

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Working Together for Christ's Kingdom

September 30 & October 1, 2023

AS WE GATHER

This week we continue our Stewardship Series. Last week we learned about how we are God's Ambassadors, bringing the Gospel to those in need. This week we are learning how we are **Faithful Participants in God's Mission** as we work together in Christ's kingdom. For indeed it is God's mission to bring people into his Kingdom. Even though the mission is his, that does not mean that he will not use us his faithful people. Indeed, having been made citizens of his kingdom we are now tasked with working in his kingdom - the same way Adam and Eve were tasked to work in the garden. God asks us to participate in his work, and as Ephesians 2:10 points out he has already prepared it. It is indeed God's work and his mission, but he invites us to participate. He does this out of his grace. So therefore go and be **Faithful Participants in God's Mission** and see his glory, power and might work through you while you do this.

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

MINISTRY MOMENT: **Faithful Participants in God's Mission - Katie Meinzen**

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil,
but living as servants of God.

Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

1 Peter 2:16-17

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #869 "With the Lord Begin Your Task"

With the Lord begin your task; Jesus will direct it.
For His aid and counsel ask; Jesus will perfect it.
Every morn with Jesus rise, And when day is ended,
In His name then close your eyes; Be to Him commended.

Let each day begin with prayer, Praise, and adoration.
On the Lord cast every care; He is your salvation.
Morning, evening, and at night Jesus will be near you,
Save you from the tempter's might, With His presence cheer you.

With your Savior at your side, Foes need not alarm you;
In His promises confide, And no ill can harm you.
All your trust and hope repose In the mighty Master,
Who in wisdom truly knows How to stem disaster.

If your task be thus begun With the Savior's blessing,
Safely then your course will run, Toward the promise pressing.
Good will follow everywhere While you here must wander;
You at last the joy will share In the mansions yonder.

Thus, Lord Jesus, every task Be to You commended;
May Your will be done, I ask, Until life is ended.
Jesus, in Your name begun Be the day's endeavor;
Grant that it may well be done To Your praise forever.

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: God shall arise, His enemies shall be scattered; and those who hate Him shall flee before Him!

People: But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult before God; they shall be jubilant with joy!

Pastor: Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation.

People: Our God is a God of salvation, and to God, the Lord, belong deliverances from death.

Pastor: Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel, and whose power is in the skies.

People: Awesome is God from His sanctuary; the God of Israel—He is the one who gives power and strength to His people. Blessed be God!

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us humble ourselves before God, confess our sins to Him, and ask His gracious forgiveness.

People: We now confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and before one another, that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not always put God first and have too much followed the desires of our own hearts. We have used His holy name in ways that do not honor Him. We have been careless in our devotion and have not always honored those in authority over us. We have done violence to others in word and deed and have not always kept our thoughts, words, and deeds pure and honorable. We have taken what is not ours and have spoken that which is not helpful or true. We have wished for that which is not rightfully ours and have not put the best construction on all things and on all people. We pray God to have mercy on us, to forgive us all our sins, and to bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Spare them, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared in Jesus Christ, our Lord. The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

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. 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)

10:30 BAPTISM SONG #740 "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"

I am Jesus' little lamb, Ever glad at heart I am;
For my Shepherd gently guides me. Knows my need and well provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same, Even calls me by my name.

Day by day, at home, away. Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, Into pleasant pastures leads me:
When I thirst, He bids me go Where the quiet waters flow.

Who so happy as I am, Even now the Shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended, By His angel host attended,
He shall fold me to His breast, There within His arms to rest.

10:30 BAPTISMS of Delylah Elizabeth Roth, Destinae Michelle Thornberry, and Devin Edward Thornberry

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Nehemiah 4:15-23*

¹⁵When our enemies heard that it was known to us and that God had frustrated their plan, we all returned to the wall, each to his work. ¹⁶From that day on, half of my servants worked on construction, and half held the spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail. And the leaders stood behind the whole house of Judah, ¹⁷who were building on the wall. Those who carried burdens were loaded in such a way that each labored on the work with one hand and held his weapon with the other. ¹⁸And each of the builders had his sword strapped at his side while he built. The man who sounded the trumpet was beside me. ¹⁹And I said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "The work is great and widely spread, and we are separated on the wall, far from one another. ²⁰In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us." ²¹So we labored at the work, and half of them held the spears from the break of dawn until the stars came out. ²²I also said to the people at that time, "Let every man and his servant pass the night within Jerusalem, that they may be a guard for us by night and may labor by day." ²³So neither I nor my brothers nor my servants nor the men of the guard who followed me, none of us took off our clothes; each kept his weapon at his right hand.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 3:1-9*

But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? ⁴For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human? ⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. ⁹For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

STEWARDSHIP LITANY

Pastor: Heavenly Father, you have work to do here on earth, you give us the honor and the privilege to be your fellow workers.

People: Thank you heavenly Father for choosing to work through us in your mission to seek and save the lost.

Pastor: In our work as your fellow workers, we know that you are always with us and our wisdom and strength come from you.

People: Lord, help us to fix our eyes on you as we use our hands, feet, and mouth to help others come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Pastor: Help us, Lord, to be ready and available fellow workers through whom you work. May we bear much fruit as we commit our time, talents, and money to your service.

