ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO
November 14-15, 2026
4:00 pm Saturday and 8:00 a.m. Sunday



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NO TIME FOR COMPLACENCY!

AS WE GATHER

The prophet Zephaniah calls for silence as the day of the Lord draws near. The Lord has prepared the sacrifice and invited His guests to witness what happens next (Zephaniah 1:7). The people believe that the Lord is apathetic and indifferent (v. 12), which has given them license to do as they please. The day is coming when the people will realize how wrong they are. Paul has a similar warning for the Thessalonians and anyone who believes that everything is fine just the way it is, especially those who act in the darkness (1 Thessalonians 5:2–4). Finally, Jesus describes the day of the Lord with the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14–30). In the end, the Lord will reveal the ways we have misjudged His character. Until then, He points us to the place where His most crucial character trait is revealed. It is the sacrifice of the only One worthy of hearing those words, “Well done, good and faithful servant,” so that you might be invited to enter into the joy of your Master.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Prelude "Rejoice the Lord is King" David Paxton

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn "O Worship the King" *LSB* 804
Verses 1-3, 6

Invocation *(We follow the liturgy found in the hymnal starting on page 151 in the front)*

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

Exhortation *LSB* 151

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Confession and Absolution *LSB* 151

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Absolution

SERVICE OF THE WORD
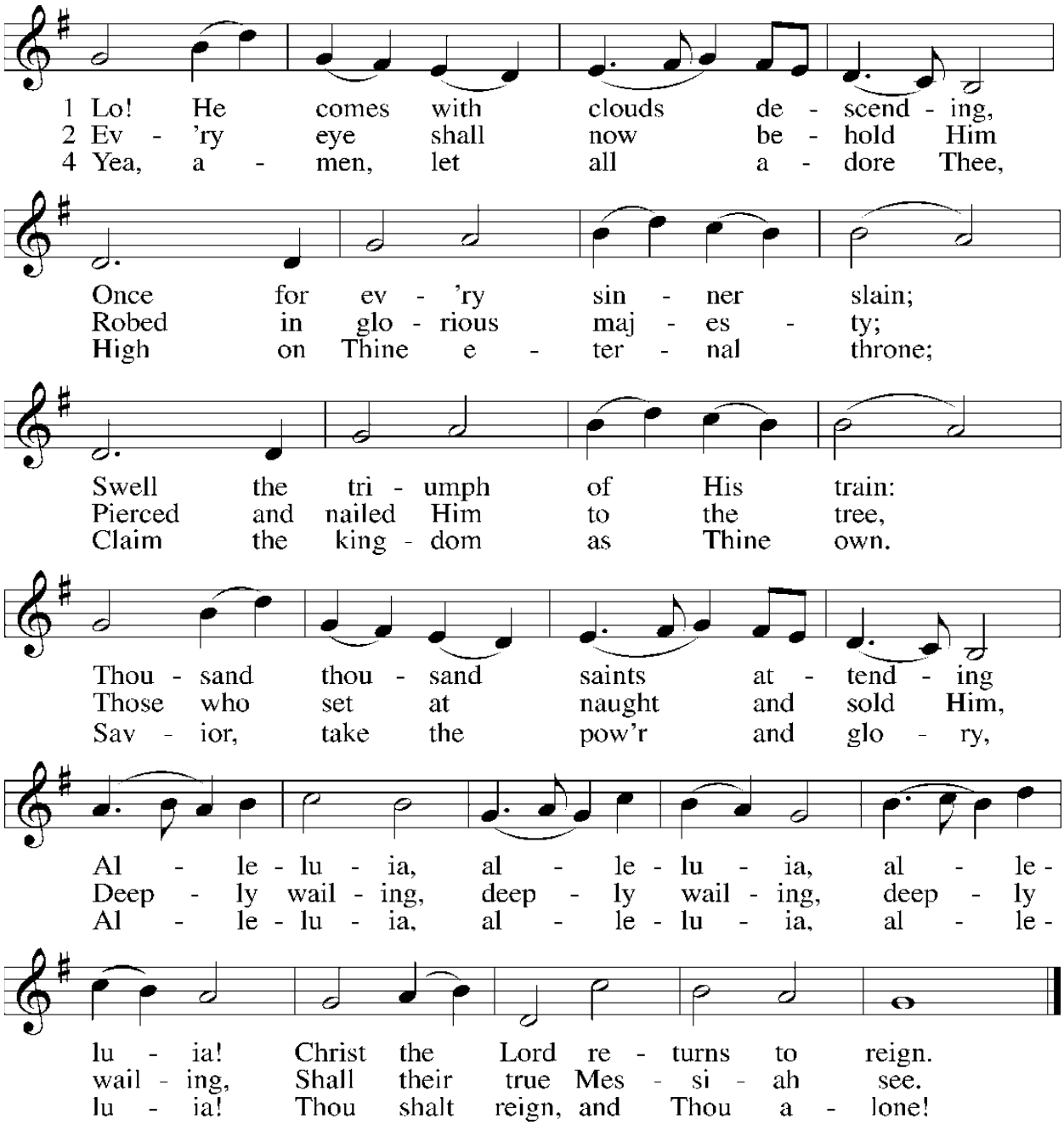
KYRIE *(chanted; pastor and congregation)* *LSB* 152



