

## TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Gracious Invitation

August 2, 5 & 6, 2023

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### AS WE GATHER

Without explaining Himself and to the surprise of those He chose, God decided to use the people who eventually became the nation of Israel to save all people. Likewise, He has graciously invited us and all people to join them, solely because we trust His promises. Recognizing that faith, not physical descent, is the factor that includes one in God's promises, Paul laments that most of his Jewish friends have rejected God's Son, Jesus Christ. To those who follow our Lord, the disciples learn in today's Gospel, God's grace even invites them to serve as His instruments in caring for the people around them. Today we rejoice in God's invitation to us, and we ask His blessings as we seek to extend His gracious invitation to those who do not yet know Christ as their Savior.

**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 #906 "O Day of Rest and Gladness"

O day of rest and gladness, O day of joy and light,  
O balm of care and sadness, Most beautiful, most bright;  
This day the high and lowly, Through ages joined to bless,  
Sing, "Holy, holy, holy," The triune God confess.

This day at earth's creation The light first had its birth;  
This day for our salvation Christ rose from depths of earth;  
This day our Lord victorious The Spirit sent from heav'n,  
And thus this day most glorious A threefold light was giv'n.

This day, God's people meeting, His Holy Scripture hear;  
His living presence greeting, Through bread and wine made near.  
We journey on, believing, Renewed with heav'nly might,  
From grace more grace receiving, On this blest day of light.

(Rise)

That light our hope sustaining, We walk the pilgrim way,  
At length our rest attaining, Our endless Sabbath day.  
We sing to Thee our praises, O Father, Spirit, Son;  
The Church her voice upraises To Thee, blest Three in One.

### INVOCATION & PRAYER

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

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden,

People: **cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father. We admit, O Lord, that we often do not freely respond to your grace.

People: **Forgive us for confusing your free and eternal grace with the ways of this world. In your mercy, renew our faith and instill gratitude in us that we may rely on your daily and eternal blessings.**

Pastor: We admit that we have not always shared the compassionate concern of Paul. We rejoice in having faith but do not always share our joy with the people around us.

**People:** Forgive us and open our eyes to see the opportunities to tell of our faith. Give us compassionate hearts to care for those who have rejected our Savior's sacrifice for all people.

Pastor: We admit that we have not always considered the needs of others before our own, nor how you might use us and our gifts for their welfare.

**People:** Forgive us and increase our faith in you. Move us by your Holy Spirit to be part of the answer to their prayers, for we are your instruments to meet the needs of the people around us.

Pastor: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus, Son of God and Son of David, kept God's eternal covenant. He paid the price with His suffering and death for you so that grace might be freely offered to you. You are counted as children of Abraham because of the faith God has planted within you. 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. Rest assured, your sins are forgiven.

**People:** Amen. Thanks be to God.

#### HYMN OF PRAISE

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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, though we do not deserve your goodness, still you provide for all our needs of body and soul.

**People:** Grant us your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge your gifts, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience;

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** *Isaiah 55:1–5* (God offers an everlasting covenant to David.) "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. <sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. <sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. <sup>4</sup>Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup>Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**EPISTLE** *Romans 9:1–13* (We are included in the promise because we share Abraham's faith.) I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit— <sup>2</sup>that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup>For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup>They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. <sup>5</sup>To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen. <sup>6</sup>But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, <sup>7</sup>and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." <sup>8</sup>This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. <sup>9</sup>For this is what the promise said: "About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a

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son.”<sup>10</sup> And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac,<sup>11</sup> though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls—<sup>12</sup> she was told, “The older will serve the younger.”<sup>13</sup> As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Matthew 14:13–21* (The feeding of 5,000)

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

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns.

<sup>14</sup> When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. <sup>15</sup> Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” <sup>16</sup> But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” <sup>17</sup> They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.”

<sup>18</sup> And he said, “Bring them here to me.” <sup>19</sup> Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>20</sup> And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. <sup>21</sup> And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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 #669 “Come, We That Love the Lord”**

Come, we that love the Lord, And let our joys be known;  
Join in a song with sweet accord, Join in a song with sweet accord  
And thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.

**Refrain: We're marching to Zion, Beautiful, beautiful Zion;  
We're marching upward to Zion, The beautiful city of God.**

Let those refuse to sing Who never knew our God;  
but children of the heav'nly King, but children of the heav'nly King  
May speak their joys abroad, May speak their joys abroad. *Refrain*

The hill of Zion yields A thousand sacred sweets  
Before we reach the heav'nly fields, Before we reach the heav'nly fields,  
Or walk the golden streets, Or walk the golden streets. *Refrain*

Then let our songs abound, And ev'ry tear be dry;  
We're marching through Emmanuel's ground,  
We're marching through Emmanuel's ground  
To fairer worlds on high, To fairer worlds on high. *Refrain*

**SERMON**

(Rise)

