

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

God Rules

August 12 & 13, 2023

AS WE GATHER

The rule of God is so far above us that we cannot comprehend it. He has all power throughout all time and eternity. Although God rules in might, as He tells Job (and us) in His speech in the Old Testament Reading, He demonstrated His rule in grace by sending His Son, our Lord Jesus, to become one of us to die and rise for us. But God's rule is thwarted in the lives of those who do not know about our Savior. Paul in the Epistle points out that "faith comes from hearing" and earnestly desires that all his fellow Jews might hear the Gospel and be saved (Romans 10:17). God, speaking to us through Paul is urging us to get the Good News to people's ears so they may hear and believe." Even within the Church at times doubts arise about our Lord's care and control. As Peter needed to cling to Jesus amid the stormy seas, so our faith must reach beyond recognizing God's rule over creation in general. He has destroyed death itself in Jesus' resurrection. And we already live in His eternal kingdom. Thanks be to God!

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

[Jesus said,] I am the vine; you are the branches.

Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit,
for apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #807 "When Morning Gilds the Skies"

When morning gilds the skies, My heart, awaking, cries,
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"

When evening shadows fall, This rings my curfew call;
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"

When mirth for music longs, This is my song of songs;
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"

God's holy house of prayer Hath none that can compare
With "Jesus Christ be praised!"

No lovelier antiphon In all high heav'n is known
Than "Jesus Christ be praised!"

There to the eternal Word The eternal psalm is heard:
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"

Ye nations of mankind, In this your concord find;
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"

Let all the earth around Ring joyous with the sound:
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"

Sing, suns and stars of space, Sing, ye that see His face,
Sing, "Jesus, Christ be praised!"

God's whole creation o'er, Both now and evermore
Shall Jesus Christ be praised!"

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock,

People: and exalted be the God of my salvation.

Pastor: I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,

People: and I am saved from my enemies.

Pastor: In my distress I called upon the LORD;

People: to my God I cried for help.

Pastor: From His temple He heard my voice,
People: and my cry to Him reached His ears.
Pastor: The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock,
People: and exalted be the God of my salvation.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us consider our unworthiness to come before almighty God and confess our sins to Him in the presence of one another. We confess, Creator Lord, that like Job, we become angry at times with what you have allowed in our lives and we have wondered why.

People: Forgive our pride and turn us to humbly rely on your gracious plans for us.

Pastor: We confess, Savior Lord, that unlike Paul, we have neglected people around us who have not accepted your sacrifice for them.

People: Forgive our self-centeredness and inaction, and move us to tell them the Good News as you provide opportunity.

Pastor: We confess, Spirit of truth, that like Peter, we have failed to trust you in all things and have been overwhelmed by the storms of life.

People: Forgive our weakness of faith and enable us to follow where you lead the way.

Pastor: All things in heaven and earth are under God's rule. His almighty power was shown chiefly in sending His Son into this fallen world to destroy the powers of sin, death, and the devil. Your pride, self-centeredness, weakness of faith, and anything else that would separate you from His great love have been forgiven for Jesus' sake. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless you, Father; Your holy name, we sing –
Our thanks for your great glory, Lord God, our Heav'nly King.

To You, O solebegotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshipped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High.
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, ruler of this world,

People: comfort us, we pray, with the message that your rule is good for the whole Church and also for each of us as your children;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

☩ WORD ☩

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Job 38:4–18* (God questions Job.)

⁴“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.⁵ Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶ On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, ⁷ when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? ⁸ “Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb,⁹ when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, ¹⁰ and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, ¹¹ and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed?’ ¹² “Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, ¹³ that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? ¹⁴ It is changed like clay under the seal, and its features stand out like a garment. ¹⁵ From the wicked their light is withheld, and their uplifted arm is broken. ¹⁶ “Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? ¹⁷ Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? ¹⁸ Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 10:5–17* (Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.)⁵ For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them.⁶ But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down)⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.¹¹ For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.”¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?”¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 14:22–33* (Jesus walks on water and rescues sinking Peter.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourteenth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,²⁴ but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them.²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on

the sea.²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” and they cried out in fear.²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”²⁸ And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.”²⁹ He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.”³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“Let me Learn of Jesus” AGPS #156

Let me learn of Jesus; He is kind to me
Once He died to save me, nailed upon the tree.

When I go to Jesus, He will hear me pray
Make me pure and holy, take my sins away.

Let me think of Jesus; He is full of love,
Looking down upon me From His throne above.

SERMON HYMN #525 “Crown Him With Many Crowns”

Stanzas 1-4

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav’nly anthem drowns All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.

Crown Him the virgin’s Son, The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won Which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic rose, Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows, The babe of Bethlehem.

Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky Can fully bear that sight.
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.

SERMON "The One Who Rules Wind and Waves... and All" Matt 14:22-33

(Rise)

HYMN #525 "Crown Him With Many Crowns" **Stanza 5**

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at
the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you
are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the
center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all
people according to their needs.