HYMN OF PRAISE *(sung by congregation)*

"Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending" *LSB* 336

Verses 1-2, 4



✠ WORD ✠

Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 1:7-16

(The day of the Lord is near and coming quickly.)

Be silent before the Lord God!
For the day of the Lord is near;
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice
and consecrated his guests.

And on the day of the Lord's sacrifice—
“I will punish the officials and the king's sons
and all who array themselves in foreign attire.
On that day I will punish
everyone who leaps over the threshold,
and those who fill their master's house
with violence and fraud.
“On that day,” declares the Lord,
“a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,
a wail from the Second Quarter,
a loud crash from the hills.
Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!
For all the traders are no more;
all who weigh out silver are cut off.
At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the men
who are complacent,
those who say in their hearts,
‘The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do ill.’
Their goods shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.”
The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter;
the mighty man cries aloud there.
A day of wrath is that day,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.



Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

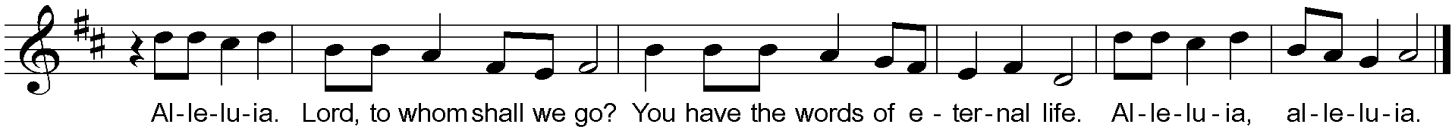
Epistle: I Thessalonians 5:1-11
(The Lord has not destined us for wrath but to obtain salvation through Jesus Christ.)

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Please rise for the Verse and the Holy Gospel.

VERSE *John 6:68*



Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30
(The day of the Lord will be like a man who entrusts his servants with his property.)

"For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two

talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" *LSB* 338

Sermon "How Much Do You Have?" Pastor John Larson
Text: Matthew 25:14-30

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 *(4:00 pm and 10:30 am - collected in back; 8:00 am – collected in the pews)*

Offering Music (8:00) "O Worship the King" Carl Schalk

✠ 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 *(chanted, pastor and congregation)* *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, our Lord and Savior, who has rescued us from this sinful body of death by shedding Your own precious Body and Blood and given us life, health and salvation through the sacrifice of Your Son in our place. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus *(sung by the congregation)* "Holy, Holy, Holy" *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 *(sung by the congregation)* *LSB* 163

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Hymn "What is This Bread?" *LSB* 629

Hymn "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" *LSB* 411

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 "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" *LSB* 660

Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" Robert J. Hughes



Using Your *Talents*

SERVING IN WORSHIP

PREACHER / CELEBRANT	Pastor John Larson
MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP	Rev. Michael Zehnder
ORGANIST	Linda Olsen
GLORIA DEI RINGERS / ASCENSION CHORALE DIRECTOR	Stephanie Roettjer
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER	Cody Knapp
ELDERS	4:00 Arvin Michel; 8:00 Benjamin Dallet; 10:30 Michael Lawrenz
ACOLYTES	8:00 Benjamin Dallet; 10:30 Abby Williams
LECTORS	4:00 Curt Engle; 8:00 Larry Nisbet; 10:30 Jude Donovan
COMMUNION SERVER	4:00 Curt Engle; 10:30 Jude Donovan
ALTAR GUILD	Tanya Schmitt, Cathy Utecht, Charmaine Rohde

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