

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Our Able Savior

September 14 & 15, 2024

AS WE GATHER

In today's Gospel, the father of a possessed boy says, "If you can do anything . . ." As God in the flesh, Jesus can do anything—and He wants to! His concern is never an "if," but an "always." When our troubles increase, their resolution awaits not God's intention but our waffling faith in His concern. Few of us have the resolve and bravado of Isaiah in the Old Testament Reading. Seldom do we recognize how we use our tongues for both good and evil. Today the Scriptures encourage us to turn from relying on ourselves to putting our faith-borne trust in Him alone.

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

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. Hebrews 12:1-3

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING 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.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.

Pastor: Since we are gathered to have our faith strengthened by hearing God's Word and by receiving our Lord's body and blood in the fellowship of this altar, let us confess our sins, seek His infinite mercy and ask our heavenly Father's forgiveness.

People: Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive the weakness of our faith and our many sins, and restore us to fellowship with you and one another, now and forever.

Pastor: In Holy Baptism our heavenly Father declared us to be His children and united us to His Son, by whose death and resurrection all our sins are forgiven. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

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,

People: continue to preserve your church in safety, govern her by your goodness, and bless her with your peace;

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 *Isaiah 50:4–10* (Isaiah urges a bold faith.)

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. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. ⁶I 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. ⁷But 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. ⁸He who vindicates me is near.

3 continued

Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. ⁹Behold, 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. ¹⁰Who 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* (James warns against an uncontrolled tongue.)

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For 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. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴Look 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. ⁵So 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! ⁶And 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. ⁷For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹²Can 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.

10:30 ANTHEM

"All Praise to God Who Reigns on High"

Grades 6-8

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 9:14–29* (Jesus exorcizes a spirit after the disciples are not able.)

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

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴ And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵ And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. ¹⁶ And he asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” ¹⁷ And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. ¹⁸ 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.” ¹⁹ 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.” ²⁰ 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. ²¹ And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. ²² 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.” ²³ And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” ²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” ²⁵ 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.” ²⁶ 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.” ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. ²⁸ And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” ²⁹ 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

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus in the morning, Jesus at the noontime,
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus when the sun goes down.

Love Him, Love Him, Love Him in the morning, Love Him at the noontime,
Love Him, Love Him, Love Him when the sun goes down.

Serve Him, Serve Him, Serve Him in the morning, Serve Him at the noontime,
Serve Him, Serve Him, Serve Him when the sun goes down.

SERMON HYMN #721 “Lead Me, Guide Me”

**Refrain: Lead me, guide me, along the way; For if You lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

I am weak and I need Thy strength and pow’r To help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness Thy face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain*

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness, Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in Thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain*

I am lost if You take Your hand from me, I am blind without Thy light to see.
Lord, always let me Thy servant be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain*

SERMON

(Rise)

OFFERTORY

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Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.

Amen.

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and
was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Be seated)

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 folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God, we believe; help our unbelief! Sustain us through the many troubles and trials of this world. When unclean spirits afflict us and those that we love, revive our trust in you. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God, heavenly Father, you have given your beloved Son the tongue of one who is taught, that He may know how to sustain with a word those who are weary. Prosper in every place the preaching of your Gospel. By your Spirit, enable your pastors to proclaim the Word with clarity and joy, and by the same Spirit open the ears of your children to believe it with gladness and action. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God, guard the tongues of our governing authorities, that they may not stumble in what they say, but speak wisely, leading 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 Ralph, Carole, Wendy, June, Audrey, Janice, David, Helga, Ruth, Dick, Michael, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Danielle, Marlene, RoseMarie, Dorothy, Marga, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Janet, Vern, Cathy, Shirley, Sarah and all others in need, asking you to grant them health and healing. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God, use your words to comfort those who are mourning. Especially comfort Audrey Spitzer as she mourns her husband Jerry, and Marilyn Sorcic and family in loving memory of Trish, as well as Al Weil and family as they remember Cindy. Remind them of your Son and fill them with the hope of the resurrection of the dead, even as they mourn. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God, we know that your Son is near in His Holy Supper, giving in His body and blood His saving righteousness for the forgiveness of sins. Grant repentance and faith to all who come to His table, that they may welcome Him with joy, praying, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.” Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before you, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver And preserve us, for to you alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

SANCTUS

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Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #626

“Come, Let Us Eat”

Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
Our Lord's body let us take together,
Our Lord's body let us take together.

Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.

In His presence now we meet and rest,
In His presence now we meet and rest.
In the presence of our Lord we gather,
In the presence of our Lord we gather.

Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty Word.
Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty Word.
Jesus risen will bring in the Kingdom.
Jesus risen will bring in the Kingdom.

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.

HYMN #545 “Word of God, Come Down on Earth”

Word of God, come down on earth,
Living rain from heav’n descending;
Touch our hearts and bring to birth
Faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere You;
Word made flesh, we long to hear You.

Word eternal, throned on high,
Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav’n to die,
Crucified for our salvation,
Saving Word, the world restoring,
Speak to us, Your love outpouring.

Word that caused blind eyes to see,
Speak and heal our mortal blindness;
Deaf we are: our healer be;
Loose our tongues to tell Your kindness.
Be our Word in pity spoken,
Heal the world, by sin now broken.

Word that speaks God’s tender love,
One with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above,
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us;
Word of life, with one bread feed us.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank you that for His sake you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask you not to forsake your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

CLOSING HYMN #809 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

**Refrain: Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

Preacher
Liturgist
Organist

Pastor Joshua Grotelueschen
Pastor Harold Bender
Deaconess Carole King