

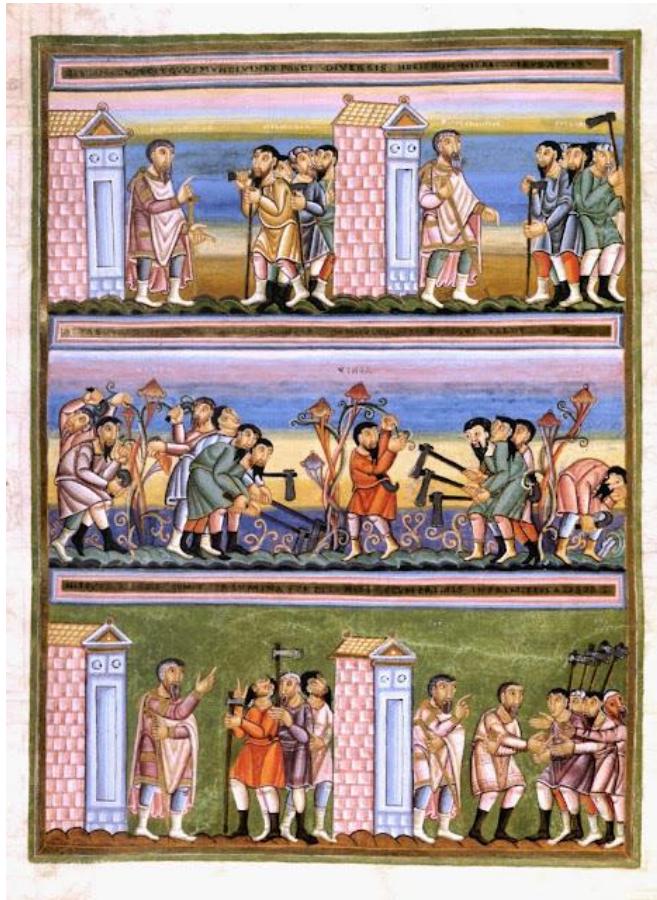
# Ascension of Christ Lutheran Church

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The Reverend Larry K. Loree, Jr., Pastor

*A member congregation of The English District of  
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*



*The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard, c.1030-1050, Codex Aureus of Echternach*

## SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY

February 1, 2026

## **+IN THE NAME OF JESUS+**

**WELCOME** to the Divine Service at Ascension of Christ! We pray that you will be richly blessed by God as you hear His Word, receive His gifts and worship Him with your prayer and praise!

**TO OUR GUESTS** Welcome, we are glad that you have chosen to worship with us this morning. Please don't hesitate to ask an usher or a greeter if you have any questions. Be sure to introduce yourself to our Pastor. We invite you to consider Ascension of Christ if you are looking for a church home. We gather every Sunday morning for Adult Bible Study at 9:00 am, the Divine Service at 10:15 am, and Fellowship, Sunday School and Confirmation after church.

**CHILDREN AT ASCENSION** At Ascension, we want you to feel at home. First, please relax and enjoy your time here. Jesus knows that children tend to wiggle and squawk a bit, so please don't feel embarrassed by it. Your children are welcome here! To make it easier on your family, please dare to sit closer to the front where your children can easily see what's going on, note the colors, watch the pastors, wonder about those heads on the lectern, and embrace the action at the altar. What Jesus does here is for them, too! As we go through the Divine Service, encourage them to join in on their parts: *Amen! Lord have mercy. And with your spirit. I believe! Our Father!* And please be sure to sing and pray your parts too! Children learn by following your lead. There are some busy bags in the back of the church for you and if you must take your children out of the church, please hurry back!

**THE LORD'S SUPPER IS JOYFULLY RECEIVED HERE TODAY** At the altar, our Lord Jesus Christ delivers His true body and blood into our mouths. His gift of body and blood given in, with, and under the bread and wine, bestows tremendous benefits. His body and blood forgives our sins, strengthens our faith, binds us to the Lord, and unites us with each other. In this is life and salvation. All members of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have publicly confessed this sacred gift and its blessings and so are encouraged to commune. When you have examined yourself according to Christ's bidding (1 Corinthians 11:28), come to His Supper rejoicing, just as Jesus asks, knowing that our Lord meets you at His altar with joy. If you are a guest and would like to learn more about the practice of the Lord's Supper at Ascension of Christ, or if you are uncertain about whether you should receive the Lord's Supper, please speak with Pastor Loree before communing for the first time.

### **THE LITURGY FOR SEPTUAGESIMA Grace Alone**

The people of Israel contended with the Lord in the wilderness (Ex. 17:1-7). They were dissatisfied with His provision. In the same way, the first laborers in the vineyard complained against the landowner for the wage he provided them (Matt. 20:1-16). They charged him with being unfair, but in reality he was being generous. For the Lord does not wish to deal with us on the basis of what we deserve but on the basis of His abounding grace in Christ. The first—those who rely on their own merits—will be last. “For they were overthrown in the wilderness” (1 Cor. 10:5). But the last, those who rely on Christ, will be first. For Christ is the Rock (1 Cor. 9:24-10:5). He is the One who was struck and from whose side blood and water flowed that we may be cleansed of our sin.

