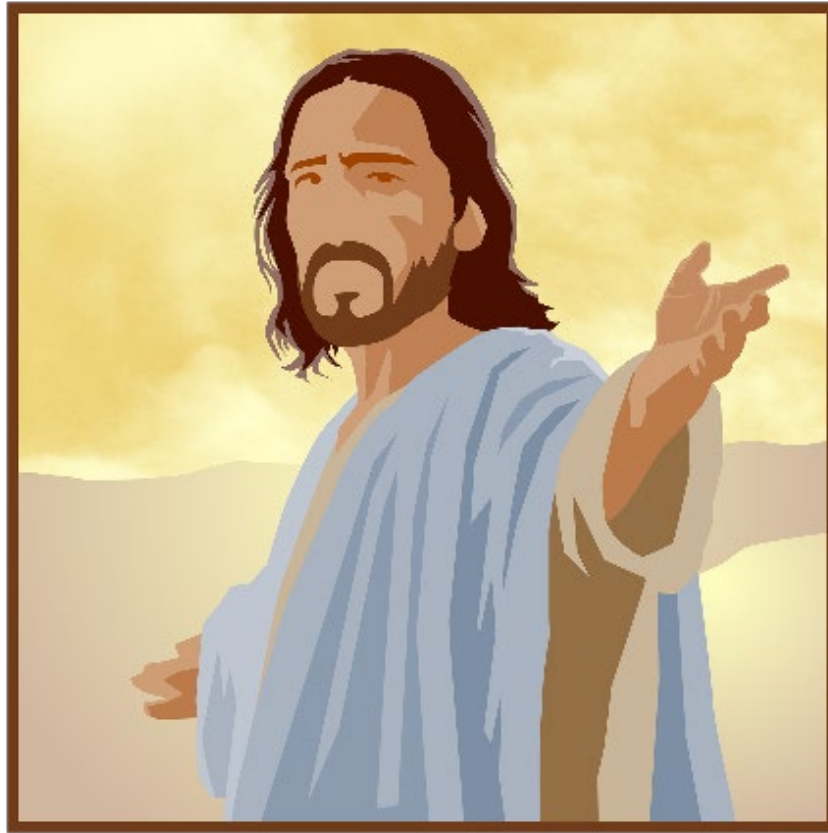


ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

August 29-30, 2026

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



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WALKING FAITHFULLY

AS WE GATHER

The time of changing seasons is a good time to begin an outdoor regimen of walking for personal wellness. Experts in the field of fitness have documented that going for a walk outdoors can bring a sense of physical betterment and mental calmness to those who engage in it on a regular basis. In the Scriptures there are numerous passages that underscore the value of spiritual walking for the Christian as well. Paul writes to the Galatians, “But I say, walk by the Spirit” (5:16), and he reminds the believers in Christ at Corinth that “We walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7), which is the title of our first communion hymn. Hymn writers give poetic expression to that special walking in texts like “Let us ever walk with Jesus” (*LSB* 685:1) and “I want to walk as a child of the light” (*LSB* 411:1), which is our Hymn of the Day. May we be blessed by our walking through the Divine Service together this day!

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Prelude

“How Firm a Foundation”

Michael Ware
Linda Olsen, organ
Mary Wenkheimer, piano

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn

“How Firm a Foundation”

LSB 728

Invocation

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 72:18–19; 119:1; 116:5, 9*

Pastor: Blessed are those whose way is blameless,

People: **who walk in the law of the LORD!**

Pastor: Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.

People: **I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.**

Pastor: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

People: **Blessed be His glorious name forever;
may the whole earth be filled with His glory! Amen and Amen!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: It is good and right that we should make confession of our sins. The section on Confession in the Small Catechism informs and directs us with these words, which summarize it well.

