

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Rescuing the Wanderers
September 14 & 15, 2019

AS WE GATHER

If the Lord describes Himself in Scripture as our "Shepherd," it follows that we, as those who belong to Him, are His "sheep." True to our broken nature, we all wander away from our Shepherd's provision, wrongly assuming we can find our own way. Not only can we never find our own way to lasting life, but we can find our own way only to everlasting death. We all stand in need of rescue! We all are the lost sheep who have wandered away. Thank the Shepherd for coming to your rescue. His death and resurrection are proof that He never gives up on us! He pursues His wanderers. Finding us and claiming us, He carries us home. And that's exactly where He gathers us today: at home in His presence so that He, our Shepherd, can fill us, His sheep, with His love and mercy.

WELCOME

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

Do not be anxious about anything,

but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving,
let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4: 4, 6-7)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #711 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; Much we need Your tender care.
In Your pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.

We are Yours; in love befriend us, Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us, Seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.

You have promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to You.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to You.

Early let us seek Your favor, Early let us do Your will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, With Your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: As sheep who have wandered from the Shepherd, we all have
turned from the Lord in our disobedience to His commands.

**People: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one
to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us
all.**

Pastor: Confident in the pursuit of our Shepherd, Jesus, for those who
wander from Him, let us confess our sins to God our Father.
Together, we pray:

**People: Good Shepherd, we are your wandering people. We need you.
We need your love. We need your forgiveness. We need your
pursuit of us all. Guide us back into the fold of your care that
we be cleansed of our sins. Create in us hearts to worship you
in truth and follow your Word, which alone gives us life. Amen.**

Pastor: In the mercy of almighty God, we are redeemed by Jesus Christ. In
Him, our Good Shepherd, who laid down His life for us all, we are
fully and freely forgiven. Receive this forgiveness today as you, like
wandering sheep, are drawn back into His rescuing mercy. 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.

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

People: (sung)

Lord, God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd.

People: Without you nothing is secure.

Pastor: Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever.

People: Help us to follow you, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life;

Pastor: for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✱ WORD ✱

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ezekiel 34:11–24* (The Lord will search for and seek out His scattered sheep.) “For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. I will seek

the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. “As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet?

And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet? “Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE 1 Timothy 1:5–17 (Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.) The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions. Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted. I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

5:00 ANTHEM *“Sing to the Lord With Joy”* - Carter (6-8 Choir)

8:00 ANTHEM *“Sing a Song of Joy”* (Adult Choir)

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 15:1-10* (Heaven’s joy will be great when sinners repent.)

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

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #826 “Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying”

Hark, the voice of Jesus crying, “Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting- Who will bear the sheaves
away?” Loud and long the Master calleth; Rich reward He offers thee.
Who will answer gladly saying, “Here am I, send me, send me?”

If you cannot speak like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus, You can say He died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked With the judgment’s dread alarms,
You can lead the little children To the Savior’s waiting arms.

If you cannot be a watchman, Standing high on Zion’s wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven, Off’ring life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your bounties You can do what God commands;
You can be like faithful Aaron, Holding up the prophet’s hands.

Let none hear you idly saying, “There is nothing I can do,”
While the multitudes are dying And the Master calls for you.
Take the task He gives you gladly, Let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when He calleth, “Here am I, send me, send me!”

SERMON *“The Restoration of the Lost”* **Luke 15:1-10**

(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; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and as 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 attendance book** 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.

5:00 ANTHEM *"How Firm a Foundation & Praise the Lord"* 4-8 Handbells

8:00 ANTHEM *"Luther's Morning Prayer"* Adult Choir

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for God's holy church and all people in time of need.
Almighty God, we praise your goodness for sustaining us day to day in all our needs of body and life and for giving your Son that we may enjoy forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

People: We rejoice that you have granted to us your Spirit, the Comforter, that we may not be without your guidance and gifts, and may be led in the way of life everlasting.

Pastor: Bless your Church, O Lord, and preserve all your people whom you have called by your Word, born again in the waters of Baptism, and fed and nourished by their Communion upon the body and blood of our Savior.

People: Make us perfect in love, that we may keep your commands and do the good works that glorify you.

Pastor: God of truth, make wise and faithful all pastors and all those who hold office in your Church, that by their devotion and service many may hear your Word and be brought to faith.

People: Raise up many who will heed your call and serve where you desire. Bless the work of missionaries far and near, especially Pastor Chuck Ferry and family and Rachel Meyer.

Pastor: Lord of the nations, give to our nation wise and honorable leaders, that we may be protected by good laws and delivered from injustice, prejudice and hatred.

People: Bless the members of our armed forces who defend us against our enemies, and guide us that we may be good citizens. Bring harmony and concord to the nations, that war and violence may cease and we may work together for the common good.

