

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

August 1-2, 2026

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



TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NUTHIN' LIKE IT

AS WE GATHER

After a meal, does your family pray Psalm 136:1, “Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever”? That short prayer is not just a reminder to say “thank You” to God, who provides daily bread for our bodies. It also repeats why God provides, specifically, because of “His steadfast love.” In fact, if you pray that entire psalm, it lists the many ways God provides for all our needs of body and soul. The rich Hebrew word translated “steadfast love” reflects not only God’s general attitude but also His mighty acts and deeds to provide for His people’s entire lives and well-being. Jesus’ provision of food for the people in the wilderness (Matthew 14) as well as “our daily bread” call to the mind of faith His ultimate gift of love, the forgiveness of our sins. As the prophet Isaiah speaks of the “rich food” God provides “that your soul may live” (Isaiah 55:2–3), so the humble Meal of bread and wine in the Sacrament of the Altar causes us to remember the greatest work of our Lord’s steadfast love on the cross. At the altar, we receive the very substance of God’s steadfast love that enlivens and strengthens a steadfast faith that will endure until we are welcomed to the great and promised heavenly feast of eternal life.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Prelude "Now Thank We All Our God" Sigrid Karg-Elert

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn "Now Thank We All Our God" *LSB 895*

Invocation

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 43:4; 136:1*

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

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

Pastor: Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,

People: **for His steadfast love endures forever.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Isaiah 55:3, 6; Psalm 145:18*

Pastor: Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. Incline your ear, and come to Me; hear, that your soul may live.

People: **Hear my prayer, O Lord. I confess to almighty God all my sins of thought, of speech, of actions, and of inaction to help others in need. By Your steadfast love and mercy, forgive me and renew a right spirit in me that gives praise to You for Your faithfulness and that relies all the more on You for my salvation and for help in every need.**

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, for He has heard your cry for mercy. Upon this, your confession, I announce the grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord 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.**

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

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

LSB 821
Verses 1,3

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, Here on

scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the
earth our food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! Here the

tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.
sin - ful Flee to You from day to day.

Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der
In - ter - ces - sor, Friend of sin - ners, Earth's Re -

like a might - y flood: “Je - sus out of
deem - er, hear our plea Where the songs of

ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood.”
all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.

Public Domain

✕ WORD ✕

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 55:1-5

(The compassion of the Lord)

“Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and he who has no money,

come, buy and eat!
 Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.
 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
 and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
 Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.
 Incline your ear, and come to me;
 hear, that your soul may live;
 and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.
 Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.
 Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know,
 and a nation that did not know you shall run to you,
 because of the Lord your God, and of the Holy One of Israel,
 for he has glorified you.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 136:1–9*

Pastor: Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,

People: for His steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: Give thanks to the God of gods,

People: for His steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord of lords,

People: for His steadfast love endures forever;

Pastor: to Him who alone does great wonders,

People: for His steadfast love endures forever;

Pastor: to Him who by understanding made the heavens,

People: for His steadfast love endures forever;

Pastor: to Him who spread out the earth above the waters,

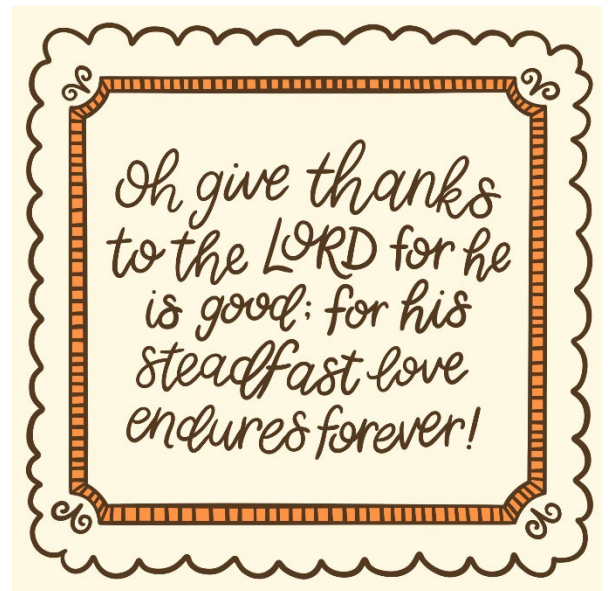
People: for His steadfast love endures forever;

Pastor: to Him who made the great lights,

People: for His steadfast love endures forever;

Pastor: the sun to rule over the day,

People: for His steadfast love endures forever;



Pastor: the moon and stars to rule over the night,
People: for His steadfast love endures forever.

Epistle: Romans 9:1-13

(Not all Israel are Israel.)

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. For this is what the promise said: “About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son.” And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls—she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

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 fourteenth chapter.

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

Holy Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

(Jesus' compassion on a great crowd)

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." But Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message

Stephanie Roettjer

Hymn of the Day "O Living Bread from Heaven"
(Alternate Tune: Aurelia – The Church's One Foundation")

LSB 642

O living Bread from heaven,
How well You feed your guest!
The gifts that You have given
Have filled my heart with rest.
Oh, wondrous food of blessing,
Oh, cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing,
With praises overflows.

My Lord, You here have led me
To this most holy place
And with Yourself have fed me
The treasures of Your grace;
For You have freely given
What earth could never buy,
The bread of life from heaven,
That now I shall not die.

*And is not
the bread that
we break
a participation
in the body
of Christ?*



1 Corinthians 10:16

You gave me all I wanted;
This food can death destroy.
And You have freely granted
The cup of endless joy.
My Lord, I do not merit
The favor You have shown,
And all my soul and spirit
Bow down before Your throne.

Lord, grant me then,
thus strengthened
With heav'nly food, while here
My course on earth is lengthened,
To serve with holy fear.
And when You call my spirit
To leave this world below,
I enter, through Your merit,
Where joys unmingled flow.

Text: Public domain; Alternate tune: Aurelia



Sermon

“Jesus, the Bread of Life”

Guest Preacher: Rev. Larry A. Alb
Text: Matthew 14:13-21

Nicene 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

“Give Thanks”

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, for Your steadfast love endures forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. As He fed the multitude in the wilderness, so He provides for us daily bread and the fruits of His sacrifice on the cross in the breaking of the bread of Holy Communion. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we thank and praise Him for His gifts of life and salvation.

People: **Amen.**



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

Special Music “Softly and Tenderly” arr. Brent Olstad
Ann Westra, flute
Diana Gaide, pianist

Hymn “Jesus, Priceless Treasure” *LSB 743*
Verses 1-4

Hymn “Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart” *LSB 806*

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 “Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise” *LSB 917*

Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude “Sonatine” Eugene Hill

SERVING IN WORSHIP

PASTOR	Pastor John Larson
PREACHER / CELEBRANT	Pastor Larry A. Alb
MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP	Rev. Michael Zehnder
ORGANIST	Diana Gaide
FLAUTIST	Ann Westra
ELDERS	4:00 Jim Wert; 9:00 Bob Olsen
ACOLYTES	9:00 Tobin Lawrenz
LECTORS	4:00 Dave Olsson; 9:00 Norm Finfrock
COMMUNION SERVER (4:00)	4:00 Dave Olsson; 9:00 Norm Finfrock
ALTAR GUILD	Sharon Seible, Barbara Rutter

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