

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

*June 20-21, 2026*

4:00 p.m. Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Sunday



**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / FATHER'S DAY**

**FREED TO LIVE**

**AS WE GATHER**

We typically think of freedom as freedom from something: from oppression, fear, punishment, and even death. Our freedom in Christ is certainly a freedom from sin and death, but it is no less a freedom for a new life in Christ. This life is a life of righteousness, bearing the good fruits of the Spirit in our lives, serving our neighbor as Christ has served us, and glorifying God in our words and works. We cannot earn or cooperate in our salvation—this is due solely to Christ's work alone—but we do cooperate under the Spirit in renouncing sin and living for Christ with new lives born of baptismal water. We are no longer slaves to sin but servants of Christ.

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

<b>Prelude</b>	“Holy, Holy, Holy”	Piet Post
<b>Pastoral Greeting</b>		
<b>Opening Hymn</b>	“Christ is Our Cornerstone”	LSB 912

### Invocation

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

People: **Amen.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 25:7, 18*

Pastor: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

People: **Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.**

Pastor: Holy and gracious God,

People: **I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver according to Your mercy and grant peace to my heart so that I may serve You with all my mind, body, and soul.**

Pastor: By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. As a 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.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you. 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

“Jesus Loves Me”

LSB 588

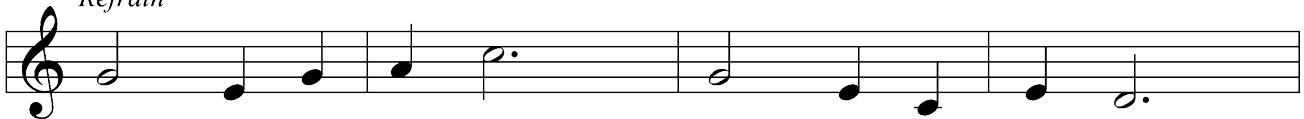


1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, For the Bi - ble tells me so.  
2 Je - sus loves me! He who died Heav-en's gates to o - pen wide.

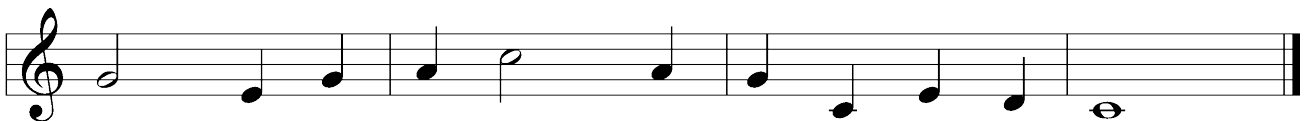


Lit - tle ones to Him be-long; They are weak, but He is strong.  
He has washed a - way my sin, Lets His lit - tle child come in.

*Refrain*



Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!



Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

Text and tune: Public domain

✠ WORD ✠

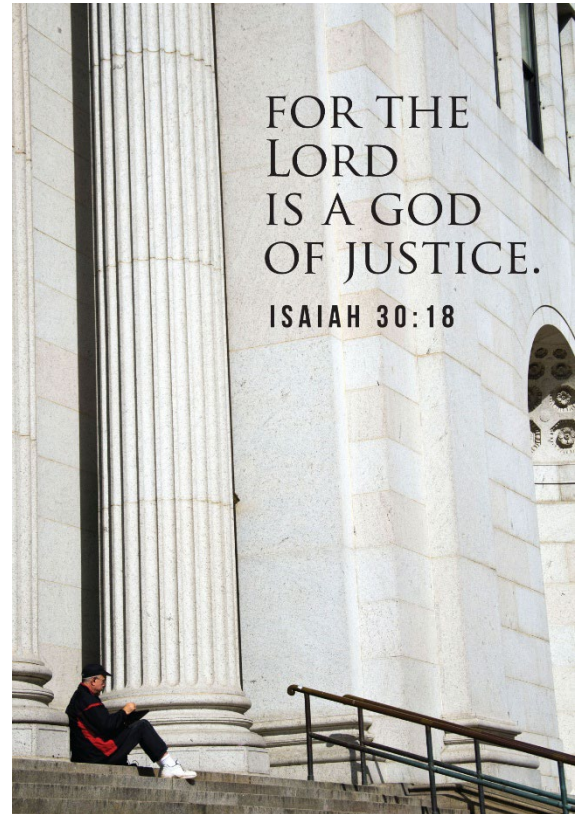
**Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13**

*(He rescues the life of the needy.)*

O Lord, you have deceived me,  
and I was deceived;  
you are stronger than I,  
and you have prevailed.  
I have become a laughingstock all the day;  
everyone mocks me.  
For whenever I speak, I cry out,  
I shout, “Violence and destruction!”  
For the word of the Lord has become for me  
a reproach and derision all day long.  
If I say, “I will not mention him,  
or speak any more in his name,”  
there is in my heart as it were a burning fire  
shut up in my bones,  
and I am weary with holding it in,  
and I cannot.