Pastor: Gracious God, deliver us from a judgmental spirit and instill within us a repentant heart, that we may seek reconciliation and peace through confession and the forgiveness of sins.

People: Bless those who work within your Church to bring peace and unity where there is division, mistrust and hate.

Pastor: Lord of the family, bless the homes of your people that husband and wife may honor their vows of love and fidelity to each other.

People: Unite parents and children in love and affection for each other, that their lives together may be examples to the world of your goodness and love.

Pastor: Compassionate Lord, bring to the sick and sorrowing the comfort of your grace, that in the days of their afflictions and in their time of adversity they may know your presence and healing grace especially Sharon, Judi, Bette, Nathan, Joyce, Shirley, Jim, Mary, Cindy, Bill, Katie, Dolores, Sarah, Marge, Herb, Russ, Gladys, John, Arlene, Shirley, Jonathan, and Sarah. Heal them in time or eternity and grant them hope and peace in Christ.

People: According to your gracious will, grant to all the consolation of your love and your tender compassion.

Pastor: Lord of the living, we recall with thanksgiving those who served you in days past and now rest from their labors. We especially pray for Marilyn as she remembers Trish and also Henry, Eleanor, Al and Judy, as they remember their daughter and sister Cindy.

People: We ask you to keep us in fellowship with all your saints, both those who await our Lord's coming on earth and those whom you have brought into your nearer presence.

Pastor: Lord of our salvation, by this holy communion, give us grace to sustain us through the changes and chances of this mortal life, forgive our sins, and strengthen us through difficult days.

People: Keep us all in your grace to that day when Christ shall call us unto Himself and we shall know you face to face, in the life of the world that has no end.

Pastor: O Lord, all things are yours, and you have promised to well supply us with all that we need. Give us courage and faith and all things good and beneficial to our salvation, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and 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

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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 Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

5:00 *"God's Own Child I Gladly Say It"* – John Weber (6-8 Choir)

HYMN #854 "Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go"

Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go, My daily labor to pursue,
Thee, only Thee, resolved to know In all I think or speak or do.

The task Thy wisdom has assigned, O let me cheerfully fulfill;
In all my works Thy presence find, And prove Thy good and perfect will.

Thee may I set at my right hand, Whose eyes my inmost substance see,
And labor on at Thy command, And offer all my works to Thee.

Give me to bear Thine easy yoke, and ev'ry moment watch and pray,
And still to things eternal look, and hasten to Thy glorious day.

For Thee delightfully employ What e'er Thy bounteous grace has giv'n.
And run my course with even joy, and closely walk with Thee to heav'n.

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.

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

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?

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

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

HYMN #829 "Christ the Eternal Lord"

Christ the eternal Lord, Whose promise here we claim,
Whose gifts of grace are freely poured On all who name Your name;
With thankfulness and praise We stand before Your throne,
Intent to serve You all our days And make Your glory known.

Christ the unchanging Word To ev'ry passing age,
Whose timeless teachings still are heard Set forth on Scripture's page;
Transform our thought and mind, Enlighten all who read,
Within Your Word by faith to find The bread of life indeed.

Christ the redeeming Son, Who shares our human birth,
And by His death salvation won For ev'ry child of earth;
Inspire our hearts, we pray, To tell Your love abroad,
That all may honor Christ today And follow Him as Lord.

Christ the unfading Light Of everlasting day,
Our Morning Star in splendor bright, The Life, the Truth, the Way;
That light of truth You give To servants as to friends,
Your way to walk, Your life to live, Till earth's brief journey ends.

Christ the ascended King Exalted high above,
Whose praise unending ages sing, Whom yet unseen we love;
When mortal life is past Your voice from heaven's throne
Shall call Your children home at last To know as we are known.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, our faithful Shepherd, who in loving-kindness sent your only-begotten Son into the world to rescue all who wander, we thank you that for His sake you have given us the peace of your forgiveness at your Table of mercy. Because you never fail your sheep, enable us to go forth and extend to others the blessings we here have received; 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: As our Shepherd, our Savior will lead us as we walk with Him in faith.

People: Following our Shepherd every day, let us share His mercy with all we meet.

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 #895 "Now Thank We All Our God"

Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love And still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills In this world and the next!

All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.

5:00 POSTLUDE

"Prelude in F Major" - Bach

Preacher

Pastor Harold Bender

Liturgist

Pastor Noah Kegley

Lectors

Marc Stefanic, Jane Adams

Acolytes

Isabella Avila, Annalise Carson, Alexandria Tavidian

Director of Parish Music

Michelle Prince

Special Organ Music 5:00

Olivia Kukor

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