TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Joy at the Crossroads

August 12, 15 & 16, 2026

AS WE GATHER

In today's Gospel, our Lord Jesus moved beyond His ministry initially among the Jews now to the Gentile woman of Canaan. The miracle greater than the healing of her daughter was her great faith in Jesus addressing Him, saying, "Lord, help me" (Matthew 15:25). Through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord said He would bring "foreigners" to His "house of prayer for all peoples" (Isaiah 56:6–7). Here He gives "many blessings even though we are undeserving" (Prayer of the Day). The early church learned how the Gentiles are grafted into Israel, making the Christian Church the fulfillment of the true Israel, God's people! The outreach of the Gospel of Christ continues through His church, calling all people "that He may have mercy on all" (Romans 11:32). Because of God's effective call, you can have steadfast confidence in His loving kindness and mercy.

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

VERSE

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. Romans 1:16

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #905 "Come, Thou Almighty King"

Come, Thou Almighty King, Help us Thy name to sing; Help us to praise;
Father all-glorious, O'er all victorious, Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

1 continued

Come, Thou incarnate Word, Gird on Thy mighty sword; Our prayer attend.
Come and Thy people bless, And give Thy Word success,
And let Thy righteousness On us descend.

Come, holy Comforter, Thy sacred witness bear In this glad hour!
Thou, who almighty art, Now rule in ev'ry heart,
And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of pow'r.

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.
Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,
People: to God my exceeding joy.
Pastor: My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.
People: Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Today, though we are undeserving, we come to the Lord saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David." Let us seek the Lord here while He may be found to grant us healing, help, and forgiveness.

People: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of David, Son of God, we are severely oppressed by sin in all our thoughts, words, and actions. We have sinned against you by our own fault. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, O Lord, and grant us forgiveness, help, and salvation. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and of all who believe in the name of His only begotten Son, is the God of mercy and for His sake forgives us all our sins. Therefore, 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. In that mercy He gives power to become the children of God and promises His Holy Spirit. All who believe and are baptized shall be saved.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE LSB p. 155

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. *Refrain*

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, almighty Father, your mercy has been published throughout the world, calling all people to repentance and faith in your Son. Grant us a lively faith that we may proclaim Christ to all nations for the gathering of all people into your house of prayer; through Jesus Christ, 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 *Isaiah 56:1, 6–8* (Salvation for foreigners)

Thus says the LORD: "Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation
will come, and my righteousness be revealed. "And the foreigners who join
themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to
be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and
holds fast my covenant— **7** these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them
joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be
accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all
peoples." **8** The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, "I will
gather yet others to him besides those already gathered."

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

EPISTLE *Romans 11:1–2a, 13–15, 28–32* (Mercy for all)

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an
Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. **2** God has
not rejected his people whom he foreknew. **13** Now I am speaking to you Gentiles.
Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry **14** in order
somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them.
15 For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their
acceptance mean but life from the dead? **28** As regards the gospel, they are
enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of
their forefathers. **29** For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. **30** For just
as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy
because of their disobedience, **31** so they too have now been disobedient in order
that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. **32** For God has
consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

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

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 15:21–28* (A foreigner's daughter healed)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifteenth chapter.
People: Glory to you, O Lord.

21 And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and
Sidon. **22** And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was
crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely
oppressed by a demon." **23** But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples
came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us."
24 He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." **25** But
she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." **26** And he answered, "It is
not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." **27** She said, "Yes,
Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."
28 Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you
as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, O Christ.
(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

"The B-I-B-L-E"

The B-I-B-L-E, Yes, that's the book for me;
I stand alone on the Word of God, the B-I-B-L-E

The B-I-B-L-E, Its lessons help me see
the love of Jesus, God's own Son; the B-I-B-L-E

SERMON HYMN #720 "We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"

We walk by faith and not by sight, No gracious words we hear
From Him who spoke as none e'er spoke, but we believe Him near.

We may not touch His hands and side, Nor follow where He trod;
But in His promise we rejoice And cry "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; And may our faith abound
To call on you when you are near And seek where you are found.

Lord, when our life of faith is done, In realms of clearer light
We may behold you as you are, With full and endless sight.

