



WELCOME TO
ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH!
Pentecost 20 October 11, 2015

With men it is impossible, but not with God;
for with God all things are possible. *Mark 10:27b*

A Service of the Word

TLH (hymns 1-660) is the RED book, WS (hymns 701-800) is the TAN book
(If you have difficulty standing, please feel free to remain seated as needed)

Preservice Devotion: *Psalm 119:9-16 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You. Blessed are You, O Lord! Teach me Your statutes. With my lips I have declared All the judgments of Your mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches. I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.*

OPENING PRAYER

Minister (M): O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your Holy Word. We pray You to open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit that by the preaching of Your Word we may be brought to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and in death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake.

Congreg. (C) Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN

"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation" (VS 758:1-2)

1. Christ is made the sure foun-da-tion, Christ, our head and
 2. To this tem-ple, where we call you, Come, O Lord of
 cor-ner-stone, Cho-sen of the Lord and pre-cious,
 hosts, and stay; Come with all your lov-ing-kind-ness,
 Bind-ing all the Church in one, Ho-ly Zi-on's
 Hear Your peo-ple as they pray, And Your full-est
 help for-ev-er And our con-fi-dence a-lone.
 ben-e-dic-tion Speak with-in these walls to-day.

INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19

Minister (M) In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congreg. (C) Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

1 John 1

M God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

C If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

M If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

M Let us pray.

C Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us.

Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

M Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for our only, but also for the sins of the whole world. You are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

GOD, WE PRAISE YOU

Te Deum

1 God, we praise You! God, we bless You! God, we name You
2 True a - pos - tles, faith - ful proph - ets, Saints who set their
3 Je - sus Christ, the King of glo - ry, Ev - er - last - ing
4 Christ, at God's right hand vic - to - rious, You will judge the

sov - 'reign Lord! Might - y King whom an - gels wor - ship, Fa - ther,
world a - blaze, Mar - tyrs, once un - known, un - heed - ed, Join one
Son of God, Hum - ble was Your vir - gin moth - er, Hard the
world You made; Lord, in mer - cy help Your ser - vants For whose

by Your Church a - dored: All cre - a - tion shows Your glo - ry;
grow - ing song of praise, While Your Church on earth con - fess - es
lone - ly path You trod: By Your cross is sin de - feat - ed,
free - dom You have paid: Raise us up from dust to glo - ry;

Heav'n and earth draw near Your throne, Sing - ing, "Ho - ly,
One ma - jes - tic Trin - i - ty: Fa - ther, Son, and
Hell con - front - ed face to face, Heav - en o - pened
Guard us from all sin to - day. King en - throned a -

M The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

M Let us pray, ... one God now and forever,

C Amen

FIRST LESSON

Hebrews 4:1–16

Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. ²For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard *it*. ³For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said:

“So I swore in My wrath,

‘They shall not enter My rest,’ ”

although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. ⁴For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh *day* in this way: “*And God rested on the seventh day from all His works*”; ⁵ and again in this *place*: “They shall not enter My rest.”

⁶Since therefore it remains that some *must* enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, ⁷ again He designates a certain day, saying in David, “*Today*,” after such a long time, as it has been said:

“Today, if you will hear His voice,

Do not harden your hearts.”

⁸For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. ⁹There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.

¹⁰For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God *did* from His.

¹¹Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. ¹²For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account.

¹⁴Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are, yet* without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

M This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN *rise if able* "We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost" (TLH 231)

1 We now im - plore God the Ho - ly Ghost
 2 Shine in our hearts, O most pre - cious Light,
 For the true faith which we need the most,
 That we Je - sus Christ may know a - right,
 That in our last mo - ments he may be - friend us
 Cling - ing to our Sav - ior, whose blood has bought us,
 And, as home - ward we jour - ney, at - tend us. Lord, have mer - cy!
 Who a - gain to our home - land has brought us. Lord, have mer - cy!

