

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

What Do You Think?

September 26 & 27, 2020

5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

We always want to know why. The rulers of the people wanted to know why Jesus was saying what He said and doing what He did. But Jesus challenged them with His Word and with the prophetic voice of John the Baptist. Why did they not listen, and why did they not repent? Why do we not listen and repent? Jesus told a parable of two sons—one whose words were yes but his heart was no, and the other whose words were no but whose heart said yes. We are called to listen. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and we shall be saved.

WELCOME

MINISTRY MOMENT-GENERATIONS UNITED IN MISSION

JoLynn Bender & Natalie Romano

The counsel of the LORD stands forever,
the plans of His heart to all generations. Psalm 33:11

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #902 “Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now”

Lord, Jesus Christ, be present now; Our hearts in true devotion bow.
Your Spirit send with light divine, And let Your truth within us shine.

Unseal our lips to sing Your praise In endless hymns through all our days.
Increase our faith and light our minds; and set us free from doubt that blinds.

Then shall we join in hosts that cry, “O holy, holy Lord Most High!”
And in the light of that blest place We then shall see You face to face.

(Rise) All glory to the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity, Be praise throughout eternity!

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: The LORD lifts up the humble;

People: He casts the wicked to the ground.

1

Pastor: Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love

People: for they have been from of old.

Pastor: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

People: according to your steadfast love, remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

People: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ 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.

2

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, you exalted your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same 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 *Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32* (The Lord takes no pleasure in the death of anyone, so turn to Him.)

The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. ²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ³⁰“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Philippians 2:1-18* (At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow.)

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than

yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. ¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S SONG “He is Lord” - author unknown

He is Lord, He is Lord, He is risen from the dead and He is Lord;
Ev’ry knee shall bow, ev’ry tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

He’s my Lord, He’s my Lord, He is risen from he dead and He’s my Lord;
Ev’ry knee shall bow, ev’ry tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

You are Lord, you are Lord, You have risen from the dead and You are Lord;
Ev’ry knee shall bow, ev’ry tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 21:23-32* (Which of the two did the will of his father?)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

²³ And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'" ²⁶ But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

SERMON HYMN #731 "O God, Forsake Me Not"

O God, forsake me not! Your gracious presence lend me;
Lord, lead Your helpless child; Your Holy Spirit send me
That I my course may run. O be my light, my lot,
My staff, my rock, my shield – O God, forsake me not!

O God, forsake me not! Take not Your Spirit from me;
Do not permit the might Of sin to overcome me.
Increase my feeble faith, Which You alone have wrought.
O be my strength and pow'r – O God, forsake me not!

O God, forsake me not! Lord, hear my supplication!
In ev'ry evil hour Help me resist temptation;
And when the prince of hell My conscience seeks to blot,
Be then not far from me – O God, forsake me not!

O God, forsake me not! Lord, I am Yours forever.
O keep me strong in faith That I may leave You never.
Grant me a blessed end When my good fight is fought;
Help me in life and death – O God, forsake me not!

SERMON

"Who Belongs in God's Kingdom?"

(Rise)

NICENE CREED

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 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.

OFFERING *Offering plates will be placed in the narthex and elevator room for gathering at the end of the service.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Almighty Father, you take no pleasure in the death of anyone. As John the Baptist once called a people to repentance and faith, so raise up voices within your Church today to call a world to turn from their sins and live through faith in Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty Father, you have given to us the saving name of Jesus. Continue to bless us with faithful pastors who will preach Jesus Christ and His salvation, and bestow upon us faithful church workers who will serve us in your name. Bless those now preparing for vocations as pastors, deaconesses, teachers, and all other offices as your Church has established. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty Father, you are gracious and merciful without end. Deliver us from a spirit of complaint, and keep us from grumbling at your call to serve you with all that we are and all that we have. Grant us grace to fulfill our baptismal calling where you have placed us and according to the vocations given to us. Father, bless the marriage of Logan and Krystal Moody and their life together. Keep them in love to each other and towards you. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty Father, your power continues to uphold all things. Give your blessing to our president, Congress, governor, and state legislature. Guide all who make, administer, and judge our laws that they be in accord with your commands and give protection to the unborn, the aged, and the oppressed. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty Father, you know our enemies and those whose purpose is set against yours. Give your blessing to all who defend our nation here and abroad and to all emergency personnel and disaster workers who come to our aid in time of need. Guide the nations in the paths of peace and deliver us from terror and violence. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty Father, you have given us healing, comfort, and peace in Christ, especially in times of illness, affliction, depression, and sorrow. Hear us on behalf of Jeff Krahn mourning the passing of his mother, and the friends of Jerry Peich mourning her passing. Be with Margie, Don, Jan, Louis, Dawn, Charles, Carol, Debbie, Mary, Dennis, Diane, Arlene, Dorothy, June, Jerry, Cindy, Shirley, Sarah, Gladys, Shirley, Sarah and all who suffer any need. Grant them grace sufficient to sustain them in their hour of trouble and at last deliver them into the perfect rest of your eternal presence. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty Father, your Son has set His Table among us and given us the privilege of receiving His own body and blood in this Sacrament. Guard us against anything that would keep us from receiving the full benefit of this communion. Bring us at last to that day when division, false teaching, and impenitence will all be overcome and we shall be one before you. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty Father, you give good gifts to your people. Keep us from ingratitude and guide us to use the resources entrusted to us for the good of the Kingdom. Accept the tithes and offerings we bring to you this day with the worship of our praise and thanksgiving. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

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.

✠ 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

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 *Wait for the ushers to direct you to come forward. 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.*

HYMN #760 “What God Ordains Is Always Good”

What God ordains is always good: His will is just and holy.
As He directs my life for me, I follow meek and lowly.
My God indeed In ev’ry need Knows well how He will shield me;
To Him, then, I will yield me.

What God ordains is always good: He never will deceive me;
He leads me in His righteous way, And never will He leave me.
I take content What He has sent; His hand that sends me sadness
Will turn my tears to gladness.

What God ordains is always good: His loving thought attends me;
No poison can be in the cup That my physician sends me.
My God is true; Each morning new I trust His grace unending,
My life to Him commending.

What God ordains is always good: He is my friend and Father;
He suffers naught to do me harm Though many storms may gather.
Now I may know Both joy and woe; Someday I shall see clearly
That He has loved me dearly.

What God ordains is always good: Though I the cup am drinking
Which savors now of bitterness, I take it without shrinking.
For after grief God gives relief, My heart with comfort filling
And all my sorrow stilling.

What God ordains is always good: This truth remains unshaken.
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine, I shall not be forsaken.
I fear no harm, For with His arm He shall embrace and shield me;
So to my God I yield me.

HYMN #543 “What Wondrous Love Is This”

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down Beneath God’s righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
To God and o the Lamb I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I Am,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on;
And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on.
And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing His love for me,
And through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,
And through eternity I’ll sing on.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,

People: for His steadfast love endures forever!

Pastor: Almighty and ever-living God, you make us both to will and to do those things that are good and acceptable in your sight. Let your fatherly hand ever guide us and your Holy Spirit ever be with us to direct us in the knowledge and obedience of your Word that we may rejoice in your good pleasure all the days of our lives and be raised according to your mercy to live in your eternal presence forevermore; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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 #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.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Director of Parish Music

Pastor Noah Kegley
Pastor Harold Bender
Russell Hurst, Grant Gundersen
Michelle Prince

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The counsel of the LORD stands forever,
the plans of His heart to all generations. Psalm 33:11