

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

We Know Where We Will Be Found

July 28, 31 & August 1, 2021

AS WE GATHER

Have you ever heard the phrase “Can’t see the forest for the trees”? It means to be so caught up with the smaller focuses (the trees) that a grander picture (the forest) is not noticed. After Jesus miraculously fed the multitudes of people, they struggled to see the forest for the trees. Many marveled, and rightfully so, at their earthly needs met through Christ’s power. Yet, Jesus came for more than providing meals and filling stomachs. He came to provide the greater things of forgiveness and eternal life. Through His teaching, people then and we now learn more of those greater things for which He came, that all in time could be able to see the forest from the trees, namely, forgiveness from the tree—the cross to which He would go.

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 #902 “Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now”

Lord, Jesus Christ, be present now; Our hearts in true devotion bow.
Your Spirit send with light divine, And let Your truth within us shine.

Unseal our lips to sing Your praise In endless hymns through all our days.
Increase our faith and light our minds; and set us free from doubt that blinds.

Then shall we join in hosts that cry, “O holy, holy Lord Most High!”
And in the light of that blest place We then shall see You face to face.

All glory to the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity, Be praise throughout eternity!

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: “I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread.

People: Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

Pastor: Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.

People: Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life,

Pastor: which the Son of Man will give to you. For on Him God the Father has set His seal.”

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Jesus is the bread of life, come down from heaven to give life to the world.

People: Lord, we hunger for your presence.

Pastor: If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

People: Lord, we hunger for your forgiveness.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God, our Father,

People: Most merciful God, we confess 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. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Pastor: In the wilderness of this world we forget your presence.

People: We grumble and complain about your provision.

Pastor: We focus too often on our wants and needs of this world.

People: We fail to rejoice in the daily giving of your grace and mercy.

Pastor: Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name.

People: Lord, we hunger for you. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. “For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. . . . Jesus said, ‘I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.’” As a called and ordained servant of Christ, the bread of life, 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: Lord, you fill us with forgiveness. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE #934 “My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord”

My soul now magnifies the Lord; My spirit leaps for joy in Him.

He keeps me in His kind regard, And I am blest for time to come.

For He alone who shows such might Has done amazing things to me.

His mercy flows; His name like light Remains in time perpetually.

His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scatters those of proud intent
And casts them down from high estate, Then gives the low His nourishment.

He feeds the hungry as His own; The wealthy leave with empty hands.

He gives His help to Israel: His gracious promise always stands.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Merciful Father, you so loved the world you gave your only Son to come down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Feed us by your Means of Grace and fill us through your Spirit with your gift of faith as we follow you in ways that lead to life eternal; 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)

9:00 BAPTISM HYMN #590 “Baptized Into Your Name Most Holy”

Baptized into Your name most holy, O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place, though weak and lowly, Among Your saints, Your chosen
host. Buried with Christ and dead to sin, Your Spirit now shall live within.

My loving Father, here You take me To be henceforth Your child and heir.
My faithful Savior here You make me The fruit of all Your sorrows share.
O Holy Spirit, comfort me When threat’ning clouds around I see.

My faithful God, You fail me never; Your promise surely will endure.
O cast me not away forever If words and deeds become impure.
Have mercy when I come defiled; Forgive, lift up, restore Your child.

All that I am and love most dearly Receive it all, O Lord, from me.
Let me confess my faith sincerely; Help me Your faithful child to be!
Let nothing that I am or own Serve any will but Yours alone.

9:00 ADULT BAPTISM of Benjamin Austin Rodrigues

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☩ **WORD** ☩

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Exodus 16:2–15* (Bread from heaven)

² And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, ³ and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” ⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not.” ⁵ On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.” ⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, “At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us?” ⁸ And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD.” ⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, ‘Come near before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.’”

¹⁰ And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

¹¹ And the LORD said to Moses, ¹² “I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’” ¹³ In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. ¹⁴ And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 4:1–16* (Unity in the Body of Christ)

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.” ⁹ (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 6:22–35* (Jesus is the bread of life.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

²² On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. ²³ Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴ So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. ²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” ²⁶ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.” ²⁸ Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” ³⁰ So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?” ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³² Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴ They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” ³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE (Saturday & Sunday)

“Jesus Loves Me” #588

Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He who died Heaven’s gates to open wide.
He has washed away my sin, Lets His little child come in.
Yes Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

SERMON HYMN #617 “O Lord, We Praise Thee”

O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.

Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish: O Lord, have mercy!
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary, That our sins and sorrows did carry,
and Thy blood for us plead In all trial, fear, and need: O Lord, have mercy!

Thy holy body into death was given, Life to win for us in heaven.

No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;
May this feast thereof remind us! O Lord, have mercy!

Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;
Peace with God once more is made: O Lord,, have mercy!

May God bestow on us His grace and favor That we follow Christ our Savior
And live together here in love and union

Nor despise this blest Communion! O Lord, have mercy!
Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us; Grant that heav’nly minded He make us;
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see Days of peace and unity: O Lord, have mercy!

SERMON “The Best Reason to Seek Jesus!” John 6:22-35

(Rise)

NICENE CREED (Wednesday & Saturday)

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.

Gracious heavenly Father, as you provided for the Israelites during their journey through the wilderness to the land you had promised, give us confidence to trust in your promises and to look to your hand to provide all we need.

People: Empower us day by day to seek Jesus for forgiveness of our sins, to live life according to His ways, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Pastor: Master of the vineyard, sustain those who you send into your harvest fields. Give your blessing to pastors, teachers, Christian leaders and all who abide in your Word, that they would be enabled to work diligently and faithfully for your kingdom.

People: Bless especially our Together in Mission partners, Pastor Chuck Ferry and Rachel Meyer.

Pastor: God and Father of us all, enable us to walk in humility, gentleness and patience, that we would bear with one another in love.

People: By the power of your Spirit, make us eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Pastor: Lord of all, hear our prayers for the hungry and the homeless. Provide for them not only bread to satisfy their hunger but, above all, the true bread of life, Jesus Christ.

People: Use each of us to care for the needy, the lonely, and the outcast.

Pastor: Father in heaven, we rejoice in the extension of your kingdom among us. Bless Ben Rodrigues as he is baptized into Christ this weekend. Grant him to continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

People: **Move us to extend a warm welcome into the fellowship of believers.**

Pastor: Show your mercy to the sick and hospitalized including Deanna, Helga, Steve, Kathy, Ray, Versa, Don, Judy, Nancy, Dorothy, Steve, Marilyn, Cindy, Louis, Dawn, Carol, Debbie, Mary, Diane, June, Jerry, Shirley, Sarah, Gladys, Shirley and Sarah. Provide doctors, nurses and other medical professionals to care for those who need health and healing.

People: **Give them strength, comfort, hope and peace through faith in Christ.**

Pastor: Father in heaven, bless the administration of the Sacraments among us, that your Church would continue to be blessed with your gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation through the waters of Holy Baptism, and through the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: **Grant us to partake of Christ supper in Spirit and truth, repenting of all sins and trusting in His full gift of pardon and peace.**

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

All: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Wednesday & Saturday)

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

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. Amen.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN #618 "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

I come, O Savior, to Thy table, For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able To satisfy and make me whole:

Refrain: Lord, May Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!

Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning; So I, a sinner, come to Thee. **Refrain**

Unworthy though I am, O Savior, Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never, For Thou my faithful shepherd art: **Refrain**

Weary am I and heavy laden; With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden my heart, for I am now Thy guest. **Refrain**

What higher gift can we inherit? It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and Spirit, The covenant of hope and grace. **Refrain**

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**

10 continued

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**

HYMN #628 "Your Table I Approach"

Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.
Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;
a contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.

Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.

O grant, most blessed Lord, That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have
refreshed us in, with, and under bread and wine with the body and
blood of your dear Son, supplying not only for our stomachs but for our
souls. Sustain us in faith and life in Christ that we may do the good you
desire and faithfully live out our days in your name; 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: Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking Me,
not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.

**People: Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures
to eternal life,**

Pastor: which the Son of Man will give to you." 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 #643 "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

Sent forth by God's blessing, Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
The Supper is ended. O now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching, Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us
To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.

With praise and thanksgiving To God ever living,
The tasks of our ev'ry day life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring,
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living With praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

Preacher & Liturgist
Lectors
Director of Parish Music

Pastor Harold Bender
Jodi Drew, Jim Laux
Michelle Prince