz

### Song of the Day They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

Peter Scholtes

We are one in the Spirit  
We are one in the Lord  
We are one in the Spirit  
We are one in the Lord  
And we pray that all unity  
May one day be restored

**CHORUS: And they'll know we are Christians  
By our love, By our love  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians  
By our love**

We will walk with each other  
We will walk hand in hand  
We will walk with each other  
We will walk hand in hand  
And together we'll spread the news  
That God is in our land **CHORUS**

We will work with each other  
We will work side by side  
We will work with each other  
We will work side by side  
And we'll guard each man's dignity  
And save each man's pride **CHORUS**

All praise to the Father  
From whom all things come  
And all praise to Christ Jesus His only son  
And all praise to the Spirit  
Who makes us one **CHORUS**



**Sermon**

"A Passion for Others"

Pastor John Larson

Text: Acts 17:16-31

## 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 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

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**





## Closing Song

## HOSANNA (PRAISE IS RISING)

Baloche / Brown

Praise is rising, eyes are turning to You. We turn to You.  
Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for You. We long for You  
'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day  
In Your presence, all our fears are washed away (Washed away)

### Chorus

**Hosanna Hosanna, You are the God who saves us  
Worthy of all our praises  
Hosanna Hosanna, come have Your way among us  
We welcome You here Lord Jesus**

Hear the sound of hearts returning to You. We turn to You  
In Your Kingdom broken lives are made new. You make us new

### CHORUS x 2

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## Congregational Concerns

### Dismissal

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

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

<b>OFFICIANT / PREACHER</b>	Pastor John Larson
<b>MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP / ORGANIST</b>	Michael Zehnder
<b>CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER</b>	Ann Kirkpatrick
<b>ELDERS</b>	4:00 pm Jeff Dunker; 8:00 am Arvin Michel; 10:30 am David Pearman
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	8:00 am Collette Dallet; 10:30 am Brynn Aldrich
<b>LECTORS</b>	4:00 pm Mike Price; 8:00 am Margo Pasha; 10:30 am Jude Donovan
<b>COMMUNION SERVERS</b>	4:00 pm Mike Price; 10:30 am Jude Donovan
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Tanya Schmitt, Laura Banko

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*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)