Almighty God, you laid the foundations of the earth and set bounds and
limits to all things. We give you thanks for your glorious creation,
including our own bodies and souls. In our sin, we have earned for
ourselves death, and your creation has been subjected to futility; yet in
your Son, you grant us forgiveness and new life. Help us to live in
righteousness through faith in Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gracious Lord, your Word is near to the hearts of your people. Fill them
with faith and trust in difficult times in life. Grant them courage to
speak the Gospel faithfully before the world. Let those who hear
confess Jesus Christ as Lord and be saved. Remember all who endure
persecution for His name, and strengthen them for a bold witness. Lord,
in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, we ask you to raise up pastors, teachers, missionaries and
servants for all church-work vocations. Bless church planters and new
congregations, that they may endure. Bring hope and renewal to all
struggling congregations and to the pastors who serve them. Do not let
fear keep us from your Word and Sacraments. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Help us to trust in you at all times, Father, that we may not doubt or
fear. Grant us confidence in all that you have promised to bestow daily
and richly upon Your people. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, you supported Peter in his doubts and fears. Keep us from
sinking into despair when we suffer the trials of this mortal life. Be with
those who are in need especially Eliza, Bill, Marga, Nancy, Caitlin, Nadia,
Chris, Ardis, Noah, Joyce, Guy, Mike, Don, Pat, Shirley, Tom, Jill, Janet,
Norma, Vern, Amy, Cathy, Cindy, Dorothy, Helga, Carol, June, Jerry,
Shirley and Sarah. Grant us your Spirit, that our hearts may not waver,
and keep us in the grasp of your grace, that we may not lose our way or
be overcome by weariness and struggle. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord of the Church, you bind your people together by grace and desire us to live in harmony and peace. Bless the gathering of Voters this weekend as we seek to call a Director of Parish Music and discuss other important matters. Fill Your people with your Spirit, that they may be a blessing as they speak the truth in love. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: As we gather at your table, move us to receive Christ's body and blood in sincere repentance and faith. Let us truly be united in confession, even as we are united as one body at the table of our Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gracious Lord, give ear to the prayers of your people and lead us to trust in your mercy without fear, that we may be confident that you will grant to us all things needful to us and our salvation; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #633 "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King.
Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from His pierced side. Alleluia!

Praise we Him, whose love divine Gives His sacred blood for wine,
Gives His body for the feast-Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!

Where the paschal blood is poured, Death's dread angel sheathes the sword:
Israel's hosts triumphant go Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas'chal victim, paschal bread; with
sincerity and love Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!

Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!

Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!

Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days; Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!

HYMN #811 “Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices”

Oh, that I had a thousand voices To praise my God, with thousand tongues!
My heart which in the Lord rejoices, Would then proclaim in grateful songs
To all, wherever I might be, What great things God has done for me.

O all you pow'rs that He implanted, Arise, keep silence now no more;
Put forth the strength that God has granted! Your noblest work is to adore.
O soul and body, join to raise With heartfelt joy our Maker's praise.

You forest leaves so green and tender That dance for joy in summer air,
You meadow grasses, bright and slender, You flow'rs so fragrant and so fair,
You live to show God's praise alone. Join me to make His glory known.

All creatures that have breath and motion, That throng the earth, the sea, the
sky. Come, share with me my heart's devotion,
Help me to sing God's praises high.

My utmost pow'rs can never quite Declare the wonders of His might.

Creator, humbly I implore You To listen to my earthly song
Until that day when I adore You, Together with the angel throng
And learn with choirs of heav'n to sing Eternal anthems to my King.

HYMN #760 “What God Ordains Is Always Good”

What God ordains is always good: His will is just and holy.
As He directs my life for me, I follow meek and lowly.
My God indeed In ev'ry need Knows well how He will shield me;
To Him, then, I will yield me.

What God ordains is always good: He never will deceive me;
He leads me in His righteous way, And never will He leave me.
I take content What He has sent; His hand that sends me sadness
Will turn my tears to gladness.

What God ordains is always good: His loving thought attends me;
No poison can be in the cup That my physician sends me.
My God is true; Each morning new I trust His grace unending,
My life to Him commending.

What God ordains is always good: He is my friend and Father;
He suffers naught to do me harm Though many storms may gather.
Now I may know Both joy and woe; Someday I shall see clearly
That He has loved me dearly.

What God ordains is always good: Though I the cup am drinking
Which savors now of bitterness, I take it without shrinking.
For after grief God gives relief, My heart with comfort filling
And all my sorrow stilling.

What God ordains is always good: This truth remains unshaken.
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine, I shall not be forsaken.
I fear no harm, For with His arm He shall embrace and shield me;
So to my God I yield me.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a
foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of your Son's body
and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of
pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all
your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom
which has no end; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

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.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN #917 "Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise"

Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;
Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease,
Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.

Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;
With Thee began, with Thee shall end, the day.
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon Thy name.

Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light.
From harm and danger keep Thy children free;
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.

Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lector
Organist

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Joshua Grotelueschen
Debbie Nier
Jo Bender