

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Overcome Evil with Good

August 29 & 30, 2020

5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

In the quiet refuge of this sanctuary, it may be easy to forget that we live in a world that has been marred by sin, cursed by death, and filled with wickedness. Although we confront it every day, this very present evil will not overcome us. God's desire is for us to be saved and delivered by His Son, Jesus, so that we are enabled to love, to live, and to overcome evil with good. In our worship service today, we receive the same Jesus who once overcame evil by carrying His cross to suffer for our salvation. Trouncing over all the evil we will ever face, our risen Savior lives to love, to bless, and to deliver us as His people.

WELCOME

**Jesus said, "Whoever would be great among you must be your servant,
and whoever would be first among you must be your slave,
even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:26-28, ESV)**

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #692 "Praise to You and Adoration"

Praise to You and adoration, Blessed Jesus, Son of God,
Who, to serve Your own creation, Came to share our flesh and blood.
Guide me that I never may From Your fold or pastures stray,
But with zeal and joy exceeding Follow where Your steps are leading.

Hold me ever in Your keeping; Comfort me in pain and strife.
In my laughter and my weeping Be with me throughout my life.
Give me greater love for You, And my faith and hope renew
In Your birth, Your life, and passion, In Your death and resurrection.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: We come before God's His throne of grace with humble and sincere hearts to lay our burdens down.

Silent prayer for personal confession

Pastor: Gracious Lord,

People: we come before you, laying the burden of our sin at the foot of your cross. We openly acknowledge our failure to follow your plans for our lives. We have stumbled and fallen in our service to you. We have placed our agenda ahead of yours. We have been shallow in our love toward you and toward those you have placed in our path. We cry out for mercy, trusting in your promise to forgive us through the love of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pastor: God has heard your cry for mercy and fulfills His promise to save and deliver you! Lavishing His grace upon you in Jesus, He enables you to love and forgive as He has first loved and forgiven you. 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE #791 "All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth-tell ; Come ye before Him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed; Without our aid He did us make.
We are His folk, He doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise; Approach with joy His courts unto.
Praise, laud, and bless His name always, For it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good; His mercy is forever sure.
His truth at all times firmly stood And shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, The God whom heav'n and earth adore,
From us and from the angel host Be praise and glory evermore.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son willingly endured the evil of sin and death at the cross for our redemption. Grant to us the goodness of our Savior so that we are not overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good; through the same 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 *Jeremiah 15:15–21* (The Lord gives His precious, saving words.) ¹⁵O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance take me not away; know that for your sake I bear reproach.¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. ¹⁷I did not sit in the company of revelers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone, because your hand was upon me, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail? ¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD: "If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them. ²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the LORD.²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 12:9–21* (With genuine love, overcome evil with good.)

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SONG "Rejoice in the Lord Always" (AGPS 203)

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.

Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say rejoice.

Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say rejoice.

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice. (Repeat)

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 16:21–28* (Jesus calls His disciples to take up their cross and follow Him.)

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

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you."²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸ Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

SERMON HYMN #523 "O Word of God Incarnate"

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
We praise You for the radiance That from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps, Shines on from age to age.

The Church from You, dear Master, Received the gift divine;
And still that light is lifted O'er all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass That, all life's voyage through,
Mid mists and rocks and quick-sands Still guides, O Christ, to You.

O make Your Church, dear Savior, A lamp of burnished gold
To bear before the nations Your true light as of old!
O teach Your wand'ring pilgrims By this their path to trace
Till, clouds and darkness ended, They see You face to face!

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;

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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 *Offering plates will be placed in the narthex and elevator room for gathering at the end of the service.*

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. For all disciples of Jesus Christ, both here at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School and throughout the world, that we not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Bless us, Jesus, as we follow you.

Pastor: For the fulfillment of the Great Commission, that wherever the good news of salvation in Christ is proclaimed, hearts turn to the Lord and live, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Bless us, Jesus, as we tell of you.

Pastor: For all servant leaders in the church and in the world. Give wisdom and discernment to government leaders in the midst of violence and social unrest, that they would lead our communities in the way of peace, that their work for our blessing show forth the goodness of Christ to the world He died to save, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Bless us, Jesus, as we serve you.

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Pastor: For the blessing of all who hunger and thirst, for all who are weary and heavy-laden, and for all who are without house or income, that they seek the restoration the Lord's good hand provides, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Bless us, Jesus, as we are cared for by you.

Pastor: For all who willingly put themselves in the path of evil for the sake of other people's good, including military members, law enforcement officers, and emergency workers, that they be protected by the Lord's mighty hand, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Bless us, Jesus, as we are protected by you.

Pastor: For all who ail in heart, mind, and body, especially Don, Jan, Louis, Dawn, Charles, Carol, Debbie, Mary, Dennis, Diane, Arlene, Dorothy, June, Jerry, Cindy, Shirley, Sarah, Gladys, Shirley and Sarah, that they be touched by the healing hand of our Savior and filled with the presence of His comforting Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Bless us, Jesus, as we are healed by you.

Pastor: For these and all other concerns we have, that coming before the throne of grace we find mercy to help us in our time of need, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Bless us, Jesus, as we trust you to hear and answer our prayers.
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

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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 *Wait for the ushers to direct you to come forward. Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.*

HYMN #425 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all!

HYMN #621 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Let all mortal flesh keep silence And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending Comes our homage to demand.

King of kings yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of Light, descending From the realms of endless day,
Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish As the darkness clears a way.

At His feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence As with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the gracious gift of your Son's body and blood. Now that we have received His goodness in His Word and Spirit, help us to take up our cross daily and follow our Savior, who leads us with the only love that overcomes evil with good; 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 #921 "On What Has Now Been Sown"

On what has now been sown Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow'r is Thine alone To make it sprout and grow.
Do Thou in grace the harvest raise, And Thou alone shalt have the praise!

To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;
Accept what is Thine own And pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive, And to Thy Word a blessing give.

O grant that each of us, Now met before Thee here,
May meet together thus When Thou and Thine appear
And follow Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Director of Parish Music

Pastor Noah Kegley
Pastor Harold Bender
Russell Hurst, Jane Adams
Michelle Prince

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