

## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

With Wonder upon Wonder

August 24 & 25, 2024

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### AS WE GATHER

One of the saddest things in life is when we lose our sense of wonder—when we can no longer behold the beauty of God’s creation and be moved by it or when we take for granted the mystery of our salvation by the blood of the Lamb. The prophet Isaiah promises the restoration of wonder and the Spirit fulfills that promise with faith that trusts in what we have not seen. Today we ask the Lord to fill us with awe as we receive the inheritance of the saints who went before and add to it the witness of our age of the joy of salvation to bequeath to those who come after.

**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

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:5-8

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

#### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### OPENING HYMN #575 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;  
No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

**Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.**

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When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In ev’ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

His oath, His covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;  
When ev’ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,  
Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne!  
*Refrain*

(Rise)

### INVOCATION

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

**People: Amen.**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”

**People: They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.**

*Silence for self-examination*

Pastor: Holy and gracious God,

**People: I confess that I have sinned against you this day and every day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that my heart may know peace.**

Pastor: By the mercy of God, we are redeemed by Jesus Christ and in Him we are forgiven. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

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## 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. Almighty and merciful God, defend your church from all false teaching and error that your faithful people may confess you to be the only true God and rejoice in your good gifts of life and 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.**

(Be seated)

## REDEDICATION OF SCHOOL STAFF

✘ WORD ✘

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Isaiah 29:11–19* ("I will again do wonderful things with this people.") <sup>11</sup>And the vision of all this has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed. When men give it to one who can read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed." <sup>12</sup>And when they give the book to one who cannot read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot read." <sup>13</sup>And the Lord said: "Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment

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taught by men, <sup>14</sup>therefore, behold, I will again do wonderful things with this people, with wonder upon wonder; and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden." <sup>15</sup>Ah, you who hide deep from the LORD your counsel, whose deeds are in the dark, and who say, "Who sees us? Who knows us?" <sup>16</sup>You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its maker, "He did not make me"; or the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"? <sup>17</sup>Is it not yet a very little while until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be regarded as a forest? <sup>18</sup>In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see. <sup>19</sup>The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD, and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *Hebrews 12:1-13* (*The 2024-2025 St. Paul's School Theme*)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>3</sup>Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. <sup>4</sup>In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup>And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. <sup>6</sup>For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." <sup>7</sup>It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup>If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

<sup>9</sup>Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup>For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. <sup>11</sup>For the moment all discipline

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seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. <sup>12</sup>Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, <sup>13</sup>and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Mark 7:1–13* (“This people honors Me with their lips but their heart is far from Me.”)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.

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

Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, <sup>4</sup>and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) <sup>5</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” <sup>6</sup>And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, “‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; <sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ <sup>8</sup>You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.” <sup>9</sup>And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! <sup>10</sup>For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ <sup>11</sup>But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or his mother, “‘Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban”’ (that is, given to God) — <sup>12</sup>then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, <sup>13</sup>thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE / BACKPACK BLESSING**

#### **“My God is So Great”**

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty,  
there’s nothing my God cannot do. (repeat)

The mountains are His, the rivers are His, the stars are His handiwork, too.

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty,  
there’s nothing my God cannot do, for you!  
(Repeat entire song)

### **SERMON HYMN #589 “Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens”**

Speak, O Lord, Your servant listens, Let Your Word to me come near;  
Newborn life and spirit give me, Let each promise still my fear.  
Death’s dread pow’r, its inward strife, Wars against Your Word of life;  
Fill me, Lord, with love’s strong fervor That I cling to You forever!

Oh, what blessing to be near You And to listen to Your voice;  
Let me ever love and hear You, Let Your Word be now my choice!  
Many hardened sinners, Lord, Flee in terror at Your Word;  
But to all who feel sin’s burden You give words of peace and pardon.

Lord, Your words are waters living When my thirsting spirit pleads.  
Lord, Your words are bread life-giving; On Your words my spirit feeds.  
Lord, Your words will be my light Through death’s cold and dreary night;  
Yes, they are my sword prevailing And my cup of joy unailing!

As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me; Let Your words in me take root.  
May Your Spirit e’er be near me That I bear abundant fruit.  
May I daily sing Your praise, From my heart glad anthems raise,  
Till my highest praise is given In the endless joy of heaven.

**SERMON**

**“The Joy that Comes From Enduring”**

**Hebrews 12:1-13**

(Rise)

### OFFERTORY

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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.

### NICENE CREED

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)

**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.

*Silence for time of personal prayers*

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are known, grant us a true faith, that we would honor you not only with our lips, but serve you faithfully with all our heart, mind and strength.