### **NICENE CREED**

**People:** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. 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.

**Pastor:** Father, your steadfast love is gracious and overflowing. Teach your people to look to you in every need; to be thankful for everything that you give them; and to know that no danger, trouble or hardship can ever separate them from your love in Christ Jesus. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Father, we give you thanks that you have blessed us beyond what we deserve and given to us your Church. Bless all pastors and church workers in their service to us in your name, and bless those now considering and preparing for church work. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Father, your Son miraculously fed the 5,000 and satisfied them. We thank you for all you provide to support our bodies and lives. Make us content with what you give, that we may not covet or turn elsewhere for what comes from your hand alone. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Father, we are richly and daily surrounded with your love and care. Give us eyes to see your mercies new every morning, and grant us grateful hearts, that what we have received we may generously share with the needy and your Church. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Father, daily you bless us with abundance and freedom. Bless those who defend us from our enemies, who serve us in government and who protect us in our communities. Be with our president, Congress, our governor, and our judges and magistrates, that they may discern the right path and lead us with honor and integrity. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Father, give comfort to those who mourn. Especially be with Pete Scheuer and family at the massing of his mother Roberta. Also be with Tammy Evers and family as they remember Bob and Jan Koehn. Help them all to look forward to your Son's return and the Resurrection of the dead. Lord in your mercy,

**People: hear you prayer.**

Pastor: Father, visit us in your compassion. Deliver the sick from their infirmity, the troubled from their afflictions, the grieving from their sorrow and the dying from their fear especially Eliza, Janice, 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. May all who cry to you receive grace according to your will. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Father, your steadfast love and mercy are forever, but our faith is daily tested and tempted. Give us strength and endurance, that we may not despair but have confidence in your sufficient grace within your Word and Sacraments. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O Lord, let us seek you while you may be found, call upon you in the day of salvation and be prepared by your mercy for the day of judgment; 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**

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 #680 “Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise”**

Thine the amen Thine the praise Alleluias angels raise  
Thine the everlasting head Thine the breaking of the bread  
Thine the glory Thine the story Thine the harvest then the cup  
Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.

Thine the life eternally Thine the promise let there be  
Thine the vision Thine the tree All the earth on bended knee  
Gone the nailing gone the railing Gone the pleading gone the cry  
Gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.

Thine the truly Thine the yes Thine the table we the guest  
Thine the mercy all from Thee Thine the glory yet to be  
Then the ringing and the singing Then the end of all the war  
Thine the living Thine the loving evermore evermore.

Thine the kingdom Thine the prize Thine the wonder full surprise  
Thine the banquet then the praise Then the justice of Thy ways  
Thine the glory Thine the story Then the welcome to the least  
Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast at Thy feast.

Thine the glory in the night No more dying only light  
Thine the river Thine the tree Then the Lamb eternally  
Then the holy holy holy Celebration jubilee  
Thine the splendor Thine the brightness only Thee only Thee.

**HYMN #560 “Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed”**

Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed  
With healing gifts for souls distressed,  
To find in Thee my life, my rest, Christ crucified, I come.

Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,  
thy grace abused, my misspent years;  
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears, Christ crucified, I come.

Wash me and take away each stain; Let nothing of my sin remain.  
For cleansing, though it be through pain, Christ crucified, I come.

And then for work to do for Thee, Which shall so sweet a service be  
That angels well might envy me, Christ crucified, I come.

**HYMN #645 “Built on the Rock**

Built on the Rock the Church shall stand Even when steeples are falling.  
Crumbled have spiers in ev’ry land; Bells still are chiming and calling,  
Calling the young and old to rest, But above all the souls distressed,  
Longing for rest everlasting.

Surely in temples made with hands God, the Most High, is not dwelling;  
High above earth His temple stands, All earthly temples excelling,  
Yet He who dwells in heav’n above Chooses to live with us in love,  
Making our bodies His temple.

We are God’s house of living stones, Built for His own habitation.  
He through baptismal grace us owns Heirs of His wondrous salvation.  
Were we but two His name to tell, Yet He would deign with us to dwell  
With all His grace and His favor.

Here stands the font before our eyes, Telling how God has received us.  
The altar recalls Christ’s sacrifice And what His Supper here gives us.  
Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim Christ yesterday, today, the same,  
And evermore, our Redeemer.

Grant, then, O God, Your will be done, That, when the church bells are ringing,  
Many in saving faith may come Where Christ His message is bringing;  
“I know My own; My own know me. You, not the world, My face shall see.  
My peace I leave with you. Amen.”

**COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have  
refreshed us through this gracious gift,

**People: and we ask that you would strengthen us through it in faith toward  
you and in fervent love toward one another;**

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.**

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The blessing of almighty God—Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit—be with  
you now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**CLOSING HYMN #918 “Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer”**

Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer, Pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy pow’rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more:  
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliv’rer, strong deliv’rer, Be Thou still my strength and shield;  
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death and hell’s destruction, Land me safe on Canaan’s side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee;  
I will ever give to Thee.

reacher  
Liturgist  
Lectors  
Organist Wednesday  
Organists Saturday & Sunday

Pastor Joshua Grotelueschen  
Pastor Harold Bender  
Gary Knight, Jodi Drew, Krystal Wilson  
Olivia Kukor  
Rev. Paul Grime & Mr. Nathan Grime