

## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Where Is the Gospel?

August 31 & September 1, 2024

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### AS WE GATHER

The Holy Gospel for today is about why the dietary laws never saved anyone and is a warning about what we think or say. The Old Testament Reading provides a warning against not passing on the teachings to the next generation. The Good News of the Gospel is most clearly found in the Epistle, which clearly tells us to rely on the armor God provides, not ourselves, so that we can stand up in this evil age. That we shall do in song and speech today, asking God's help for the coming week.

**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

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, 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. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. Hebrews 12:1-3

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

#### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

(Rise)

#### OPENING HYMN #500 "Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid"

Creator Spirit, by whose aid The world's foundations first were laid,  
Come, visit ev'ry humble mind; Come, pour Your joys on humankind;  
From sin and sorrow set us free; May we Your living temples be.

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O Source of uncreated light, The bearer of God's gracious might,  
Thrice holy fount, thrice holy fire, Our hearts with heav'nly love inspire.  
Your sacred, healing message bring To sanctify us as we sing.

Giver of grace, descend from high; Your sev'nfold gifts to us supply;  
Help us eternal truths receive And practice all that we believe;  
Give us Yourself that we may see The glory of the Trinity.

Immortal honor, endless fame Attend the almighty Father's name;  
The Savior Son be glorified, Who for all humankind has died;  
To You, O Paraclete, we raise Unending songs of thanks and praise.

### INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

People: **We confess, O Lord, that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

Pastor: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

People: **Our own attempts at change will leave the stain of our previous sins.**

Pastor: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

People: **Lord our God, you are our only hope. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we follow your guidance alone.**

Pastor: Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

People: **We come to you, confident of your mercy for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Pastor: In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

People: **and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

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## HYMN OF PRAISE

LSB p. 204

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. O God, the source of all that is just and good,

**People: nourish in us every virtue and bring to completion every good intent that we may grow in grace and bring forth the fruit of good works;**

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** *Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–9* (Do not forget all that God has done; teach your children.) "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. <sup>2</sup>You 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. <sup>6</sup>Keep 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

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nation is a wise and understanding people.' <sup>7</sup>For 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? <sup>8</sup>And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today? <sup>9</sup>"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* (Be certain about teachings and put on the armor of God.) <sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup>and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; <sup>17</sup>and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, <sup>18</sup>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, <sup>19</sup>and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>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* (People are not defiled by what they eat but by what comes out of their hearts and mouths.)

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

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

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<sup>14</sup> And he called the people to him again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup> 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.” <sup>17</sup> And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. <sup>18</sup> 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, <sup>9</sup> since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) <sup>20</sup> And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. <sup>21</sup> For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, <sup>22</sup> coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. <sup>23</sup> 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**

##### **“Jesus in the Morning”**

AGPS #143

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus in the morning, Jesus at the noontime,  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus when the sun goes down.

Love Him, Love Him, Love Him in the morning, Love Him at the noontime,  
Love Him, Love Him, Love Him when the sun goes down.

Serve Him, Serve Him, Serve Him in the morning, Serve Him at the noontime,  
Serve Him, Serve Him, Serve Him when the sun goes down.

##### **SERMON HYMN #566 “By Grace I’m Saved”**

By grace I’m saved, grace free and boundless; My soul, believe and doubt it not.  
Why stagger at this word of promise? Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?  
No! Then this word must true remain: By grace you too will life obtain.

By grace! None dare lay claim to merit; Our works and conduct have no worth.  
God in His love sent our Redeemer, Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;  
His death did for our sins atone, And we are saved by grace alone.

By grace God’s Son, our only Savior, Came down to earth to bear our sin.  
Was it because of your own merit That Jesus died your soul to win?  
No, it was grace, and grace alone, That brought Him from His heav’nly throne.

By grace! This ground of faith is certain; As long as God is true, it stands.  
What saints have penned by inspiration, What in His Word our God commands,  
Our faith in what our God has done Depends on grace-grace through His Son.

By grace to timid hearts that tremble, In tribulation’s furnace tried,  
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble, The Father’s heart is open wide.  
Where could I help and strength secure If grace were not my anchor sure?

By grace! On this I’ll rest when dying; In Jesus’ promise I rejoice;  
For though I know my heart’s condition, I also know my Savior’s voice.  
My heart is glad, all grief has flown Since I am saved by grace alone.

