

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Assurance of Things Hoped For

August 6 & 7, 2022

AS WE GATHER

Today's Epistle is from Hebrews 11, the "by faith" chapter. It lists heroes of faith, people who trusted in God's promises, assured of what they hoped for (the definition of faith). The Reading from Genesis singles out Abram believing God, for which God counted it to him as righteousness. Now we can look back, knowing that in one descendant of Abraham, Jesus, all God's promises were kept. His calming words in the Gospel give us the assurance we need to rely on God's care and concern when we don't have all we think we need. "Seek [God's] kingdom, and these things will be added to you," He promises (Luke 12:31). Our faith-filled response echoes today's Psalm: "Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in You" (Psalm 33:22).

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

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him,
"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth,
and the truth will set you free."

John 8:31-32

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #737 "Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing"

Rejoice, my heart, be glad and sing, A cheerful trust maintain;
For God, the source of ev'rything, Your portion shall remain.

He is your treasure, He your joy, Your life and light and Lord,
Your counselor when doubts annoy, Your shield and great reward.

1 continued

Why spend the day in blank despair, In restless thought the night?
On your Creator cast your care; He makes your burdens light.

Did not His love and truth and pow'r Guard ev'ry childhood day?
And did He not in threat'ning hour Turn dreaded ills away?

He only will with patience chide, His rod falls gently down;
and all your sins He casts aside In ocean depths to drown.

His wisdom never plans in vain Nor falters nor mistakes.
All that His counsels may ordain A blessed ending makes.

Upon your lips, then, lay your hand, And trust His guiding love;
Then like a rock your peace shall stand Here and in Heav'n above.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us go to our gracious God, confessing our sins, trusting Him for
grace and forgiveness.

People: **We confess, heavenly Father, that we have sinned against you in
thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have
left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have
not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present
and eternal punishment. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, strengthen our
faith, and focus our hearts on your kingdom, the inheritance He won
for us in His death and resurrection.**

Pastor: "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you
the kingdom." 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.

People: Amen.

2

Refrain This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. **Refrain**

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are His. **Refrain**

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. **Refrain**

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and merciful God, it is by your grace that we live
as your people who offer acceptable service.

People: **Grant that we may walk by faith, and not by sight, in the way that
leads to eternal life;**

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 *Genesis 15:1–6* (God tells Abram he will have a large
family and, through one offspring, countless inheritors of His promises.)

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I
am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”² But Abram said, “O Lord God, what
will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of
Damascus?”³ And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member
of my household will be my heir.”⁴ And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: “This
man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.”⁵ And he brought him
outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number
them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”⁶ And he believed the LORD,
and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *Hebrews 11:1–16* (People of faith before us are examples for us.)

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.² For by
it the people of old received their commendation.³ By faith we understand that the
universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of
things that are visible.⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than
Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by
accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.⁵ By faith Enoch
was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had
taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God.⁶ And
without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must
believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.⁷ By faith Noah, being
warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for
the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the
righteousness that comes by faith.⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go
out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing
where he was going.⁹ By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign
land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise.¹⁰ For he
was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is
God.¹¹ By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the
age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.¹² Therefore from one man,
and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as
many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.¹³ These all died in faith, not
having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar,
and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.¹⁴ For people
who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.¹⁵ If they had been
thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to
return.¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God
is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 12:22–40* (Jesus encourages us to not fear, for God knows what we truly need.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

²²And he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!²⁵ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁶If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? ²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! ²⁹And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. ³⁰For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. ³²“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. ³⁵“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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, 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 #648 “Glorious Thing of You Are Spoken”

Glorious things of you are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken Formed you for His own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded, What can shake your sure repose?
With salvation’s walls surrounded, You may smile at all your foes.

See, the streams of living waters, Springing from eternal love,
Well supply your sons and daughters And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river Ever will their thirst assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver, Never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hov’ring, See the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a cov’ring, Showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from their banner Light by night and shade by day,
Safe they feed upon the manna Which God gives them on their way.

Savior, since of Zion’s city I through grace a member am,
Let the world deride or pity, I will glory in Your name.
Fading are the world’s vain pleasures, All their boasted pomp and show;
Solid joys and lasting treasures None but Zion’s children know.

