

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

October 18, 2026
10:30 a.m. Sunday



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GIVE UNTO CAESAR

AS WE GATHER

God calls His people to lives that include showing respect for the authorities placed over us. At the time Paul wrote to his coworker Timothy, “I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions” (1 Timothy 2:1–2), the Roman world had been ruled by a series of tyrannical and cruel emperors for decades. When Jesus spoke of the duty of people to “render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s” (Matthew 22:21), the Roman emperor was Tiberius Caesar, portrayed by noted historians of his time, Tacitus and Suetonius, as a mean-spirited tyrant and a man ever ready to spill blood. Sometimes, in His providence, God shows His dominion in ways not readily understood and chooses to work through untoward and unlikeable people. He may even use non-Christian leaders and unchristian nations to further His gracious plans. In living as faithful citizens, we are called to carry out the duties and responsibilities of citizenship, including paying taxes. At the same time, we are to demonstrate our highest allegiance to God by being people of faith who evidence our eternal hope in Christ in all situations and who offer prayers for those who rule over us.

✧ PREPARATION ✧

Gathering Song

GOOD, GOOD FATHER

Brown / Barrett

Oh, I've heard a thousand stories of
What they think You're like
But I've heard the tender whisper of
Love in the dead of night
And You tell me that You're pleased
And that I'm never alone

CHORUS

**You're a good, good Father
It's who You are
It's who You are
It's who You are
And I'm loved by You
It's who I am
It's who I am
It's who I am**

Oh, and I've seen many searching for
Answers far and wide
But I know we're all searching for
Answers only You provide
'Cause You know just what we need
Before we say a word

(CHORUS)

You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us **(X2)**

Oh, it's love so undeniable I, I can hardly speak
Peace so unexplainable I, I can hardly think
As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still
Into love, love

(CHORUS X2)

You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways



Pastoral Greeting

Opening Song

GOD OF WONDERS

Byrd / Hindalong

Lord of all creation
Of water, earth and sky
The heavens are Your tabernacle
Glory to the Lord on high

CHORUS

**God of wonders beyond our galaxy
You are holy, holy
The universe declares Your majesty
You are holy, holy
Lord of heaven and earth
Lord of heaven and earth**



Early in the morning
I will celebrate the light
And when I stumble in the darkness
I will call Your name by night

(CHORUS)

Hallelujah (to the Lord of heaven and earth)
Hallelujah (to the Lord of heaven and earth)
Hallelujah (to the Lord of heaven and earth)

Precious Lord, reveal Your heart in me
Father, hold me, hold me
The universe declares Your majesty
You are holy, holy

(CHORUS)

CCLI Song # 3118757 Marc Byrd | Steve Hindalong © 2000 Never Say Never Songs; New Spring; Meaux Mercy; Storm Boy Music CCLI License # 11489815

Invocation

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

1 Chronicles 16:28; Psalm 28:8; 29:2, 11; 68:34; 1 Peter 4:11

Pastor: Ascribe to the LORD, O clans of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

People: **The LORD is the strength of His people; He is the saving refuge of His anointed.**

Pastor: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

People: May the LORD give strength to His people! May the LORD bless His people with peace!

Pastor: Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel, and whose power is in the skies.

People: To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

People: O God our Father, we confess that we are by nature sinful, and we acknowledge that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have transgressed Your law and have brought injury to the lives of others, and we have not always kept the commitments we have made or fulfilled the responsibilities entrusted to us. We do sincerely repent of our sins. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Grant us Your grace and full forgiveness in Jesus Christ, our Savior. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit within us, lead us to amend our lives that each day we may grow in righteousness and in godly living to the glory of Your holy name.

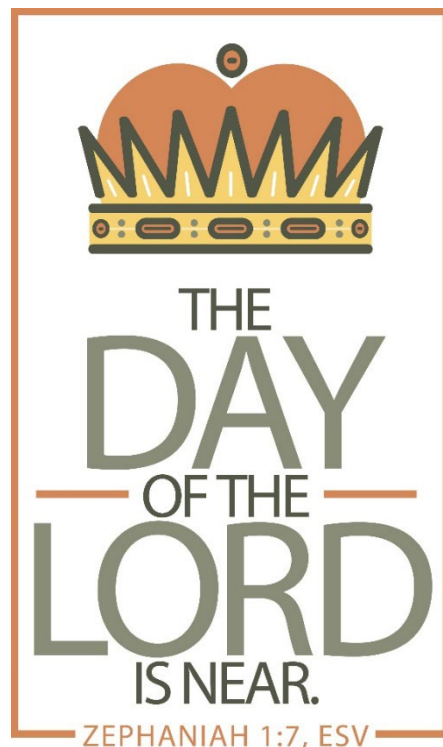
Pastor: Our gracious God hears our pleas and accepts our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ. To those who repentantly call upon Him, our Lord promises forgiveness, life, and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7
(It is the Lord alone who rules the world.)

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped,
to subdue nations before him
and to loose the belts of kings,
to open doors before him
that gates may not be closed:
“I will go before you
and level the exalted places,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
I will give you the treasures of darkness
and the hoards in secret places,
that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
For the sake of my servant Jacob,



and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I name you, though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, and there is no other,
besides me there is no God;
I equip you, though you do not know me,
that people may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is none besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
I form light and create darkness;
I make well-being and create calamity;
I am the Lord, who does all these things.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: I Thessalonians 1:1-10

(In Christ, God's people lead exemplary lives of faith.)