For I hear many whispering.  
Terror is on every side!  
“Denounce him! Let us denounce him!”  
say all my close friends,  
watching for my fall.  
“Perhaps he will be deceived;  
then we can overcome him  
and take our revenge on him.”  
But the Lord is with me as a dread warrior;  
therefore my persecutors will stumble;  
they will not overcome me.  
They will be greatly shamed,  
for they will not succeed.  
Their eternal dishonor  
will never be forgotten.  
O Lord of hosts, who tests the righteous,  
who sees the heart and the mind,  
let me see your vengeance upon them,  
for to you have I committed my cause.  
Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord!  
For he has delivered the life of the needy  
from the hand of evildoers.



Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God.

**Epistle: Romans 6:12-23**

*("The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ.")*

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

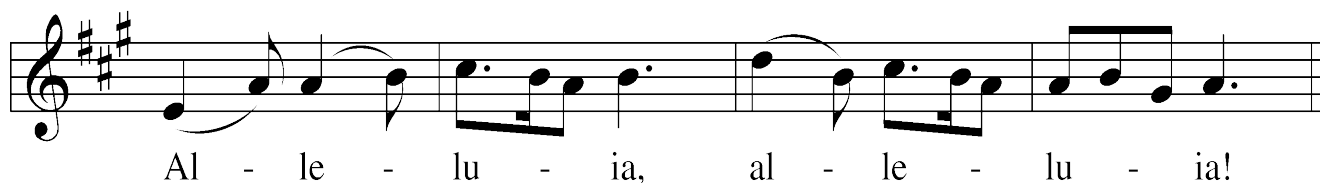
People: Thanks be to God.

*Please rise for the Verse and the Holy Gospel.*

**VERSE**

**Alleluia — II**

**LSB 952**



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

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

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 10:5, 21-33**

*(The disciples are sent out as apostles.)*

These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans ... Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them

will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Children’s Message

Christa Kirschner

Hymn of the Day “There is a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

CW



1 There’s a wide - ness in God’s mer - cy, Like the wide - ness  
 2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, And a prom - ised  
 3 For the love of God is broad - er Than the mea - sures  
 4 ’Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; It is some - thing



of the sea; There’s a kind - ness in His jus - tice  
 grace made good; There is mer - cy with the Sav - ior;  
 of our mind; And the heart of the e - ter - nal  
 more than all: Great - er good be - cause of e - vil,



Which is more than lib - er - ty. There is no place  
 There is heal - ing in His blood. There is grace e -  
 Is most won - der - ful - ly kind. There is plen - ti -  
 Larg - er mer - cy through the fall. If our love were



where earth’s sor - rows Are more felt than up in heav’n.  
 nough for thou - sands Of new worlds as great as this;  
 ful re - demp - tion In the blood that has been shed;  
 but more sim - ple, We should take Him at His Word;



There is no place where earth’s fail - ings  
 There is room for fresh cre - a - tions  
 There is joy for all the mem - bers  
 And our lives would be all sun - shine



Have such kind - ly judg - ment giv’n.  
 In that up - per home of bliss.  
 In the sor - rows of the head.  
 In the sweet - ness of our Lord.

**Sermon** "Conditional vs. Unconditional Love"

Guest Preacher: Curt Engle

Text: Deuteronomy 7:6-9

**Apostles' Creed**

*(found at 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 - collected in back; 9:00 am – collected in the pews)

**Offering Music (9:00)**

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

arr. Mark Hayes

**✠ 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.**

**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 Music**

“The Truth”

by Megan Woods

Stuart Whitmore, guitarist and soloist

**Hymn**

“What is This Bread”

LSB 629

**Hymn**

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

LSB 685

**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**      “Go, My Children with My Blessing”

LSB 922  
Verses 1-4

**Congregational Concerns**

**Dismissal**

**Pastor:**    Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**People:**    **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

“Toccata in Seven”

John Rutter



### SERVING IN WORSHIP

**PASTOR**  
**LITURGIST / CELEBRANT**  
**PREACHER**  
**MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP**  
**ORGANIST**  
**GUITARIST / SOLOIST**  
**ELDERS**  
**ACOLYTES**  
**LECTORS**  
**COMMUNION SERVER (4:00)**  
**ALTAR GUILD**

Pastor John Larson  
Pastor Larry A. Alb  
Curt Engle  
Michael Zehnder  
Diana Gaide  
Stuart Whitmore  
4:00 Jim Wert; 9:00 Benjamin Dallet  
9:00 Benjamin Dallet  
4:00 Dave Olsson; 9:00 Joyce Lord  
Dave Olsson  
Barbara Rutter, Charmaine Rohde



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