People: **“Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.”**

Pastor: Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

People: **O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your present and eternal punishment. By nature, I am a sinful creature. By thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your Law. For the sake of the suffering and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.**

Pastor: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained 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.**

BAPTISM OF SOPHIA ELENA RAJEWSKI (9:00 am)

LSB 268

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

“Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing”

LSB 584

1 Faith and truth and life be - stow - ing, O - pen now the
2 May the Spir - it's pow'r un - ceas - ing Bring to life the

Scrip - tures, Lord, Seed to life e - ter - nal sow - ing,
hid - den grain, Dai - ly in our hearts in - creas - ing,

Scat - tered on the wind a - broad. Let not hearts, Your
Bear - ing fruit that shall re - main. So in Scrip - ture,

Word re - ceiv - ing, Like a bar - ren field be found, Choked with
song, and sto - ry, Sav - ior, may Your voice be heard. Till our

thorns and un - be - liev - ing, Shal - low earth or ston - y ground.
eyes be - hold Your glo - ry Give us ears to hear Your Word.

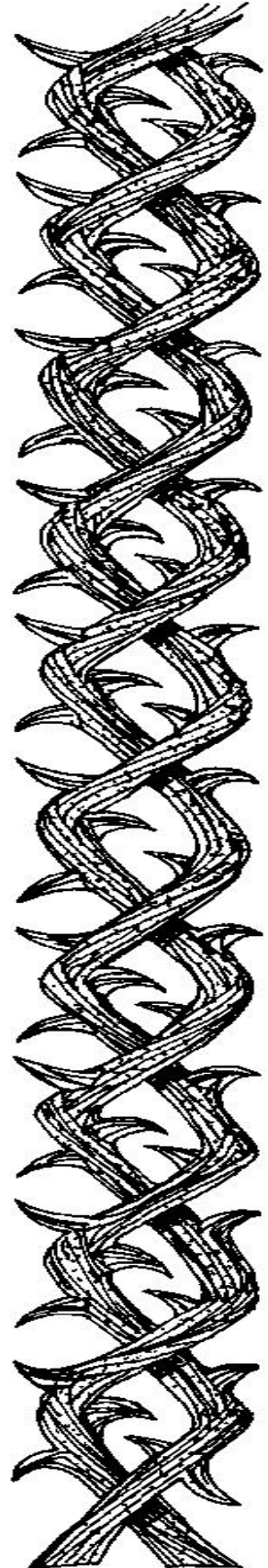
✠ WORD ✠

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21
(The Lord promises deliverance to His people.)

O Lord, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and take vengeance for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance take me not away;
know that for your sake I bear reproach.
Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O Lord, God of hosts.
I did not sit in the company of revelers,
nor did I rejoice;
I sat alone, because your hand was upon me,
for you had filled me with indignation.
Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Will you be to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail?
Therefore thus says the Lord:
“If you return, I will restore you,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall be as my mouth.
They shall turn to you,
but you shall not turn to them.
And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
declares the Lord.
I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



Epistle: Romans 12:9-21

(The hallmarks of living in Christ)

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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 sixteenth chapter.

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

Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

(Jesus calls His faithful followers to take up their crosses.)

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you."

But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Children’s Message

Pastor Larson

Hymn of the Day “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

LSB 411

Sermon “And the Greatest Is ...”

Pastor John Larson
Text: Romans 12:9-21

Nicene Creed (4:00)

(found in 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)



Be Strengthened

Offering Music (9:00) “How Firm a Foundation”

Sam Batt Owens

✠ 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)

LSB 160

Proper Preface

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have graciously blessed us through the Word Incarnate, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who for our sake died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death. We rejoice in His call to discipleship, taking up our crosses and joyfully following in His way. Confident of our Savior's gracious leading and rejoicing in the company of the saints on earth and those above, we laud and magnify Your holy name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus

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

LSB 163



DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Special Music

"Jerusalem, My Happy Home"

Dawn Munson, soloist
Andy Munson, guitarist

Hymn

"We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"

LSB 720

Hymn

"Christ Be My Leader"

LSB 861

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

"Jesus Lead Thou On"

LSB 718

Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Lead On, O King Eternal"

Franklin Ritter



SERVING IN WORSHIP

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

Pastor John Larson
Rev. Michael Zehnder
Linda Olsen
Mary Wenkheimer
Dawn Munson
Andy Munson
4:00 Jeff Dunker; 9:00 Bob Olsen
9:00 Tobin Lawrenz
4:00 Mike Price; 9:00 Tom Munson
4:00 Mike Price; 9:00 Arvin Michel
Sharon Seible, Barbara Rutter

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