

## SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sin's War and God's Peace

September 18 & 19, 2021

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### AS WE GATHER

There is a war going on. It is quite evident in the outward conflicts within society. And, as Jeremiah and David realized, the world has warred against people of faith throughout history. But in today's Epistle, James reveals that the struggle continues within each of us. Our passions are often opposed to God. Our Lord Jesus, by His death and resurrection, has won the victory—and therefore, peace—over outward and inward warfare. His grace assures us of daily and eternal peace.

**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 #575 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

**Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.**

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In ev'ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. **Refrain**

His oath, His covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;  
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. **Refrain**

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,  
Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne!

### **Refrain**

(Rise)

### INVOCATION

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

**People: Amen.**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In today's Epistle, James urges, “Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” Let us go to God, echoing David's words in Psalm 54, appointed for today.

Pastor: O God, save me, by your name,

**People: and vindicate me by your might.**

Pastor: O God, hear my prayer;

**People: give ear to the words of my mouth.**

Pastor: James' words in today's Epistle guide our confession. Gracious God,

**People: we confess that as we have desired friendship with the world, we forget that it would mean enmity with you, our God. We confess that our passions are at war within us. We have had times of jealousy and selfish ambition inside us. In all humility, we come to you, holy Lord, seeking your peace to calm the war within us.**

Pastor: God has not given up on you! He yearns jealously over the spirit that He has made to dwell in us. Indeed, He gives more grace. James writes, “A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace,” and in His death and resurrection, Jesus gave us His righteousness and established peace between us and God. 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: Behold, God is my helper;

**People: the Lord is the upholder of my life.**

Pastor: With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you;

**People: I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good.**

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. O God, in your infinite grace you have forgiven our warring against your will and rule.

**People: Grant that the peace our Lord has won will be evident in our humble service to you and the people around us each day;**

Pastor: 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)

✠ **WORD** ✠

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Jeremiah 11:18–20* (The prophet relies on God's protection as his opponents plot against him.)<sup>18</sup> The LORD made it known to me and I knew; then you showed me their deeds.<sup>19</sup> But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. I did not know it was against me they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more."<sup>20</sup> But, O LORD of hosts, who judges righteously, who tests the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *James 3:13–4:10* (The apostle proclaims God's peace even as we struggle with inner warfare.)<sup>13</sup> Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.<sup>14</sup> But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.<sup>15</sup> This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.<sup>16</sup> For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.<sup>17</sup> But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.<sup>18</sup> And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?<sup>2</sup> You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.<sup>3</sup> You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.<sup>4</sup> You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.<sup>5</sup> Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"?<sup>6</sup> But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."<sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.<sup>8</sup> Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.<sup>9</sup> Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.<sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**5:00 ANTHEM**

*"I Love You Lord"*

*Evening Choir*

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Mark 9:30–37* (After prophesying His death and resurrection, Jesus teaches the disciples how to serve humbly.)

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

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

And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

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 #664 "Fight the Good Fight"**

Fight the good fight with all your might;

Christ is your strength, and Christ your right.

Lay hold on life, and it shall be Your joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace;

Lift up your eyes, and seek His face. Life with its way before us lies;

Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside, lean on your guide; His boundless mercy will provide.

Trust, and enduring faith shall prove Christ is your life and Christ your love.

Faint not nor fear, His arms are near; He changes not who holds you dear;

Only believe, and you will see That Christ is all eternally.

### **SERMON "The Battle: Wisdom From Above VS. Earthly Wisdom"**

**James 3:13-4:10**

(Rise)

#### **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 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.

Pastor: O Lord of hosts, you oppose the proud and give grace to the humble. Help us by your Spirit to submit ourselves to your will.

**People: Strengthen us to resist the devil, that he would flee from us.**

Pastor: Lord of hosts, we are in a spiritual battle day by day, and within our hearts is the struggle between good and evil, between following the Wisdom from above and earthly wisdom.

**People: Strengthen us by the Holy Spirit, that we may not give in to sin and temptation, that we may turn away from the wisdom of the world to embrace fully your Word of truth.**

Pastor: Lord of hosts, give our Synod's leaders and all pastors the wisdom that comes down from above, that they may be peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

**People: Bless us all to sow seeds of peace and harmony day by day, and grant a harvest of righteousness in our daily lives.**

Pastor: Lord of hosts, pacify our passions by your Spirit, that we may not be ruled by jealousy and selfish ambition.