#### **SERMON**

(Rise)

#### **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.

Heavenly Father, 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. Direct us always with your Word of truth. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Remember, kind Father, the preachers of your Word. Keep them from adding to it or taking from it. Give them grace to proclaim your whole counsel in Christ Jesus. Raise up new laborers for Your harvest fields, and prosper your Law and promises throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** God of all knowledge and wisdom, grant us to know you and your love. Bless pastors and teachers, parents and grandparents, and all teachers of the faith, that we may grow up into you. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** God of love, we thank you for the gift of marriage. Especially for the marriage of Jack and RoseMarie McGill who celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary. We thank you for blessing and preserving them throughout all these years, and we ask for many more to come. Lord in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Lord of comfort, bless all who grieve and mourn over the loss of loved ones. Be especially with Graf family as they remember their beloved Joyce. We thank you that you baptized her and preserved her through faith. Assure them that they will see her again, when we will all live with you in the blessed heavenly realm. Lord in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Almighty God, look with compassion on our nation and all who bear public office. Give them wisdom, courage and integrity. Destroy and hinder in our common life whatever is not pleasing to you, and bless and prosper whatever accords with your will. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Lord of life, bring health and healing to your people. We pray for everyone in need of your mercy today including Ralph, Carole, Wendy, June, Audrey, Janice, David, Helga, Ruth, Dick, Michael, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Danielle, Mrlene, RoseMarie, Dorothy, Marga, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Janet, Vern, Cathy, Shirley and Sarah. Strengthen them with your Word of grace, that they would look to you for comfort in the midst of suffering and pain. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Holy Father, we thank you that Christ has given His body and blood into death for our forgiveness. Bless us as we receive this same body and blood in His Holy Sacrament, remembering and proclaiming with joy the salvation He accomplished for us in His death and resurrection. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Lord God, heavenly Father, we offer you our thanks and praise for your servants who have finished their course in faith and now rest from their labors. Bring us with them to the unspeakable joys of your new heavens and new earth at the day of our Savior's glorious appearing. Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**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, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whose death our sins have been paid and by whose resurrection we have been created again as your dearly loved children. 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. 208

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 #610

### “Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

Lord Jesus, think on me And purge away my sin;  
From worldly passions set me free And make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me, By anxious thoughts oppressed;  
Let me Your loving servant be And taste Your promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me Amid the battle's strife;  
In all my pain and misery, O be my health and life!

Lord Jesus, think on me Nor let me go astray;  
Through darkness and perplexity Point out Your chosen way.

Lord Jesus, think on me That, when this life is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see And share Your joy at last.

### HYMN #693

### “O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace”

O Holy Spirit, grant us grace That we our Lord and Savior  
In faith and fervent love embrace And truly serve Him ever.  
The hour of death cannot bring loss When we are sheltered by the cross  
That canceled our transgressions.

Help us that we Thy saving Word In faithful hearts may treasure;  
Let e'er that Bread of Life afford New grace in richest measure.  
O make us die to ev'ry sin, Each day create new life within,  
that fruits of faith may flourish.

And when our earthly race is run, Death's bitter hour impending,  
Then may Thy work in us begun continue till life's ending,  
Until we gladly may commend Our souls into our Savior's hand,  
The crown of life obtaining.

### HYMN #691

### “Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing”

Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing, May we ripen and increase,  
Fruit to life eternal growing, Rich in love and joy and peace.

Laden branches freely bearing Gifts the Giver loves to bless;  
Here is fruit that grows by sharing, Patience, kindness, gentleness.  
Rooted deep in Christ our Master, Christ our pattern and our goal,  
Teach us, as the years fly faster, Goodness, faith, and self control.  
Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending, May we grow till harvests cease;  
Till we taste, in life unending, Heaven's love and joy and peace.

### **COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

### **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks, gracious Lord, that you have not only instilled in us a sense of what pleases you but also have given us your very self to nourish us as we leave this place. Keep us faithful in all we do so that all praise may be brought to you, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are 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.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

### **CLOSING HYMN #920 "Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go"**

Forth in the peace of Christ we go; Christ to the world with joy we bring;  
Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips, Christ in our hearts, the world's true king.  
King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings; Kingship with Him His servants gain;  
With Christ the Servant Lord of all, Christ's world we serve to share Christ's reign.  
Priests of the world, Christ sends us forth This world of time to consecrate, This  
world of sin by grace to heal, Christ's world in Christ to recreate.

Christ's are our lips, His Word we speak; Prophets are we whose deeds proclaim  
Christ's truth in love that we may be Christ in the world, to spread Christ's name.

We are the Church; Christ bids us show That in His Church all nations find Their  
hearth and home where Christ restores True peace, true love to all mankind.

Preacher  
Liturgist  
Lectors  
Organist

Pastor Joshua Grotelueschen  
Pastor Harold Bender  
Elisabeth Matusewic, Katie Librizzi  
JoLynn Bender

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