

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Neglecting a Great Salvation

October 2 & 3, 2021

AS WE GATHER

The pages of Scripture counsel us regarding things that are not to be neglected. Proverbs says plainly: “Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it” (Proverbs 8:33). Paul writes to young Timothy: “Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you” (1 Timothy 4:14). But the book of the Bible with the most reminders about what is not to be neglected is Hebrews. Here we are directed: do not neglect to do good (Hebrews 13:16), do not neglect to show hospitality (13:2), do not neglect to meet together (10:25), and do not neglect our great salvation (2:3). We do well to take that divine guidance to heart.

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.

LWML Sunday

We recognize LWML Sunday today. The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an auxiliary of the LCMS. The St. Paul's group is the Ladies Guild, which meets 5 times per year. Our next meeting is Monday, November 22, at 6:30 pm. All ladies are welcome to attend! Our group supports the LWML missions through our “mite” giving--even small “mites,” loose change left over, will add up to millions nationally! We also have devotions, Bible studies, and meet to be informed of District and National events. We also support a Guatemalan student, Victor, in his studies and seek to do further service and mission projects during the year. Our mitten barrel will be out in the narthex soon – we collect hats, mittens, and scarves for those who need them this winter.

WELCOME

MINISTRY MOMENT - LWML, Michelle Prince

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS

LWML PLEDGE *Spoken By All*

In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.
(Be seated)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✂ PREPARATION ✂

OPENING HYMN “Serve the Lord With Gladness”

“Serve the Lord with gladness!” It is He alone
Who redeemed us sinners, Guides us as His own
To enjoy the blessings Of His love and grace,
Will at last in glory Meet us face to face.
Onward, then, for Jesus! Let this be our aim:
“Serve the Lord with gladness!” Glorify His name.

“Serve the Lord with gladness!” He gave us command
To proclaim His Gospel Now in every land
So that fellow sinners May, like us, be blest.
Leading them to Jesus, We can serve Him best.
Onward , then, for Jesus! Let this be our aim:
“Serve the Lord with gladness!” Glorify His name!

“Serve the Lord with gladness!” There's no greater joy
Than to serve the Master, Work in His employ.
As we build His kingdom Angels, too, rejoice
Over every sinner Brought to hear His voice.
Onward, then, for Jesus! Let this be our aim:
“Serve the Lord with gladness!” Glorify His name!

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

People: Make haste, O God, to deliver me! O LORD, make haste to help me!

Pastor: Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

People: Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path.

Pastor: I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

People: Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

People: Gracious God, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We know well that we are by nature sinful and unclean. Morning, noon, and night we have done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as your faithful servants. We have neglected the salvation you so graciously have provided for us. Indeed, we deserve your punishment in this life and for eternity. Trusting in your mercy, we come to you for forgiveness. Our trust is not in ourselves but in the merits of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us remission of all our sins and lead us to renewed lives that reflect your goodness, mercy, and love.

Pastor: With confident joy, I announce to you that God is gracious and merciful and hears our supplications. Upon your confession, by the command of our Lord and as His called and ordained servant, 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

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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. Father of our Lord Jesus, the strength of all who trust you, help us to live according to your design and to treasure both your word of command and your word of forgiveness. Make our lives to be signs of your life and the instruments of renewal in our world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, 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 2:18–25* (God creates and fashions the first woman.) ¹⁸Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." ¹⁹Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." ²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE Hebrews 2:1–18 (Counsel against neglecting salvation)

Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.² For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution,³ how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard,⁴ while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.⁵ For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking.⁶ It has been testified somewhere, “What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him?⁷ You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor,⁸ putting everything in subjection under his feet.” Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.⁹ But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.¹⁰ For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.¹¹ For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,¹² saying, “I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”¹³ And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Behold, I and the children God has given me.”¹⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.¹⁶ For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

8:00 ANTHEM

“Everywhere I Go”

3-5th Grades”

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL Mark 10:2–16 (Jesus blesses the children.)

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

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

² And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?”³ He answered them, “What did Moses command you?”⁴ They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away.”⁵ And Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment.⁶ But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’⁷ ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife,⁸ and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh.⁹ What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”¹⁰ And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter.¹¹ And he said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her,¹² and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”¹³ And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them.¹⁴ But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.¹⁵ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”¹⁶ And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“The B-I-B-L-E”

The B-I-B-L-E, Yes, that’s the book for me;
I stand alone on the Word of God, the B-I-B-L-E

The B-I-B-L-E, Its lessons help me see
the love of Jesus, God’s own Son; the B-I-B-L-E

SERMON HYMN #819 “Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good”

Sing Praise to God, the highest good, The author of creation,
The God of love who understood Our need for His salvation.
With healing balm our souls He fills And ev’ry faithless murmur stills:
To God all praise and glory!

What God’s almighty pow’r made, In mercy He is keeping.
By morning glow or evening shade His eye is never sleeping.
Within the kingdom of His might All things are just and good and right:
To God all praise and glory!

We sought the Lord in our distress; O God, in mercy hear us.
Our Savior saw our helplessness And came with peace to cheer us.
For this we thank and praise the Lord, Who is by one and all adored:
To God all praise and glory!