SERMON “Faith and Hope Facing the Impossible” Hebrews 11:1-16

(Rise)

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)

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.

Silence for personal petitions

Pastor: Almighty God, increase our faith in your wise ways and your gracious will. Preserve us from reliance on our own plans and natural powers, so that we would ever trust you and be counted righteous in your Son, Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Merciful Lord, you have raised up children for Abraham from all the nations through faith in your Word and promise. So bless your Church on earth by the seed of father Abraham, our Lord, Jesus Christ, that your people would be defended against the assaults and temptations of the evil one, live in righteousness and shine like the stars in the heavens forever and ever. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Holy Father, you promised great and abundant blessings to Abram, which he believed by faith. Bless the hearts of Christian fathers to prize the gift of their children and to work in their lives for the good of generations yet to come. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: God Almighty, teach the rulers of the nations how small and fleeting their reigns are. Bring evil leaders to repentance. Bless and protect those under attack. Shepherd all the nations by the preaching of your gospel into the ways of peace. Grant us all to fix our eyes on the better country that is to come, the eternal kingdom of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Gracious Lord, you call us to cast our anxieties upon you because you care for us. In the midst of their tribulation, bless your people with your faith and peace especially Jim, Audrey, Gloria, Janet, Brian, Steve, Norma, Vern, Brian, Amy, Cathy, Jim, Vern, Elaine, Dorothy, Cindy, Don, Shirley, Richard, Helga, Carol, Sarah, Debbie, Steve, Mary, June, Jerry, Shirley and Sarah. Grant them healing and help; as they consider your care of flower and field, remind them of your eternal care for them in Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O Lord, our God, grant your Holy Spirit to your servants who recline at your table to receive Christ supper this day. Enlighten them by your Word as a lamp to their feet, that they would be dressed in readiness for the coming of the Son of Man, both now and at the end of days. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, you accomplished your divine will through the lives and deaths of your saints throughout the ages. Comfort all who mourn in our day and inspire faith in us through the godly example of those who have gone before us and are now dwelling in glory with Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, knowing that you will hear the prayers of your people and answer us with your mercy, providing all things needful and beneficial to us 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 163

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 HYMNS

HYMN #342 "What Hope! An Eden Prophesied"

What hope! An Eden prophesied Where tame live with the wild;
The lamb and lion side by side, Led by a little child!

A shoot will sprout from Jesse's stem, A branch from David's line,
A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem: The fruit of God's design.

As banner of God's love unfurled, Christ came to suffer loss,
That by His death a dying world Would rally to the cross.

Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord, Lost Paradise restore;
Lead past the angel's flaming sword – Come, open heaven's door.

HYMN #738 "Lord of All Hopefulness"

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

HYMN #720 "We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"

We walk by faith and not by sight, No gracious words we hear
From Him who spoke as none e'er spoke, but we believe Him near.

We may not touch His hands and side, Nor follow where He trod;
But in His promise we rejoice And cry "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; And may our faith abound
To call on you when you are near And seek where you are found.

For You, O resurrected Lord, Are found in means divine:
Beneath the water and the Word, Beneath the bread and wine.

Lord, when our life of faith is done, In realms of clearer light
We may behold you as you are, With full and endless sight.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this gift of life, health, and peace. Strengthen us through it that we reflect in our daily living the eternal inheritance that is ours through our incorporation into the Body of Christ; 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.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

CLOSING HYMN #813 “Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng”

Rejoice, O pilgrim Throng! Rejoice, give thanks and sing;
Your festal banner wave on high, The cross of Christ your king.

Refrain Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

With voice as full and strong As ocean’s surging praise,
Send forth the sturdy hymns of old, The psalms of ancient days. **Refrain**

With all the angel choirs, With all the saints on earth
Pour out the strains of joy and bliss, True rapture, noblest mirth. **Refrain**

At last the march shall end; The wearied ones shall rest;
The pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest. **Refrain**

Praise Him who reigns on high, The Lord whom we adore:
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, One God forevermore. **Refrain**

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Lectors Director of Parish Music

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Josh Grotelueschen
John Gieschen, Dan Vaclav
Michelle Prince

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