## **+GOD GATHERS US BEFORE HIS HOLY PRESENCE+**

*Please note the ♫ symbol is used to indicate a sung response.*

### **PRELUDE**

*Stand*

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

**WITH THE LORD BEGIN YOUR TASK**

**LSB 869**

### **INVOCATION**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ♫ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Kneel/Stand      Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ♫ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## +GOD GATHERS US BEFORE HIS HOLY PRESENCE+

*Stand*

### INTROIT

*Psalm 18:1-2a, 27, 32, 49; Antiphon: vv. 5-6a*



The cords of Sheol en- | tangled me;\*  
the snares of death con- | fronted me.  
In my distress I called up- | on the LORD.\*  
From his temple he | heard my voice.  
**I love you, O | LORD, my strength.\***

**The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my de- | liverer.**  
For you save a humble | people,\*  
but the haughty eyes | you bring down.  
**[You have] equipped | me with strength\***  
**and made my way | blameless.**

For this I will praise you, O LORD, among the | nations,\*  
and sing | to your name.  
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

The cords of Sheol en- | tangled me;\*  
the snares of death con- | fronted me.  
In my distress I called up- | on the LORD.\*  
From his temple he | heard my voice.

### KYRIE

**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** ♫And with thy spirit.

**P** Let us pray. O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** ♫Amen.

## +GOD SPEAKS TO US IN HIS WORD+

### OLD TESTAMENT

*Exodus 17:1-17*

<sup>1</sup>All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people,

taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### GRADUAL



The LORD is a stronghold for | the oppressed,\*  
a stronghold in times of | trouble.

*Psalm 9:9–10, 18–19*

**And those who know your name put their | trust in you,\*  
for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who | seek you.**

For the needy shall not always be for- | gotten,\*  
and the hope of the poor shall not perish for- | ever.

**A- | rise, O LORD!\***

**Let not | man prevail.**

## EPISTLE

<sup>24</sup>Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.

<sup>25</sup>Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. <sup>26</sup>So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. <sup>27</sup>But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

<sup>1</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that

*Stand*

## TRACT



**Out | of the depths\***

**I cry to you, | O LORD!**

**O Lord, | hear my voice!\***

**Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for | mercy!**

**If you, O LORD, should mark in- | iquities,\***

**O Lord, | who could stand?**

**But with you there is for- | giveness,\*  
that you | may be feared.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 20:1-16 NKJV*

**P** The continuation of the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

**C** ♫Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

*1 Corinthians 9:24-10:5*

our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 130:1-4*

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup>and said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. <sup>6</sup>And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.’ <sup>8</sup>“So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, ‘Call the laborers and give them *their* wages, beginning with the last to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>And when those came who were

hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. <sup>10</sup>But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. <sup>11</sup>And when they had received *it*, they complained against the landowner, <sup>12</sup> saying, ‘These last *men* have worked *only* one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.’ <sup>13</sup>But he answered one of them and said, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? <sup>14</sup>Take *what is* yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man *the same* as to you. <sup>15</sup>Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** ♫Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

(Back cover of hymnal)

## NICENE CREED

*Sit*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**SALVATION UNTO US HAS COME**

**LSB 555 (stanzas 1-5)**

## SERMON

## +GOD RECEIVES OUR PRAYERS AND OFFERINGS+

*Kneel/Stand*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*Sit*

**OFFERING**

*Stand*

## OFFERTORY

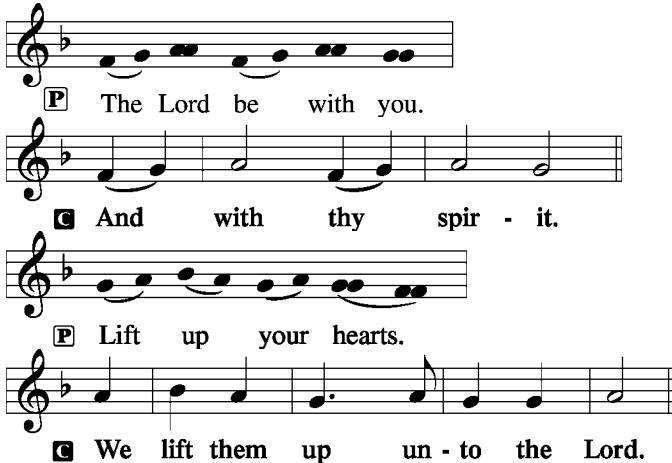


Offertory hymn: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

**C** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

## +GOD GIVES US A FORETASTE OF THE FEAST TO COME+

### PREFACE



P The Lord be with you.  
C And with thy spir - it.  
P Lift up your hearts.  
C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

## PROPER PREFACE

### SANCTUS



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### LORD'S PRAYER

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

### PAX DOMINI

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. **A** - men.

*Sit*

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

<i>SALVATION UNTO US HAS COME</i>	<i>LSB 555</i>	(stanzas 6-10)
<i>LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOU HAVE PREPARED</i>		<i>LSB 622</i>
<i>LORD, 'TIS NOT THAT I DID CHOOSE THEE'</i>		<i>LSB 573</i>
<i>NOT WHAT THESE HANDS HAVE DONE</i>		<i>LBS 567</i>

*Stand*

## DISMISSAL

**P** The true body and precious blood of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

**C** Amen.

## NUNC DIMITTIS

**C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-

cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation  
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
 a light to light-en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
 people Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
 to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A-men.

### THANKSGIVING AND POST COMMUNION PRAYER

- P** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**C** ♫and His mercy endures forever.
- P** Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** ♫Amen.

## **+GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US FORTH TO SERVE+**

### **SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** ♫And with thy spirit.

**P** Bless we the Lord.

**C** ♫Thanks be to God.

### **BENEDICTION**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**C** ♫Amen. Amen. Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN**

*BY GRACE I'M SAVED*

**LSB 566**

**POSTLUDE**

## **+GLORY BE TO GOD ALONE+**