

## SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Help Our Unbelief

September 11 & 12, 2021

5:00pm & 8:00am

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### AS WE GATHER

In today's Readings, Jesus encounters another person possessed by an unclean spirit. The young man's father is distraught and desperate. The father utters these words: "I believe; help my unbelief!" Jesus does help the man's unbelief by healing his son. Jesus helps our unbelief as well in all that He does. In His miracles and teaching, suffering and death, resurrection and ascension, Jesus calls us to faith. And He calls us to be His witnesses.

**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

"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,  
not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some,  
but encouraging one another,  
and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." (Hebrews 10:24-25, ESV)

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

#### ✖ PREPARATION ✖

### OPENING HYMN #528 "Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of His grace!  
  
My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad, The honors of Thy name.  
  
Jesus! The name that charms our fears, That bids our sorrows cease;  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'Tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin; He sets the pris'ner free.

His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood avails for me.

Look unto Him, ye nations; own Your God, ye fallen race.

Look and be saved through faith alone, Be justified by grace.

See all your sins on Jesus laid; The Lamb of God was slain.

His soul was once an off'ring made For ev'ry soul of man.

To God all glory, praise, and love Be now and ever giv'n

By saints below and saints above, The Church in earth and heav'n.

(Rise)

### INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: I called on the name of the LORD:

People: O LORD, I believe. Help my unbelief!

Pastor: The LORD has dealt bountifully with us.

People: The LORD has opened our ears.

Pastor: The LORD has delivered us from death.

People: He wipes away tears from all faces.

Pastor: He rescues our feet from stumbling

People: and restores our tongues to proclaim His good news.

### CONFESSON & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Despite all of God's actions on our behalf, we still struggle with sin in our lives. Our tongues still curse. Our feet still stumble. Our ears still listen to lies and vicious gossip. But our heavenly Father invites us to come to Him for restoration, renewal, and forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection.*

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: we have sinned against you and our neighbors in what we have said and what we have left unsaid. We have neglected opportunities to love our neighbors. We have stumbled and fallen again and again. We ask that you restore us, renew us, and forgive us on account of Jesus. Amen.

## ✖ WORD✖

Pastor: Almighty God, in His boundless love sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise for our forgiveness and eternal life. Because of Jesus, we are restored, body and soul. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. We are forgiven in Christ. We are renewed and restored.**  
**Amen.**

### HYMN OF PRAISE

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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. Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defense in every need, continue to preserve your Church in safety, govern her by your goodness, and bless her with Your peace; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

(Be seated)

### OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 50:4–10*

The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. <sup>5</sup>The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. <sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. <sup>7</sup>But the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. <sup>8</sup>He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. <sup>9</sup>Behold, the Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up. <sup>10</sup>Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the voice of his servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### EPISTLE *James 3:1–12*

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup>For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. <sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. <sup>4</sup>Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup>So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! <sup>6</sup>And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup>For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup>but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup>From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup>Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? <sup>12</sup>Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**HYMN**      "Who You Say I Am?"    -    **congregation chorus**

Verse 1

Who am I that the highest King    Would welcome me  
I was lost but He brought me in    Oh His love for me    Oh His love for me

**Chorus A**

**Who the Son sets free   Oh is free indeed**  
**I'm a child of God   Yes I am**

Verse 2

Free at last   He has ransomed me  
His grace runs deep   While I was a slave to sin  
Jesus died for me   Yes He died for me

**Chorus B**

**Who the Son sets free   Oh is free indeed**  
**I'm a child of God   Yes I am**

**In my Father's house   There's a place for me**

**I'm a child of God   Yes I am**

**Bridge**

I am chosen   not forsaken   I am who You say I am  
You are for me   not against me   I am who You say I am  
I am chosen   not forsaken   I am who You say I am  
You are for me   not against me   I am who You say I am  
(Oh) I am who You say I am

**Chorus B**

**Who the Son sets free   Oh is free indeed**

**I'm a child of God   Yes I am**

**In my Father's house   There's a place for me**

**I'm a child of God   Yes I am   (*Repeat Chorus B*)**

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Mark 9:14–29*

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

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

<sup>14</sup> And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. <sup>15</sup> And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. <sup>16</sup> And he asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” <sup>17</sup> And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. <sup>18</sup> And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” <sup>19</sup> And he answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.” <sup>20</sup> And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. <sup>21</sup> And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. <sup>22</sup> And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” <sup>23</sup> And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” <sup>24</sup> Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” <sup>25</sup> And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” <sup>26</sup> And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” <sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. <sup>28</sup> And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” <sup>29</sup> And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Be seated)

## CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### "This is My Commandment"

This is My commandment, that you love one another  
that your joy may be full.

This is my commandment, that you love one another  
that your joy may be full.

That your joy may be full. That your joy may be full.

This is my commandment, that you love one another  
that your joy may be full.

## SERMON HYMN #729 "I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus"

I am trusting thee, Lord Jesus, Trusting only Thee;  
Trusting Thee for full salvation, Great and free.

I am trusting Thee for pardon At Thy feet I bow,  
For Thy grace and tender mercy Trusting now.

I am trusting Thee for cleansing In the crimson flood;  
Trusting Thee to make me holy By thy blood.

I am trusting Thee to guide me; Thou alone shalt lead,  
Ev'ry day and hour supplying All my need.

I am trusting Thee for power; Thine can never fail.  
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me Must prevail.

I am trusting Thee. Lord Jesus' Never let me fall.

I am trusting Thee forever and for all.