**People: Bless us all to endure the trials and troubles of this life, keeping our eyes on Jesus, for the joy he brings us in the end.**

Pastor: Almighty God, you call men into the Office of the Ministry to be shepherds to your sheep. Grant your wisdom to those who guide your Church: Matthew Harrison, our Synod president; Eric Skovgaard, our district president; Hal Bender, our circuit visitor; our pastors; and all servants of the Church.

**People: Keep them steadfast in the faith, so that they do not set forth as divine truth those things that are only human tradition, but rather teach your Word with honesty and clarity.**

Pastor: Lord God of knowledge and truth, we ask your blessing upon St. Paul's Lutheran School as we begin another school year. Bless our teachers, pastors, and support staff to serve with zeal and be good models of Christian life.

**People: Bless our students to grow and learn both academically and spiritually, and move their parents to be engaged and supportive in this important endeavor.**

Pastor: Almighty God, preserve us from rejecting your commandments for the doctrines and ideologies of men, grounding us in the Truth of your Word.

**People: By your Spirit's aid, lead all Christians to keep your commandments in thought, word and deed, honoring you in all that we do.**

Pastor: Almighty God, preserve your estate of marriage. Grant that wives would respect their husbands as the head of their home and that husbands would love their wives as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her.

**People:** Bless all our families to live in joy and peace, harmony and love, forgiving one another as Christ Jesus has forgiven us.

**Pastor:** Almighty God, hear our prayers for our nation and its leaders, for all civil servants, and for those whose work imperils them for the sake of their neighbor.

**People:** As we are in an election year, guide the peoples of our nation to elect leaders who will serve according to your will, promote the common good, and serve with integrity and sincerity.

**Pastor:** Almighty God, in His earthly ministry your Son healed the sick and comforted the hurting. Grant healing and peace to those taking treatments, to the ill or injured, to the lonely and the imprisoned, and to all in need of our prayers, including Ralph, Carole, Wendy, June, Audrey, Janice, David, Helga, Ruth, Dick, Michael, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Danielle, Marlene, RoseMarie, Dorothy, Marga, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Janet, Vern, Cathy, Shirley and Sarah.

**People:** Grant them healing in accord with your will and hope and peace in Christ, that in meekness each hurting heart would receive fresh joy in your Son and in your promises.

**Pastor:** Almighty God, strengthen the faith and sustain to life everlasting all who partake in the fellowship of this altar and receive Christ's body and blood this day in the Holy Communion.

**People:** Grant us all sincere hearts that repent of sin and evil and, refreshed by forgiveness, walk in newness of life.

**Pastor:** Into your hands, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** 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 on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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

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Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

#### 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. 210

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 #712 "Seek Ye First"

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, And His righteousness.  
And all these things shall be added unto you! Allelu, alleluia!

Ask and it shall be given unto you, Seek and ye shall find,  
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you, Allelu, alleluia!

Man does not live by bread alone, But by ev'ry word  
that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord, Allelu, alleluia!

### HYMN #543 "What Wondrous Love Is This"

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down Beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I Am,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing His love for me,  
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
And through eternity I'll sing on.

### HYMN #802 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life Thou givest - to both great and small-  
In all life Thou livest, the true Life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree  
And wither and perish - but naught changes Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
All laud we would render: O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor of light that hides Thee.

## COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank you that for His sake you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask you not to forsake your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve you; 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.

**CLOSING HYMN #730 “What Is the World to Me”**

What is the world to me With all its vaunted pleasure  
When You, and You alone, Lord Jesus, are my treasure!  
You only, dearest Lord, My soul’s delight shall be;  
You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!

The world seeks to be praised And honored by the mighty  
Yet never once reflects That they are frail and flighty.  
But what I truly prize Above all things is He,  
My Jesus, He alone. What is the world to me!

The world seeks after wealth And all that mammon offers  
Yet never is content Though gold should fill its coffers.  
I have a higher good, Content with it I’ll be:  
My Jesus is my wealth. What is the world to me!

What is the world to me! My Jesus is my treasure,  
My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my pleasure,  
My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss eternally,  
Once more, then, I declare: What is the world to me!

Preacher	Pastor Josh Grotelueschen
Liturgist	Pastor Harold Bender
Student Worship Team	Eliza Carson, Gus Carson, Lauren Flessert, Eli Galindo, Nadia Galindo, Peyton Guzikowski, Alysse Partl, Brady Romano, Lance Romano, Logan Romano, Joe Segura, Noah Segura, Adalyn Zellmer, Braelyn Zellmer
Organist	JoLynn Bender