**People: Help us to learn that following sinful passions give rise to disorder and every evil practice.**

Pastor: Lord of hosts, we rejoice in all the good gifts you provide for us in this earthly life. We rejoice with Vince and LeAnn Rauter as they celebrate Logan's birthday and their wedding anniversary, even as we join with Audrey and Jerry Spitzer as they celebrate 65 years of marriage.

**People: Grant us thankful hearts for all your blessings, and help us to cherish the loved ones you place in our lives.**

Pastor: Lord of hosts, uphold this world in your order. Preserve the Church and the preaching of your Word against all enemies. Bless our homes that parents and children may serve one another faithfully and grow in instruction and faith until life's end.

**People: Give health and wisdom to all who serve in public office, that their authority may be exercised for the benefit of our people.**

Pastor: Lord of hosts, look with kindness on the sick and those in any need especially Carol, Pat, Richard, Jack, Cindy, Helga, Steve, Ray, Versa, Judy, Don, Nancy, Dorothy, Steve, Marilyn, Cindy, John, Louis, Dawn, Carol, Debbie, Mary, Diane, June, Jerry, Shirley, Sarah, Gladys, Shirley and Sarah.

**People: Touch them with your healing hand and grant them peace and patience in their time of affliction.**

Pastor: Lord of hosts, comfort those who grieve, especially the Avila family upon the passing of Shirley and the Jackson family upon the death of Elaine.

**People: Fill them with hope and peace through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: Lord of hosts, give us faith to draw near to your altar in repentance, that we may receive the gift of cleansed hands and purified hearts as Jesus draws near to us in His body and blood.

**People: Fill us with faith that we may live in your grace and share it with others.**

Pastor: O Lord of hosts, hear our prayers and answer us according to your will, that we may receive all your blessings and put them to service for you and our neighbors; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who 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.**

### 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

### "Who You Say I Am?"

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)

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**HYMN #727 "On Eagles' Wings"**

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, Who abide in His shadow for life,  
Say to the Lord: "My refuge, My rock in whom I trust!"

**Refrain:**

**And He will raise you up on eagles' wings. Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun, And hold you in the palm of His hand.**

The snare of the fowler will never capture you, And famine will bring you no fear;  
Under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield. **Refrain**

You need not fear the terror of the night, Nor the arrow that flies by day;  
Though thousands fall about you, Near you it shall not come. **Refrain**

For to His angels He's given a command To guard you in all of your ways;  
Upon their hands they will bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

**Refrain**

**HYMN #851 "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"**

Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your lifeblood as the price,  
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice;  
And with that have freely given Blessings countless as the sand  
To the unthankful and the evil With Your own unsparing hand.

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Gladly, freely of Your own.  
With the sunshine of Your goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone  
Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by You, at length believe  
That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.

Wondrous honor You have given To our humblest charity  
In Your own mysterious sentence, "You have done it all to Me."  
Can it be, O gracious Master, That You deign for alms to sue,  
Saying by Your poor and needy, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?

Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your lifeblood as the price,  
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice.  
Give us faith to trust You boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on You;  
but, oh, best of all Your graces, With Your love our love renew.

**COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

**Pastor:** 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,

**People:** **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;**

**Pastor:** 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 “Grace Is God’s Love Undeserved, Yet Abounding”**

Grace is God’s love undeserved, yet abounding,  
Wealth of love lavished upon our poor race,  
Mercy toward sinners, all reason confounding,  
God deemed us worthy to save by His grace!  
Deep this rich kindness the earth still is sounding—  
God’s love is grace not deserved, but abounding!

Grace is God’s love we are shown in Christ Jesus:  
God in the flesh took our sin and our shame.  
Death-conqu’ring life of our Lord truly frees us,  
Faced our foes for us, His triumph we claim!  
Good news now soars on God’s Spirit-wrought breezes—  
God’s love is grace all are shown through Christ Jesus!

Grace is God’s love bringing peace beyond measure,  
Peace none can find in the Law’s harsh demand,  
Guarding our hearts in Christ Jesus, our treasure,  
Peace far surpassing what we understand;  
Peace, a sweet foretaste of heaven’s pure pleasure—  
God’s love is grace that brings peace none can measure!

Grace is God’s love here in time and forever.  
God’s work begun in us He will complete!  
Nothing in life from this grace can us sever;  
Nothing in death brings God’s children defeat.  
Grace, timely love for God’s timeless endeavor—  
God’s love is grace for all time, yes, forever!

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