SERMON      "Lord, I Believe! Help My Unbelief!"      Mark 9:14-29

(Rise)

## NICENE CREED

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;

7 continued

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.

(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 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 REMEMBRANCE

Pastor: Gracious God, you are the source of every lasting security. We bless you  
for the continuance of stability in a time of great national trial and ask  
that our nation be spared from any such act of terrorism and  
destruction in times to come. We remember those innocent victims of  
terrorism whose earthly lives ended on September 11th, 2001. Grant  
that their memories among us remain and their lives not be forgotten.  
We also remember the rescue workers who gave their lives that day  
seeking to assist the victims of the tragedy. Grant that their examples of  
bravery and sacrificial concern for others serve to inspire each of us as  
we live out our lives in these times.

Almighty God, you have given us this good land as our heritage. Grant  
that we remember your generosity and constantly do your will. Bless  
our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable

way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Grant that we, who came from many nations with many different languages, may become a united people. Support us in defending our liberties, and give those to whom we have entrusted the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there may be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, may our hearts be thankful, and in troubled times do not let our trust in you fail; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People:** Amen.

#### 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.

*Brief silence for personal intercessions.*

Pastor: Lord God, we believe; help our unbelief! Sustain us through the many troubles and trials of this world. When unclean spirits afflict us and evil thoughts assail us, fill us with your Spirit and revive our trust in you. Lord, in your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gracious Lord, knowing that those who teach in the Church will be judged with greater strictness, bless all pastors and the teachers of our Synod's schools, colleges and seminaries. Preserve them in faithfulness to your Word, that they may not stumble in what they say. Lord, in your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord and Father, tame our tongues so that they are not a restless evil, full of deadly poison. Turn them by your Spirit from cursing the people made in your likeness to instead blessing you, and keep us from stumbling in what we say. Help us to speak in ways that build others up and strengthen faith. Lord, in your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord of the Church, we rejoice in the growth in your kingdom among us. We praise you for Quinn Marie Surdyk, baptized into Christ this weekend. Bless Kurt and Natalie to raise her in the nurture and admonition of Jesus Christ. We also rejoice in the fellowship we share as believers in Christ. Bless our celebration of New and Old as we grow together in Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, guard the tongues of our governing authorities, that they may speak the truth in ways that strengthen our nation. Grant them wisdom, strength, and understanding, that they may speak wisely and lead in accord with your will. Lord, in your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God, you have promised that "all things are possible for one who believes." In such faith, we bring before you all those in need of help and support in facing disease and difficulties, especially Elaine, Jack, Cindy, Deanna, Helga, Steve, Ray, Versa, Don, Judy, Nancy, Dorothy, Steve, Marilyn, Cindy, Louis, Dawn, Carol, Debbie, Mary, Diane, June, Jerry, Shirley, Sarah, Gladys, Shirley and Sarah. Grant them health and healing as you will and give them strength, comfort, and peace through faith in Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord of life, we give you thanks for the eternal life you have promised us in Christ. Bless Marilyn Soricic and family as they remember Trish. Grant them full assurance of faith that she now dwells with you in glory. Lord, in your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, your Son, Jesus Christ, suffered unjustly for our sins and was vindicated in His resurrection. Grant His Spirit to abide with us day by day. Fill us with faith that He comes to us in His body and blood in the sacrament. Assure us that no one can contend against or declare guilty those who have been reconciled to God in Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

Pastor: All these things and whatever else you know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

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.

##### HYMN      "Lamb of God, Your Blood Has Bought Us"

Lamb of God, Your blood has bought us.  
We are freed from sin and shame.  
Lamb of God, Your mercy taught us  
How to pray, praise, and proclaim.  
Help us, Lord, to show compassion  
Without prejudice or spite.  
Share Your peace, Lord, without ration,  
Helping us reflect Your light.

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(Be seated)

#### DISTRIBUTION

##### 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.

##### HYMN #705 "The Man is Ever Blessed"

The man is ever blessed Who shuns the sinners' ways,  
Among their counsels never stands, Nor takes the scorner's place.

But makes the Law of God His study and delight  
Amid the labors of the day And watches of the night.

He like a tree shall thrive, With waters near the root;  
Fresh as the leaf his name shall live, His works are heav'n-ly fruit.

Not so the wicked race, They no such blessings find;  
Their hopes shall flee like empty chaff Before the driving wind.

How will they bear to stand Before the judgment seat  
Where all the saints at Christ's right hand In full assembly meet?

He knows and He approves The way the righteous go;  
But sinners and their works shall meet A dreadful overthrow.

### **HYMN #783 "Take My Life and Let It Be"**

Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love;  
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King;  
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect and use Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.

### **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.

### **CLOSING HYMN #818 "In Thee Is Gladness"**

In Thee is gladness Amid all sadness, Jesus sunshine of my heart.  
By Thee are given The gifts of heaven, Thou the true Redeemer art.  
Our souls Thou wakest, Our bonds Thou breakest;  
Who trust Thee surely Has built securely; He stands forever: Alleluia!

Our hearts are pining To see Thy shining,  
Dying or living To Thee are cleaving;  
Naught can us sever: Alleluia!

Since He is ours, We fear no powers, Not of earth nor sin nor death.  
He sees and blesses In worst distresses;  
He can change them with a breath.

Wherefore the story Tell of His glory With hearts and voices;  
All heav'n rejoices In Him forever: Alleluia!  
We shout for gladness, Triumph o'er sadness,  
Love Him and praise Him And still shall raise Him  
Glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

Preacher & Liturgist  
Lector Saturday  
Director of Parish Music

Pastor Harold Bender  
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