SERMON

OFFERTORY LSB p. 192

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.

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)

OFFERING 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.
O Lord, grant us and Your whole Church on earth unity and harmony, that our life may be marked by worship, witness, prayer and service to those within and outside of the household of faith.

People: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor: Caring Father, visit the homes of Your people. Keep them from all harm and danger, and grant that we would dwell together in peace under the protection of Your holy angels.

People: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor: O God, bless those who faithfully serve the Church in Your name, including our Synod president; Matthew Harrison, our district president; Nathan Meador, and all Pastors and staff.

People: Bless also Pastor Akey in his ministry and receive our thanks for his and his family's presence with us this week as we continue to celebrate one hundred years of ministry at St. Paul's; Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, grant that the government and those who protect us may keep justice and do righteousness for Your name's sake and according to Your will.

People: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, care for those who cry to You, whether beset with grief, sorrow, pain or trouble especially Miriam, Nancy, Patrick, Sharon, Michael, Marlene, Zach, Carole, Kathy, Maxine, Pam, Marilyn, Dorothy, Janet, Jerry, Rhonda, Harland, June, Cathy, John, Debbie, Janice, David, Helga, Dick, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Guy, Jill and Sarah.

People: Be pleased for Christ's sake to answer them according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God, giver of all that is good, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your grace, that we may endure the changes and chances of this mortal life and be found worthy when our Savior comes to bring to completion all things;

People: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✠ 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.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling your will and gaining for you a holy people. 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 LSB p. 161

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

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

AGNUS DEI LSB p. 163

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #849 "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

Praise the One who breaks the darkness With a liberating light;
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners, Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the Gospel, Healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms, and feeding thousands With the very Bread of peace.

Praise the One who blessed the children With a strong, yet gentle, word;
Praise the One who drove out demons With the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water To the desert's burning sand;
From this Well comes living water, Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

Let us praise the Word Incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose victorious That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, Seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer, Praise the One who makes us one.

HYMN #846 "Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old"

Your hand, O Lord, in days of old Was strong to heal and save;
It triumphed over ills and death, O'er darkness and the grave.
To You they came, the blind, the mute, The palsied and the lame,
The lepers in their misery, The sick with fevered frame.

8 continued

Your touch then, Lord, brought life and health,
Gave speech and strength and sight;
And youth renewed and frenzy calmed Revealed You, Lord of light.
And now, O Lord, be near to bless, Almighty as before,
In crowded street, by beds of pain, As by Gennes'ret's shore.

O be our great deliverer still, The Lord of life and death;
Restore and quicken, soothe and bless, With Your lifegiving breath.
To hands that work and eyes that see Give wisdom's healing pow'r
That whole and sick and weak and strong May praise You evermore.

HYMN #830 "Spread the Reign of God the Lord"

Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spoken, written, mighty Word;
Ev'rywhere His creatures call To His heav'nly banquet hall.

Tell how God the Father's will Made the world, upholds it still,
How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.

Tell of our Redeemer's grace, Who, to save our human race
And to pay rebellion's price, Gave Himself as sacrifice.

Tell of God the Spirit giv'n Now to guide us on to heav'n,
Strong and holy, just and true, Working both to will and do.

Enter, mighty Word, the field; Ripe the promise of its yield.
But the reapers, oh, how few For the work there is to do!

Lord of harvest, great and kind, Rouse to action heart and mind;
Let the gath'ring nations all See Your light and heed Your call.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have gathered us into your house of prayer and fed us with the gift of your mercy in this Sacrament. Enable us now to welcome all who join us by yur calling into the joyful fellowship of faith; 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

CLOSING HYMN #832 "Jesus Shall Reign"

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun Does its successive journeys run:
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Him shall endless prayer be made, And endless praises crown His head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise With ev'ry morning sacrifice.

People and realms of ev'ry tongue Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim Their early blessings on His name.

Let ev'ry creature rise and bring Honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again, And earth repeat the loud amen.

Preacher	Pastor Brad Akey
Liturgist	Pastor
Richard Schneider	
Lectors	Marc Stefanic, Jim
Laux	
Organist	Deaconess Carole King

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