

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

God's Word of Wisdom and Understanding

August 28, 2021

AS WE GATHER

Today we see the importance of God's Word in our lives. God's Word is what kept the Israelites as they entered the Promised Land. God's Word is the sword of the Spirit, a portion of the armor of God we are given and told to put on. God's Word leads us, protects us, and helps us fight against the evil one.

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] is the head of the body, the church.

He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
that in everything he might be preeminent." (Colossians 1:18, ESV)

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.

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) To Thee, great One in Three, Eternal praises be
Hence evermore! Thy sov'reign majesty
May we in glory see, And to eternity Love and adore.

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Lord, the unfolding of your words gives light.

People: Your Word imparts understanding to the simple.

Pastor: Keep steady our steps according to your promise,

People: and let no iniquity gain dominion over us.

Pastor: Cast us not away from your presence,

People: and take not your Holy Spirit from us.

Pastor: Restore to us the joy of your salvation,

People: and uphold us with a willing spirit.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: We are God's people. Through His Word, He has given us wisdom and understanding to follow His ways. Yet, there are times when we have chosen foolishness over wisdom, willful ignorance instead of understanding. Still, even now, our heavenly Father invites us to come to Him and ask for forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: at times we have ignored your Word. Too often we have lived according to our own commands rather than yours. We have listened to the wisdom of the world instead of your perfect wisdom. Forgive us, create in us new hearts, and renew right spirits within us, so that we may follow where you are leading, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom and grace, sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise for our sins. Because of Jesus, the joy of our salvation is restored, and no iniquity can remain in dominion over us. Therefore, 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. We are forgiven in Christ. We have been cleansed of our sin. Amen.

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. Holy Spirit, you inspired the prophets, evangelists, and apostles to write the words of the Scriptures. Help us to cherish your words so that they might be to our benefit for wisdom and understanding; for you live and reign with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✱ WORD ✱

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–9* (Moses' encouragement to the Israelites) And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. ²You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you. ⁶Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' ⁷For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? ⁸And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today? ⁹"Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children—

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 6:10–20* (Put on the whole armor of God.)

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 7:14–23* (What defiles a person?)

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

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴ And he called the people to him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him."¹⁷ And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. ¹⁸ And he said to them, "Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹ since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) ²⁰ And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. ²¹ For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²² coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

"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!

SERMON HYMN #707 "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep His statutes still!
Oh, that my God grant me grace To know and do His will!

Order my footsteps by Thy Word And make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, Lord, But keep my conscience clear.

Assist my soul, too apt to stray, A stricter watch to keep;
And should I e'er forget Thy way, Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.

Make me to walk in Thy commands 'Tis a delightful road-
Nor let my head of heart or hands Offend against my God.

SERMON "Strength in the Lord" Ephesians 6:10-20

(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.

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 book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the 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.

(Brief silence for personal intercessions)

Pastor: Almighty God, we ask you to be near us with your Word and Spirit. Guide and lead us, that we may not stray from the way of your commandments nor forget the wonderful blessings that you have given to us.

People: Direct us day by day with your Word of truth.

Pastor: By your Holy Spirit, protect us this day from the assaults of the devil. Equip us with the full armor of God, that we may be clothed in truth, righteousness, peace, faith and salvation, bearing the sword of the spirit, which is your Word.

People: Keep us all in safety and security from the forces of the evil one.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, preserve us from all that would defile us in heart and soul. Keep us from all evil thoughts, immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness.

People: Create in us a pure heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us, that we would be holy as you are holy.

Pastor: Lord of the church, we rejoice in the extension of Christ's kingdom among us, celebrating the baptisms of Landon Hermann and Lily Rose Gutowski. Bless parents and children to grow in wisdom and to know Christ and His love. Bless pastors and teachers, parents and grandparents, and all who teach the faith.

People: May the Gospel continue to spread among us and throughout the world.

Pastor: Lord, you are the strength of the weak and the refuge of the powerless. Bless and protect those persecuted for the faith, especially those pursued by the Taliban in Afghanistan. Be with your people who are struggling with doubt and temptation. Grant assurance to the doubtful and deliverance to those tempted by this world.

People: Give your power and protection, your grace and love to those who need it.

Pastor: Lord of life, bring health and healing to your people. We pray for everyone in need of your mercy today including Jack, Cindy, Deanna, Helga, Steve, Ray, Versa, Don, Judy, Nancy, Dorothy, Steve, Marilyn, Cindy, Louis, Dawn, Carol, Debbie, Mary, Diane, June, Jerry, Shirley, Sarah, Gladys, Shirley and Sarah. Grant them healing and peace in accord with your will.

People: Strengthen them with your Word of grace, that they would look to you for comfort in the midst of suffering and pain.

Pastor: Lord God, purify our hearts with your cleansing Word. Remove from us the darkness of sin and evil.

People: Enable us to lead godly lives in this world as we live before you.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to shed His blood on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. Bless us this day as we receive that same body and blood in this Holy Sacrament.

People: Bless us by the Holy Spirit to remember and proclaim with joy the salvation accomplished for us by His death and resurrection.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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

Page 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

HYMN #722 "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"

Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life's way:

Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day.

Without Your grace and favor I go astray;

so take my hand , O Savior, And lead the way.

Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,

For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.

Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,

For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go.

Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,

I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home.

Then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend;

So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.

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 unfailing!

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.

HYMN #527 “O Savior, Precious Savior”

O Savior, precious Savior, Whom yet unseen we love;
O name of might and favor, All other names above,
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our holy Lord and King.

O bringer of salvation, Who wondrously has wrought
Thyself the revelation Of love beyond our thought,
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our gracious Lord and King.

In Thee all fullness dwelleth, All grace and pow’r divine;
The glory that excelleth, O Son of God, is Thine.
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our glorious Lord and King.

O grant the consummation Of this our song above
In endless adoration And everlasting love;
Then shall we praise and bless Thee Where perfect praises ring,
And evermore confess Thee, Our Savior and our King!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you purchased and won us by the blood of Christ. We ask that in your wisdom you would continue to lead and guide us through our days of pilgrimage until we join you in the marriage feast that 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.

CLOSING HYMN #924 “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing, Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Your love possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us; O refresh us, Trav’ling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration For Your Gospel’s joyful sound.
May the fruits of Your salvation In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful To Your truth may we be found.

Savior, when Your love shall call us From our struggling pilgrim way.
Let not fear of death appall us, Glad Your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever Reign with You in endless day.

Preacher & Liturgist
Lector
Director of Parish Music

Pastor Harold Bender
Dalen Heinzen
Michelle Prince

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 3. Copyright © 2021 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.