GOSPEL LESSON

M In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

Mark 10:23–31

²³Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

²⁶And they were greatly astonished, saying among themselves, "Who then can be saved?"

²⁷But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men *it is* impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."

²⁸Then Peter began to say to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You."

²⁹So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, ³⁰who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life. ³¹But many *who are* first will be last, and the last first."

M This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CREED ~ The Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God the Father almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
 Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty.
From there He will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

TLH 399 (red hymnal)

Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower

SERMON

Ecclesiastes 5:10–20

¹⁰ He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; Nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also *is* vanity.

¹¹ When goods increase, They increase who eat them; So what profit have the owners Except to see *them* with their eyes?

¹² The sleep of a laboring man *is* sweet, Whether he eats little or much; But the abundance of the rich will not permit him to sleep.

¹³ There is a severe evil *which* I have seen under the sun: Riches kept for their owner to his hurt.

¹⁴ But those riches perish through misfortune; When he begets a son, *there is* nothing in his hand.

¹⁵ As he came from his mother's womb, naked shall he return, To go as he came; And he shall take nothing from his labor Which he may carry away in his hand.

¹⁶ And this also *is* a severe evil— Just exactly as he came, so shall he go. And what profit has he who has labored for the wind?

¹⁷ All his days he also eats in darkness, And *he has* much sorrow and sickness and anger.

¹⁸ Here is what I have seen: *It is* good and fitting *for one* to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it *is* his heritage. ¹⁹ As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor—this *is* the gift of God. ²⁰ For he will not dwell unduly on the days of his life, because God keeps *him* busy with the joy of his heart.

To Receive Your Daily Bread With Thanksgiving: THIS IS THE GIFT OF GOD

For further reflection:

1. The _____ of money is a root of all kinds of evil (1 Timothy 6:10).
2. What does the word vanity mean?
3. When God raises you up on the last day what will you have with you from your present life?
4. What does the king say is good:
 - a. to _____ and _____
 - b. to _____ the good of your _____
 - c. to _____ your portion and _____ in your labor
 - d. This is the _____ of _____
5. God wants us to stay busy with _____ of our _____.
6. How does the fourth petition teach us to receive our daily bread?

M The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen. *Philippians 4:7*

RESPONSE

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word” (LSB 655)

1 Lord, keep us steady in your word; curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
 Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
 u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and may bring to naught all he has done,
 and sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly,
 and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; or Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
 Music: J. Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1543

ERHALT UNS, HERR
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GATHERING OF OUR THANK OFFERING PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Dear Lord God Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. We give you thanks and praise for all your goodness, for you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. Blessed are you, O most high.

You bring us all goodness for Jesus sake. Make us always aware and mindful that every good gift is from your grace and is ours only because of Jesus Christ who has reconciled the world to you, bringing us the forgiveness of sins. Preserve this message of the cross in our churches and in the mouths of our pastors that we would never turn the mission of God into worldly pursuits, but concern our ministry with your kingdom first.

Grant to us your goodness dear Lord that we may receive our daily bread with thanksgiving. Root out all hypocrisy and selfish pursuits that would try to claim for our own the good gifts that come from above. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may recognize our unworthiness before You and so find consolation, forgiveness, and grace in our Lord Jesus Christ who has risen from death and lives and reigns in eternity. Teach us to rejoice in our labor, not for what we may store up in greed, but for what you have blessed us with.

Bless our nation and the bounty of it. Grant us good weather in this season of harvest that we may eat and drink, provide for our families, and realize Your ever present care for us.

Bring down your judgement upon those who would use riches as a means to selfish gain. Turn our hearts to see the needs of our neighbor and to help those who are oppressed. Show us the needs of the poor and underprivileged, the sick and hungry, the homeless and the desolate, and let us not be blind to it. Rather, keep us active in prayer for all who suffer, doing good where we are able, especially within our families and church.