**To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.**

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please rise for the Holy Gospel.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

(Teaching about giving what is due to Caesar and to God)

Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message

Jenna Lawrenz

Song of the Day

WHO YOU SAY I AM

Fielding / Morgan

Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me?
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me
Oh His love for me

CHORUS 1

Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

Free at last, He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin, Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me

(CHORUS 1)

CHORUS 2

In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

I am chosen, not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me, not against me
I am who You say I am **(2X)**



"Is not this the kind of
fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free and
break every yoke?"

Isaiah 58:6, NIV

Oh I am who You say I am

(CHORUS 1)

(CHORUS 2)

I am chosen, not forsaken

I am who You say I am

You are for me, not against me

I am who You say I am **(2X)**

Oh I am who You say I am

Oh I am who You say I am

(CHORUS 1)

(CHORUS 2)

I'm a child of God

Yes I am

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Sermon

“Ugly and Beautiful”

Pastor John Larson

Text: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Nicene Creed

(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 *(collected in back)*

✠ 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.

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

Song **YOU ARE MY KING (AMAZING LOVE)**

Foote

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken
I'm accepted; You were condemned
I'm alive and well; Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again **(X2)**

CHORUS

**Amazing love, how can it be
That You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true
It's my joy to honor You**

In all I do I honor You

You are my King
You are my King
Jesus, You are my King
Jesus, You are my King

(CHORUS X2)

In all I do I honor You
In all I do I honor You



Song **HERE I AM TO WORSHIP**

Hughes

Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

CHORUS

So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days, oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly, You came to the Earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

(CHORUS)

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross **(X2)**

(CHORUS)

So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God

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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 Song **YOU ARE MY VISION**

Hull, Byrne, Rend Collective

You are my vision, O King of my heart
Nothing else satisfies, only You, Lord
You are my best thought by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, Your presence my light

INTERLUDE

Oh oh oh
Oh oh oh

You are my wisdom, You are my true word
I ever with You and You with me, Lord
You're my great Father and I'm Your true son
You dwell inside me, together we're one!

(INTERLUDE)

You are my battle-shield sword for the fight
You are my dignity, You're my delight
You're my soul's shelter and You're my high tower
Come raise me heavenward, O Power of my power

(INTERLUDE)

I don't want riches or man's empty praise
You're my inheritance now and always
You and You only, the first in my heart
High King of heaven, my treasure You are!

(INTERLUDE)

High King of heaven when victory's won
May I reach heaven's joy, O bright heaven's Son
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all!

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all!

(INTERLUDE)

Oh oh oh

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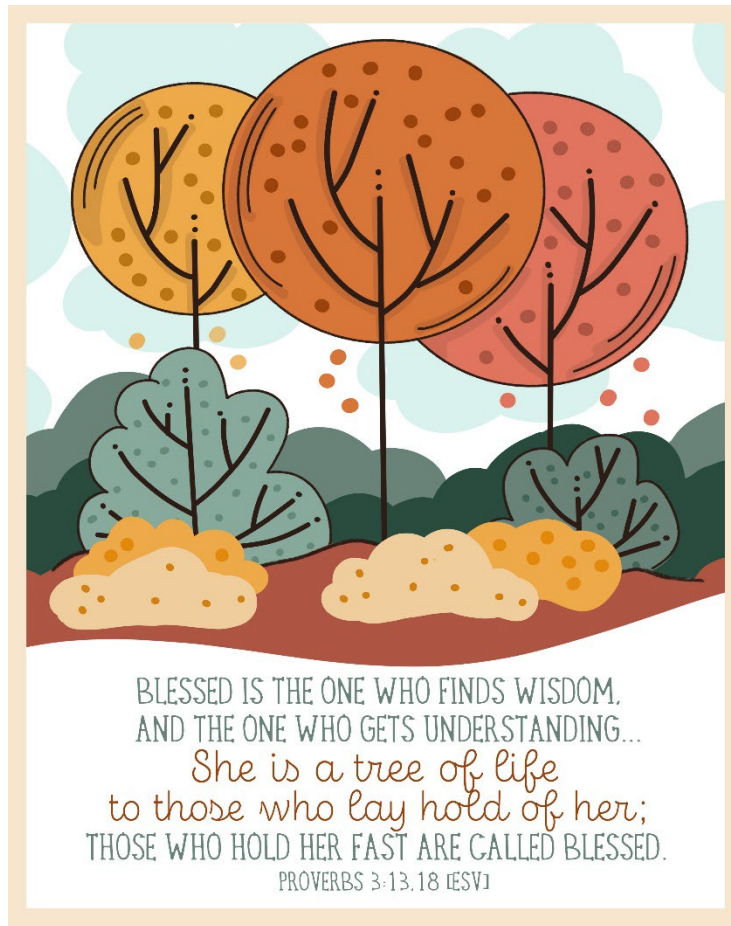
Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**





SERVING IN WORSHIP

PREACHER / CELEBRANT

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP

ORGANIST

GLORIA DEI RINGERS / ASCENSION CHORALE DIRECTOR

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER

ELDERS

ACOLYTES

LECTORS

COMMUNION SERVER

ALTAR GUILD

Pastor John Larson

Rev. Michael Zehnder

Diana Gaide

Stephanie Roettjer

Cody Knapp

4:00 Arvin Michel; 8:00 Benjamin Dallet; 10:30 David Pearman

8:00 Connor Lujan; 10:30 Olive Scott

4:00 Curt Engle; 8:00 Clyde Wiggins; 10:30 Jude Donovan

4:00 Curt Engle; 10:30 Jude Donovan

Shelia Beu, Cathy Utecht, Charmaine Rohde



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