People: Lord, empower us to be God-centered people who seek to please you as your fellow workers.

Pastor: Father, grant us joy in sharing our lives and gifts with those we serve.

People: Father, thank you for the honor to be your fellow workers in our homes, neighborhoods, cities, country, and overseas.

All: Lord, grant us faith so that we seek to do your will and want to please you. Thank you, Lord, for calling and equipping us to be Faithful Participants in God's Mission.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 10:1-12*

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

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. ²And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' ⁶And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. ⁷And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. ⁸Whenever

you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you.⁹ Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'¹⁰ But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say,¹¹ 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.'¹² I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He who died Heaven's gates to open wide.
He has washed away my sin, Lets His little child come in.
Yes Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

SERMON HYMN #791 "All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth-tell; Come ye before Him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed; Without our aid He did us make.
We are His folk, He doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise; Approach with joy His courts unto.
Praise, laud, and bless His name always, For it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good; His mercy is forever sure.
His truth at all times firmly stood And shall from age to age endure.

(Rise) To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, The God whom heav'n and earth adore,
From us and from the angel host Be praise and glory evermore.

SERMON

(Rise)

5:00 & 8:00 THE 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)

OFFERINGS 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.

Merciful Lord, you founded your Church upon the proclamation of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Purify the tongues of your servants, that the tongues of the wicked may be silenced. Turn them from their evil ways, that their sins may be washed away. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Merciful Lord, encourage us by your Holy Spirit, that we may not lose heart. Make us to be of one mind and will, that we may serve you with gladness, doing the works of Your kingdom here and throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Merciful Lord, be with Steve and LeAnne Rolefson as they celebrate their 24th wedding anniversary. We thank you Lord for sustaining their marriage, and we pray that you may continue making it a source of joy for them. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Merciful Lord, sustain all fathers, mothers and children; husbands and wives; friends and neighbors; laborers and employers; and teachers and students. Enable us all to serve our neighbors in godly vocations, delighting in the Lord's lovingkindness. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Merciful Lord, all the might of man is nothing before you, yet you have appointed earthly realms and rulers to punish evil and honor good. Give us faithful leaders who will serve honorably and well. Bless also those who serve in the armed forces to defend us and protect our liberty. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, be with us this afternoon as we join in the celebration of New and Old. Bless this time of fellowship, use our mouths in good conversation as we reflect in all the ways you have blessed us here at St. Paul's. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Merciful Lord, grant the encouragement of Christ and the comfort of His love to those who suffer especially Janice, Bill, Marga, Nadia, Chris, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Don, Pat, Shirley, Tom, Jill, Janet, Norma, Vern, Amy, Cathy, Cindy, Dorothy, Helga, Carol, June, Shirley and Sarah. In every affliction, prove yourself a ready and worthy Savior, especially to those who believe. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Merciful Lord, the name of Jesus stands above all names. Before it we bow our knees and confess Him as Lord and God. Inspire in us true devotion and worship as we approach His altar to receive our humble Savior in these humble means of bread and wine for our salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Merciful Lord, in you there is no shadow due to change. Enkindle your divine light in us, that we may stand united as Christ's own body, holding fast to the word of life and shining brightly in the midst of this world's darkness; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

5:00 & 8:00 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 HYMNS

HYMN #618 "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

I come, O Savior, to Thy table, For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able To satisfy and make me whole:

Refrain: Lord, May Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!

Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning; So I, a sinner, come to Thee. *Refrain*

Unworthy though I am, O Savior, Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never, For Thou my faithful shepherd art: *Refrain*

Weary am I and heavy laden; With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden my heart, for I am now Thy guest. *Refrain*

What higher gift can we inherit? It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and Spirit, The covenant of hope and grace. *Refrain*

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 to 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.

HYMN #686 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.

Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the bloodwashed linen, How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry Me to realms of endless day.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

People: Let us pray. Gracious Lord, we thank you for having fed us with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus. Grant that the bread of life and blood of Christ that has been shared and received in this blessed Meal may be for us that life-giving food that sustains us as we hold fast the Word of Life; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

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 #662 "Onward Christian Soldiers"

Onward Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus Going on before.
Christ, the royal master, Leads against the foe;
Forward into battle See His banners go!

Refrain ***Onward Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus Going on before.***

Like a mighty army Moves the Church of God;
Brothers, we are treading Where the saints have trod.
We are not divided, All one body we,
One in hope and doctrine, One in charity. **Refrain**

Crowns and thrones may perish, Kingdoms rise and wane,
But the Church of Jesus Constant will remain.
Gates of hell can never 'Gainst that Church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise, And that cannot fail. **Refrain**

Onward, then, ye faithful, Join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices In the triumph song:
Glory, laud, and honor Unto Christ, the king;
This through countless ages Men and angels sing. **Refrain**

"Faithful Participants in God's Mission"

On your way out of church, please take home to read our follow up article. The Ushers will hand them out.

Next Week: "We Are To Be Generous And Ready To Share"

Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve Worship Survey Results

Fifty-four people said they want to worship on Christmas Eve morning at a 9am service and forty-nine people said they want to worship on New Year's Eve at an evening service. Therefore we will provide those worship opportunities. Thanks for your input!

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Josh Grotelueschen
Pastor Harold Bender
Russell Hurst, Katie Scepanski, Katie Librizzi
Olivia Kukor

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