He never shall forsake His flock, His chosen generation;
He is their refuge and their rock, Their peace and their salvation.
As with a mother's tender hand, He leads His own, His chosen band:
To God all praise and glory!

All who confess Christ's holy name, Give God the praise and glory.
Let all who know His pow'r proclaim Aloud the wondrous story.
Cast ev'ry idol from its throne, For God is God, and He alone:
To God all praise and glory!

SERMON **"God's Design and God's Purpose"** **Genesis 2:18-25**

(Rise)

HYMN #941 **"We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God"**

We praise You and acknowledge You, O God, to be the Lord,
The Father everlasting, by all the earth adored.
To You all angel powers cry aloud, the heavens sing,
The cherubim and seraphim their praises to You bring:
"O holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
Your majesty and glory fill the heavens and the earth!"

The band of the apostles in glory sing Your praise;
The fellowship of prophets their deathless voices raise.
The martyrs of Your kingdom, a great and noble throng,
Sing with the holy Church throughout all the world this song:
"O all majestic Father, Your true and only Son,
And Holy Spirit, Comforter forever Three in One!"

You, Christ, are King of glory, the everlasting Son,
Yet You, with boundless love, sought to rescue ev'ry one:
You laid aside Your glory, were born of virgin's womb,
Were crucified for us and were placed into a tomb;
Then by Your resurrection You won for us reprieve
You opened heaven's kingdom to all who would believe.

You sit in splendid glory, enthroned at God's right hand,
Upholding earth and heaven by forces You command.
We know that you will come as our Judge that final day,
So help Your servants You have redeemed by blood, we pray;
May we with saints be numbered where praises never end,
In glory everlasting. Amen, O Lord, 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 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.

Silence for personal intercessions

Pastor: Lord God, bless us with faith to see your design in all your creation, especially in the institution of marriage and family.

People: Help us by your Spirit to receive your kingdom and your Truth in humble repentance like little children, that we may live in the joy of grace and forgiveness.

Pastor: Lord God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, that we may pay closer attention to your Word, for man does not live on bread alone, but every word that comes from you.

People: Strengthen us to embrace ever more fully your precepts and instructions in true faith, lest we drift away from it and neglect the great salvation it reveals to us in Christ.

Pastor: Lord God, as a reflection of your image, you join man and woman together in marriage so that they are no longer two but one flesh. We especially rejoice with LeAnne and Steve as they celebrate their 22nd wedding anniversary.

People: Bless the engaged, the newly married and those who have shared many years together with even more of your love, that they may rejoice in your goodness and be lights in this world of darkness.

Pastor: Lord God, help all parents who have brought their children to Christ in the waters of Holy Baptism also to bring them to Him faithfully in the Divine Service. We rejoice in the baptism of Olivia Lee Belsha who is baptized into Christ this weekend.

People: Bless John and Alyssa to raise her in Jesus, bring her up in the faith, that she may be blessed to live in His arms and bless her through His Word.

Pastor: Lord God, help us when we do not see everything in this world in subjection to Jesus. Grant us to trust even in difficult times.

People: As we view our troubled world, give us eyes of faith to see Jesus crowned with glory and honor at your right hand, and so believe that all things work together for good for those who love and trust in Him.

Pastor: Lord God, heal, support and comfort Austin, Carol, Pat, Richard, Cindy, Helga, Steve, Ray, Versa, Judy, Don, Nancy, Dorothy, Steve, Marilyn, Cindy, Louis, Dawn, Carol, Debbie, Mary, Diane, June, Jerry, Shirley, Sarah, Gladys, Shirley, Sarah, and all others who suffer in body or mind. Help them to endure difficult times.

People: Jesus, our Savior, was made perfect through suffering. Help us to keep our eyes on Him, that in all our trials we might put our trust in Christ alone.

Pastor: Lord God, strengthen the faith of all who eat and drink Christ's body and blood today in the truth that He has made them bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh.

People: Grant us as His bride, the church, to trust that His love will never fail us and not doubt but believe that He will hold fast to us forever.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; 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

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

HYMN #790

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!

Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near, Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.

Have you not seen All that is needful has been Sent by His gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.

What need or grief Ever has failed of relief? Wings of His mercy did shade you.

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.

Ponder anew What the Almighty can do As with His love He befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!

All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!

Let the Amen Sound from His people again; Gladly forever adore Him!

HYMN #702 “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away:
O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart; My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread, Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray From Thee aside!

When ends life's transient dream, When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll, Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

HYMN #873 “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true and only light,
Sun of righteousness, arise; Triumph o'er the shades of night.
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn Unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return Till Thy mercy's beams I see,
Till they inward light impart, Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine, Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, radiance divine, Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display, Shining to the perfect day.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Grant, O Lord, that this Sacrament we have now received strengthen us in faith and in loving service to one another. As we have tasted of our salvation and seen that the Lord is good, grant that we live each day as your people who are given to charity and service in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #803 “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Fountainhead of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

Preacher & Liturgist

Lectors

Director of Parish Music

Pastor Harold Bender

Russell Hurst, Bob Reynolds, Jim Laux

Michelle Prince