

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

For Us

July 26, 29 & 30, 2023

AS WE GATHER

“All things work together for good,” today’s Epistle proclaims, “for those who love God” (Romans 8:28). That means us! But how does it happen that we love God? God predestined, called, justified, and glorified us, all because He loves us. He loved us so much that He “did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all” (Romans 8:32). By faith we are part of God’s people. By the grace of God, the Kingdom has been revealed to us like discovered treasure in a field or a pearl of great price, as Jesus teaches in two parables in the Gospel. Although as sinner-saints we may not perfectly endure tribulation, distress, and persecution, on the Last Day, by grace we shall be considered righteous because of all that God has done for us.

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 you were called to freedom, brothers.

Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh,
but through love serve one another.

Galatians 5:13

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #804

“O Worship the King”

Sts. 1–4

O worship the King, all glorious above.
O gratefully sing His pow’r and His love;
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

This earth, with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, thy pow’r hath founded of old,
Established it fast by a changeless decree,
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: God’s ways are unsearchable; all things and we ourselves belong to Him.

People: **But we are not righteous, for we have done the evil He forbids. We are not upright in heart, for we have thought to save ourselves. We are not at peace, for we have led others astray in our thoughtless words. We cannot save ourselves. Forgive us and lead us in paths pleasing to you, gracious God.**

Pastor: Although you have sinned, God still surrounds you with His protection, like the mountains around Jerusalem. He never rests in His seeking to guide your hands to do good. He has sent His Word to turn your thoughts back to His grace and mercy. His peace is made sure for you in the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. In His gracious love, God declares you to be His good and righteous children. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

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 everlasting God,

People: **give us an increase of faith, hope, and love,**

Pastor: that, receiving what you have promised,

People: **we may love what you have commanded;**

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)

Sunday BAPTISM SONG # 740 "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"

I am Jesus' little lamb, Ever glad at heart I am;
For my Shepherd gently guides me. Knows my need and well provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same, Even calls me by my name.

Day by day, at home, away. Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, Into pleasant pastures leads me:
When I thirst, He bids me go Where the quiet waters flow.

Who so happy as I am, Even now the Shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended, By His angel host attended,
He shall fold me to His breast, There within His arms to rest.

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 7:6–9* (In His steadfast love, God keeps His promises.) ⁶“For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *Romans 8:28–39* (All things work together for those who love God.)

²⁸And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 13:44–52* (The parables of the hidden treasure, pearl of great price, and catch of fish)

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

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and ⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶ who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸ When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad.

⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ “Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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.

Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him in the morning,

Praise Him at the noontime.

Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him when the sun goes down.

SERMON HYMN #656 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from every need That hath us now o’er taken.
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe; Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight; On earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done, Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One, Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is, Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there’s none other God; He holds the field forever.

Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not over pow’r us.
This world’s prince may still Scowl fierce as he will, He can harm us none.
He’s judged; the deed is done; One little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain Nor any thanks have for it;
He’s by our side upon the plain With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life, Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone, Our vict’ry has been won’
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

SERMON

(Rise)

Wednesday & Saturday 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.

Heavenly Father, you have redeemed us out of your steadfast love. Grant that the Gospel may go forth unhindered and your Spirit bring many into this fellowship of the redeemed. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, you have revealed to us the true treasure of Christ's cross and resurrection. You then have given us this same treasure through Holy Baptism. Thank you for baptizing Noah Thorgaard, and giving him the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting. Grant that he, and us all, may pursue your kingdom with all our hearts, souls, minds and bodies. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, you justify us for the sake of Christ. Comfort any who are troubled by the memory of past sins or visited by the temptation to believe they cannot be forgiven. Give them confidence in Christ, that He died for them and still intercedes for them. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, we thank you for giving life to your children. We thank you especially for the gift of life you have given to Liz Weil as she celebrates her 39th birthday, and Nancy Cesar who is celebrating her 87th birthday. Let these days be filled with joy, family, friend and laughter but above all filled with your presence. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, continue to be with your people even when facing death. Be with the family of Richard Lohman at his passing. Give them peace that you look after you children always, and give them the peace that surpasses all understanding even in times of mourning. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, grant wisdom to Joseph, our president; Tony, our governor; and all who make, administer and judge our laws, that they may seek what is best for all in accordance with your will. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, bestow your comfort upon all who are burdened by sickness and affliction especially Bill, Marga, Nancy, Caitlin, Russ, Nadia, Chris, Ardis, Noah, Joyce, Guy, Mike, Don, Pat, Shirley, Tom, Jill, Janet, Norma, Vern, Amy, Cathy, Cindy, Dorothy, Helga, Carol, June, Jerry, Shirley and Sarah. Grant that they may await healing and deliverance in the firm conviction that nothing can separate them from your love in Christ Jesus. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, grant that all who partake in Holy Communion today do so rejoicing that the Christ they receive in this Sacrament also intercedes for them at your right hand. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God, heavenly Father, it is not for the sake of our numbers or strength or birth that you preserve us, but for the sake of your faithfulness and steadfast love. As you preserved your ancient people of Israel for the sake of your promises, keep your Holy Church on earth, and also preserve our Synod, we pray, for the sake of your name. Lead our delegates and members, gathered in convention, according to your good pleasure and will, that in word and action we may love you and keep your commandments, confessing your steadfast love and faithfulness even to a thousand generations; through Christ, the crucified, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Wednesday & Saturday 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

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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 #733 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream Dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!

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!

HYMN #641 "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

Refrain: You satisfy the hungry heart With gift of finest wheat.
Come give to us, O saving Lord, The bread of life to eat.

As when the shepherd calls his sheep, They know and heed his voice;
so when you call your fam'ly, Lord, We follow and rejoice. **Refrain**

With joyful lips we sing to you Our praise and gratitude
That you should count us worthy, Lord, To share this heav'nly food. **Refrain**

Is not the cup we bless and share The blood of Christ outpoured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare Our oneness in the Lord? **Refrain**

The myst'ry of your presence, Lord, No mortal tongue can tell:
Whom all the world cannot contain Comes in our hearts to dwell. **Refrain**

You give yourself to us, O Lord; Then selfless let us be,
To serve each other in your name in truth and charity. **Refrain**

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; 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 #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.

Preacher & Liturgist
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Josh Grotelueschen
Marc Stefanic, Elisabeth Matusewic
Olivia Kukor

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