

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

July 25-26, 2026

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



NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE!

AS WE GATHER

Classic infomercials famously told us, "But wait; there's more!" in a maneuver to get us to buy. But there's nothing wrong with you that something from an infomercial can fix. That is not to say there is nothing wrong with you; there most definitely is. Your sin hurts you and others. Death is a sinner's birthright. You are in the devil's crosshairs. But the solution isn't for sale. It is the free grace of Jesus Christ, won at a price as He offers His life for yours. In Him, you have victory over sin. But wait; there's more! In Christ, death and darkness are defeated enemies. No matter the evils you face, you are more than a conqueror, held securely in the love of Christ, who conquers for you.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Pre-Service Music

“Honor and Majesty”
“Praise!”

Edward Broughton
Gilbert Martin

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn

“All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine”

LSB 815

Invocation

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

People: **Amen.**



OPENING SENTENCES

Romans 11:33; Deuteronomy 7:7, 9; Romans 11:36

Pastor: Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

People: **How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!**

Pastor: The LORD set His love on you and chose you.

People: **Know therefore that the LORD is God.**

Pastor: For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

People: **To Him be glory forever. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Romans 8:31–32

Pastor: You are a people holy to the Lord your God.

People: **We confess our unholy thoughts, words, and actions.**

Silence for personal reflection.

Pastor: Almighty God,

People: **we have not lived up to our calling as Your treasured possession. Our desires are selfish and our love is shallow. We have turned aside from doing good and chosen to treasure things of creation rather than our Creator. In our sinful state we are vulnerable to the devil, death, and darkness. And so we seek Your mercy. We surrender to Your loving kindness in Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Pastor: “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”

People: **“He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?”**

Pastor: Indeed, the mercy of almighty God is displayed in the giving of His Son, Jesus, to die for you, and for His sake God forgives you all your sins. As a servant of the Word 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

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

LSB 821

Verses 1, 5

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the
5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the

scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the
scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the

tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.
tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.

Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der
Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der

like a might - y flood: “Je - sus out of
like a might - y flood: “Je - sus out of

ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood.”
ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood.”

✂ WORD ✂

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 7:6-9

(In love, the Lord reaffirms His faithfulness and His people's worth.)

For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Romans 8:28-39

(Paul gives words to the inexpressibly lavish love of God in Christ Jesus.)

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things



Romans 8:35, NIV

we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God 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 thirteenth chapter.

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

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

(Jesus' parables of the kingdom point to the value of the treasures He came to save.)

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸ When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children's Message (9:00)

Christa Kirschner

Hymn of the Day "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

LSB 576

Sermon "Looking Forward to Jesus' Return"

Guest Preacher: Pastor Larry A. Alb

Text: Matthew 13:44-52

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) "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

Wilbur Held

✠ 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: Gathered with grateful hearts, we praise You—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—for the victory won for us in the giving of Jesus Christ, our Savior. For us, Christ battled darkness, bore sin's curse, and broke death's hold on humankind. The trophies of His triumph are all souls who now believe and belong to Him. Our hearts, our lives, and even our songs are given worth and value purely through His immeasurable love. As we anticipate the coming again of our victorious Redeemer, we praise the glorious name of our Lord by saying, "Holy is the Lord God Almighty." 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 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"
Dave Olsson, guitarist and soloist

Hymn "The Church's One Foundation" *LSB 644*

Hymn "I Love Your Kingdom, Lord" *LSB 651*

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 "Your Kingdom, God, is My Glorious Treasure" *LSB 654*

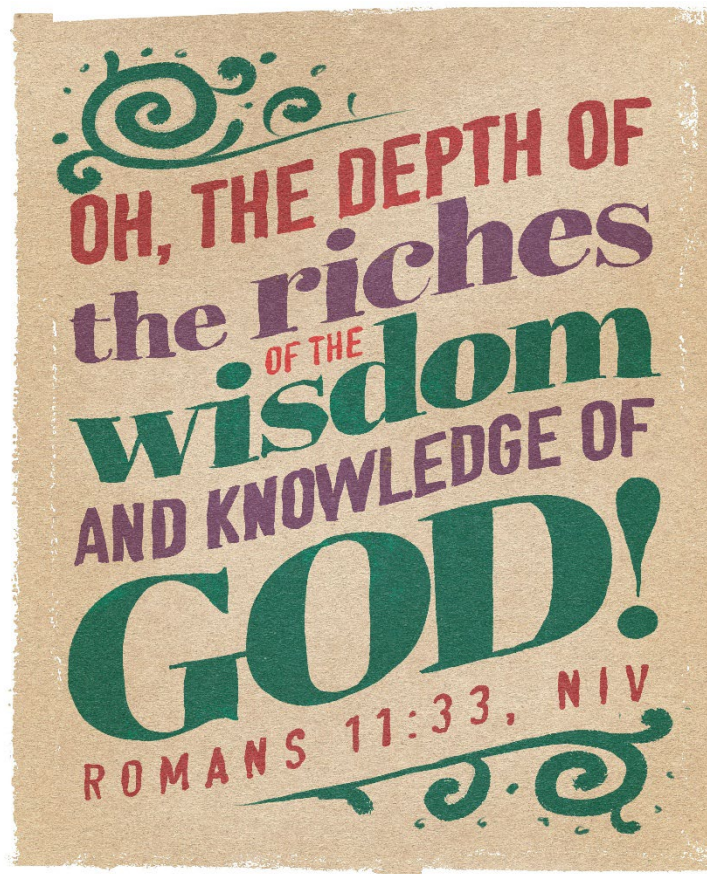
Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude "Postlude in G Minor" Edward Broughton



SERVING IN WORSHIP

PASTOR
PREACHER / CELEBRANT
MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP / ORGANIST
GUITARIST / SOLOIST
ELDERS
ACOLYTES
LECTORS
COMMUNION SERVER
ALTAR GUILD

Pastor John Larson
Pastor Larry A. Alb
Michael Zehnder
Dave Olsson
4:00 Jim Wert; 9:00 Michael Lawrenz
9:00 Maria Olson
4:00 Curt Engle; 9:00 Benjamin Dallet
4:00 Curt Engle; 9:00 Benjamin Dallet
Sharon Seible, Barbara Rutter



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