ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO
November 15, 2026
10:30 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 ✠

Gathering Song “Great Are You, Lord” Leonard, Ingram & Jordan

You give life, You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope, You restore
Every heart that is broken
And great are You, Lord

CHORUS
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only

You give life, You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope, You restore
Every heart that is broken
And great are You, Lord

(CHORUS)

And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing
Great are You, Lord **(3X)**

(CHORUS 2X)

CCLI Song # 6460220 David Leonard, Jason Ingram, & Leslie Jordan © 2012 Open Hands Music; So Essential Tunes; Integrity's Praise! Music; Little Way Creative
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Pastoral Greeting

Opening Song “Majestic” Brewster

O Lord, our Lord
How majestic is
Your name in all the earth **(3X)**

CHORUS
The heavens declare Your greatness
The oceans cry out to You
The mountains they bow down before You
So I'll join with the earth
And I'll give my praise to You

O Lord, our Lord
How majestic is
Your name in all the earth **(3X)**

(CHORUS)

I will worship You **(4X)**

We will worship You **(2X)**

The heavens declare Your greatness
The oceans cry out to You
The mountains they bow down before You
So I'll join with the earth and I'll sing...

(CHORUS)

So I'll join with the earth
And I'll give my praise to You **(2X)**

CCLI Song # 4573308 Lincoln Brewster © 2005 Integrity's Praise! Music CCLI License # 11489815

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

✠ 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.)

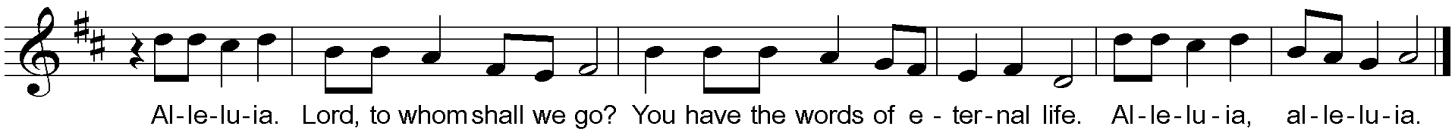
Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace

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.'

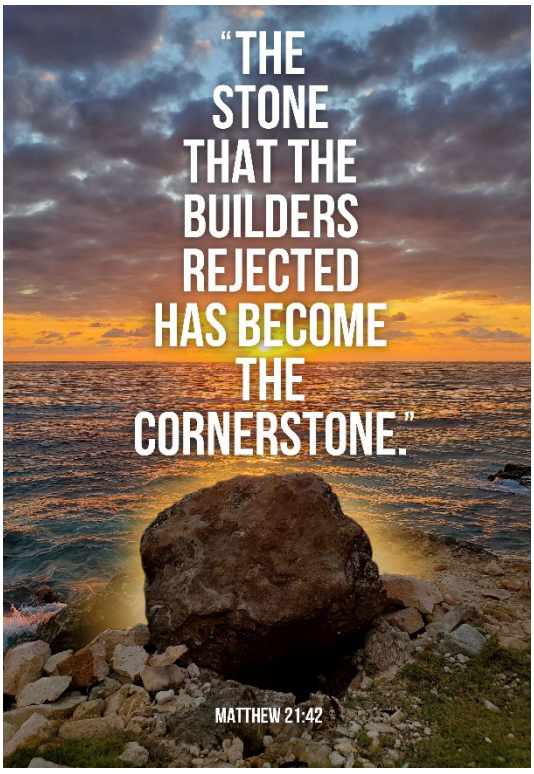
Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message Jenna Lawrenz

Song of the Day "Build My Life" Younker, Martin et al.

Worthy of every song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for You

Jesus, the Name above every other name
Jesus, the only One Who could ever save
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for You, we live for You



CHORUS
Holy there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and
Show me Who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me

Jesus, the Name above every other name
Jesus, the only One Who could ever save
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for You, we live for You

(CHORUS)

I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken (2X)

(CHORUS 2X)

CCLI Song # 7070345 Brett Younker | Karl Martin | Kirby Kaple | Matt Redman | Pat Barrett© 2016 Kaple Music; Capitol CMG Genesis; Housefires Sounds; Said And Done Music; sixsteps Music; Thankyou Music Ltd; Vamos Publishing; worshiptogether.com songs; Martin, Karl Andrew; Bethel Music PublishingCCLI License # 11489815

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 *(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

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 "How Can It Be" Ingram, Johnson & Mabury

I am guilty
Ashamed of what I've done, what I've become
These hands are dirty
I dare not lift them up to the Holy One

CHORUS
You plead my cause, You right my wrongs
You break my chains; You overcome
You gave Your life to give me mine
You say that I am free
How can it be? Yeah
How can it be? Yeah

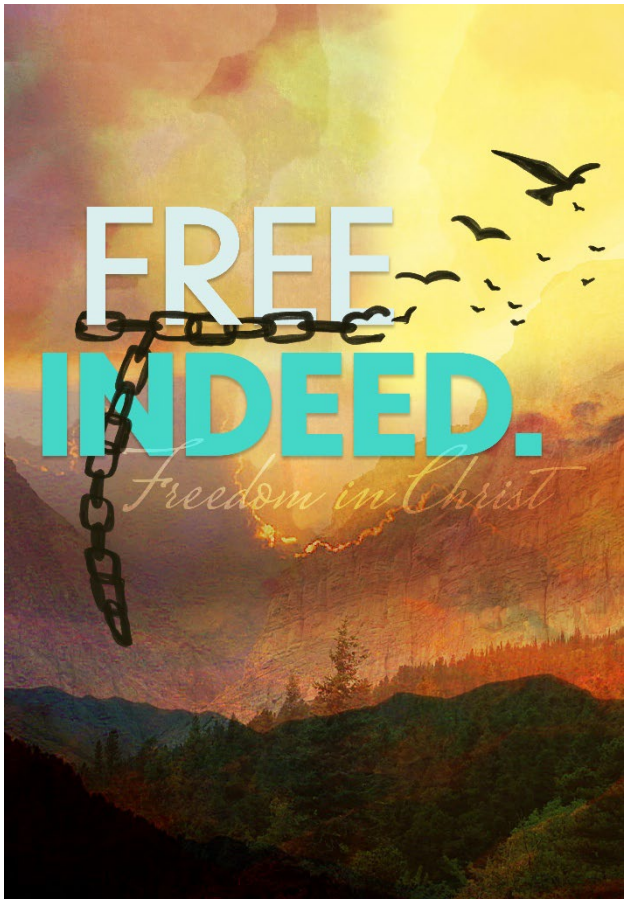
I've been hiding
Afraid I've let You down, inside I doubt
That You could love me
But in Your eyes there's only grace now

(CHORUS)

Though I fall, You can make me new
From this death, I will rise with You
Oh, the grace reaching out for me
How can it be?
How can it be?

You plead my cause, You right my wrongs
You break my chains; You overcome
You gave Your life to give me mine
You say that I am free...

(CHORUS)



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Song “He Knows My Name” Walker

I have a Maker
He formed my heart
Before even time began
My life was in His hands

CHORUS
He knows my name
He knows my every thought
He sees each tear that falls
And He hears me when I call

I have a Father
He calls me His own
He'll never leave me
No matter where I go

(CHORUS 2X)

And He hears me when I call



CCLI Song # 2151368 Tommy Walker © 1996 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Songs CCLI License # 11489815

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

CCLI Song # 6054533 Eleanor Henrietta Hull | Mary Elizabeth Byrne | Rend Collective
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Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

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





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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