

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

July 18-19, 2026

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



EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOPE IN THE HARVEST

AS WE GATHER

If you have ever done a load of laundry, then you know what it feels like to come up one sock short. It is almost like some troublemaker climbed into the dryer and left only one lonesome sock behind. Our laundry is incomplete. We don't have everything we are supposed to have, everything we started with. Our frustration grows. If we truly took stock of our lives, we would evaluate ourselves as missing more than a sock or two. Sabotaged by the enemy and suffering from our own failures, we feel frustrated and incomplete. But perfection is coming. God's perfect Word is here to speak your forgiveness. His perfect heart pursues lost souls. And His perfect plan includes His return to make all things right.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Prelude

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

arr. Diana Gaide

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

LSB 809

Invocation

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 31:24; Hebrews 10:23; Psalm 39:7*

Pastor: Be strong, and let your heart take courage,

People: **all you who wait for the LORD!**

Pastor: Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering,

People: **for He who promised is faithful.**

Pastor: And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?

People: **My hope is in You.**



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 130:5*

Pastor: Let us confess to the Lord our sins and trust in His salvation.

People: **“I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope.”**

Pastor: Almighty God, You spoke a perfect world into being, yet now Your creation bears the stains and scars of our failure.

People: **“I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope.”**

Pastor: We bear responsibility for the suffering around us, filling the world with evil and failing to do the good we ought.

People: **“I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope.”**

Pastor: Our hearts are crushed beneath the burden of our sin and with longing for the world to be made right.

People: **“I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope.”**

Pastor: Forgive us, O God, for You are faithful and just and will cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

People: **“I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope.”**

Pastor: Your hope is met by the redemption and renewal of our God found in His Son, Jesus Christ, who was given to die for you, and for whose sake God forgives you all your sins. 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.**

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

“How Great Thou Art”

LSB 801



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; When I look down from loft - y moun - tain
die, I scarce can take it in— That on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing He bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion And there pro - claim: “My God, how great Thou art!”

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee, How great Thou



art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

✠ WORD ✠

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

(The unrivaled Lord reinforces His power, peace, and purpose for His people.)

**Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:**

**"I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.**

Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.

**Let him declare and set it before me,
since I appointed an ancient people.**

**Let them declare what is to come,
and what will happen.**

Fear not, nor be afraid;

**have I not told you from of old and
declared it?**

And you are my witnesses!

Is there a God besides me?

There is no Rock; I know not any."



Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Romans 8:18-27

(Creation groans in hope for the glory yet to be revealed.)

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

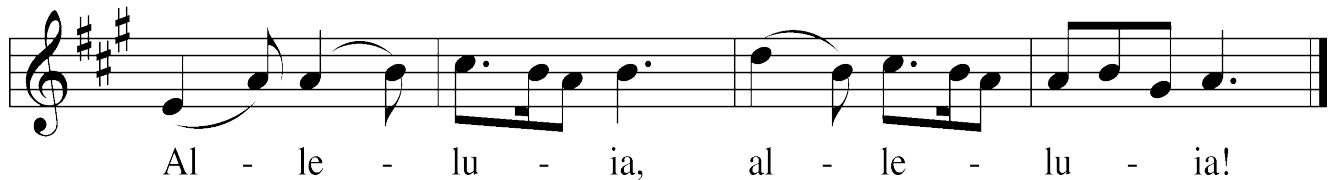
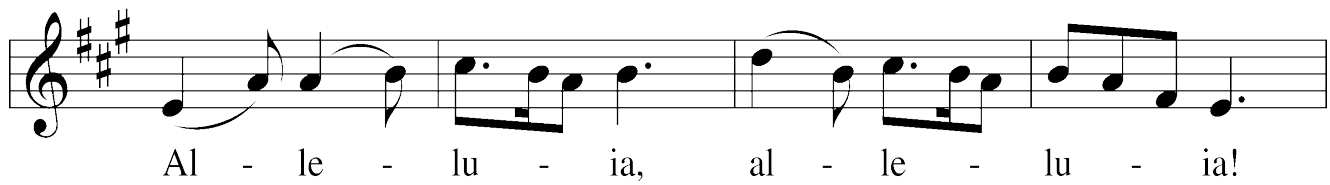
People: Thanks be to God.

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 thirteenth chapter.

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

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

(Jesus shares and interprets His story of harvest and final judgment.)

He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children's Message

Jenna Lawrenz

Hymn of the Day "Have No Fear, Little Flock"

LSB 735

Sermon "Something to Say"

Guest Preacher: Curt Engle
Text: Isaiah 44.6-8

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.

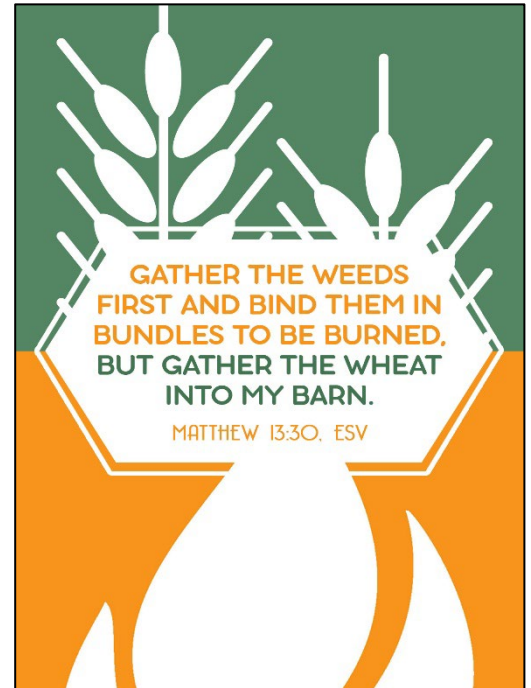
People: And also with you.

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 – Handbell Duet (9:00)

"Who'll Be a Witness?" arr. Sonja K. Tucker
Stephanie and Anna Roettjer, handbells
Diana Gaide, pianist



✠ 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:

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 “No Fear” by Jon Reddick
Stuart Whitmore, guitarist and soloist

Hymn “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” *LSB 761*

Hymn “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” *LSB 575*

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 “Almighty Father, Bless the Word” *LSB 923*

Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude	“Postlude on ‘Almighty Father, Bless the Word’”	Fred Bock
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SERVING IN WORSHIP

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

Pastor John Larson
Pastor Larry A. Alb
Curt Engle
Michael Zehnder
Diana Gaide
Stephanie and Anna Roettjer
Stuart Whitmore
4:00 Jim Wert; 9:00 Bob Olsen
9:00 Tobin Lawrenz
4:00 Dick Castleman; 9:00 Joyce Dowdy
4:00 Dick Castleman; 9:00 David Pearman
Sharon Seible, Barbara Rutter



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