ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO
November 7-8, 2026
4:00 pm Saturday and 8:00 a.m. Sunday



TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE LION ROARS

AS WE GATHER

It is easy to assume that tomorrow will be little or no different from today. However, the day is coming when life as we know it will end. The final Sundays of the Church Year remind us that our comfortable routines will be interrupted by the God who cares enough to interrupt them. His justice will grab our attention like a lion (Amos 5:19). He will silence all false and empty worship with justice that rolls in like roaring waters (Amos 5:24). Jesus also calls for our attention as we wait for that day: “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour” (Matthew 25:13). As we wait for that day, Paul reminds us that our waiting is filled with hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13–14). Jesus died and rose again, and that forever changes our waiting.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Prelude "Intermezzo" Healey Willan

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn "Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won" *LSB* 490

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.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

KYRIE *(chanted; pastor and congregation)* *LSB* 152

HYMN OF PRAISE *(sung by congregation)* "This is the Feast" *LSB* 155

✠ WORD ✠

Old Testament Reading: Amos 5:18-24
(The day of the Lord will bring justice and righteousness that silences all false and shallow worship.)

Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord!
Why would you have the day of the Lord?
It is darkness, and not light,
as if a man fled from a lion,
and a bear met him,
or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall,
and a serpent bit him.
Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

"I hate, I despise your feasts,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the peace offerings of your fattened animals,
I will not look upon them.
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
to the melody of your harps I will not listen.
But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

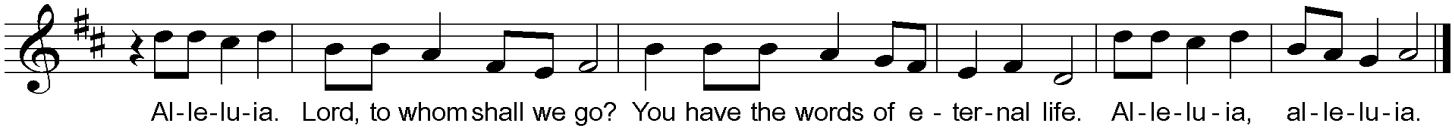
Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
(We grieve with hope and await the day when Christ will awaken all who are asleep.)

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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*

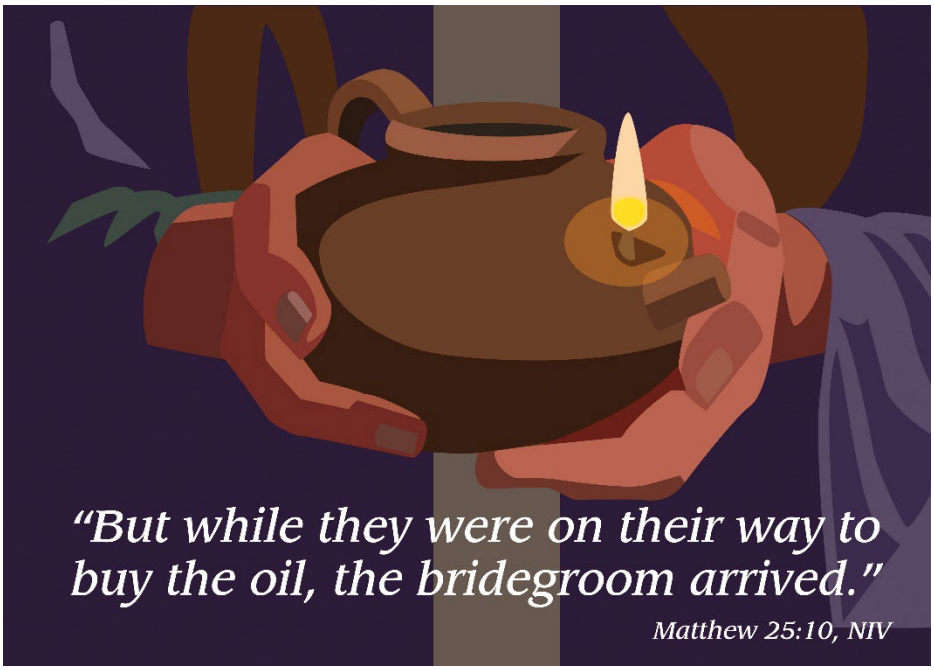


Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13
(Watch for the Bridegroom, who will return at any moment.)

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took

flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.



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

Hymn of the Day "The Day is Surely Drawing Near" *LSB* 508 (Verses 1-4, 7)

Sermon "Uninformed" Pastor John Larson
Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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) "Awake, Awake to Love and Work" Anna Laura Page

✠ 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

Special Piano Music "Knowing You" Larry Dalton

Hymn "Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise" *LSB* 680

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

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 "We Know that Christ is Raised"
LSB 603

Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude "Processional in G Major"
John Stanley



SERVING IN WORSHIP

PREACHER / CELEBRANT	Pastor John Larson
MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP	Rev. Michael Zehnder
ORGANIST / PIANIST	Diana Gaide
GLORIA DEI RINGERS / ASCENSION CHORALE DIRECTOR	Stephanie Roettjer
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER	Cody Knapp
ELDERS	4:00 Jim Wert; 8:00 David Pearman; 10:30 Michael Lawrenz
ACOLYTES	8:00 Ellise Friend; 10:30 Parker Aldrich
LECTORS	4:00 Dick Castleman; 8:00 Lisa Wert; 10:30 Lisa O'Neal
COMMUNION SERVER	4:00 Dick Castleman; 10:30 Lisa O'Neal
ALTAR GUILD	Tanya Schmitt, Cathy Utecht, Charmaine Rohde

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