

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

God's Instruments
September 8, 2024
10:30 AM

AS WE GATHER

The Readings for today tell us that God will change people's circumstances. The Old Testament Reading lists those who are blind, deaf, lame, and mute. Instead of advising them simply to pray, Isaiah promises that God will take action, like water in the desert. Among the ways God will help is through His people; according to the advice to James, we, who have been given the gift of faith, are called to be fair in court, to try to keep the entire Law of God, and to see that the people around us are clothed and fed. Jesus casts out demons and heals a deaf man in the Gospel. He is doing no less when we become His caring instruments. Today we let the Word come into us so that we might be part of God's healing answer to prayer.

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

"Here I Am to Worship"

Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness,
opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
hope of a life spent with You.

**Chorus: So, here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.**

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,
glorious in heaven above.
Humbly You came to the earth You created,
all for love's sake became poor.

Chorus

Bridge: And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross...

Chorus

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: The LORD sets the prisoners free;

People: the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

Pastor: The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

People: the LORD loves the righteous.

Pastor: So also faith by itself,

People: if it does not have works, is dead.

Pastor: But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works."

People: Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE “Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Chorus: My Chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior, has ransomed me
And like a flood, His mercy reigns
Unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me
His Word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Chorus 2x

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine...
Will be forever mine...
You are forever mine.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Grant us strength that comes from vibrant faith, O Lord.

People: By your power and guidance, move us to show forth our faith with words and deeds of loving service;

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 *Isaiah 35:4–7a* (God will come; His people will be saved.) ⁴ Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.” ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE James 2:1–10, 14–18 (Love your neighbor as yourself. Faith without works is dead.) My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. ² For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³ and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” ⁴ have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called? ⁸ If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. ⁹ But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. ¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL Mark 7:24–37 (Jesus exorcises a demon and heals a blind man.)

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

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴ And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. ²⁵ But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ And he said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁸ But she answered him, “Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.” ²⁹ And he said to her, “For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰ And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone. ³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³² And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. ³⁴ And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵ And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

“Jesus in the Morning”

AGPS #143

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 **“The Servant King”**

From heav'n You came, helpless babe,
Enter'd our world, Your glory veil'd
Not to be served but to serve,
And give Your life that we might live.

**Chorus: This is our God, the Servant King,
He calls us now to follow Him,
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to the Servant King.**

There in the garden of tears,
My heavy load He chose to bear:
His heart with sorrow was torn,
“Yet not my will but Yours, ‘ He said. *Chorus*

Come see His hands and His feet,
The scars that speak of sacrifice,
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered. *Chorus*

So let us learn how to serve,
And in our lives enthrone Him;
Each other's needs to prefer,
For it is Christ we're serving. *Chorus 2x*

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SERMON **“Life Lived Through Faith in Christ”** **James 2:1-10, 14-18**

(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.

SONG DURING OFFERING **“Offering”**

The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love;

There is no shadow in Your presence;

No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne,
be-fore the Holy One of heaven;

It's only by Your blood, and it's only through Your mercy, Lord, I come.

I bring an offering of worship to my King.

No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing.

Jesus, may You receive the honor that You're due.

O Lord, I bring an offering to You.

I bring an offering to You.

(Repeat whole song)

2nd Time: I bring an offering to You.

(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.

Silence for a time of personal petition and prayer

Pastor: Heavenly Father, by your Spirit open our deaf ears to hear your Word, that our tongues would be released to proclaim with zeal how your Son has done all things well.

People: Fill us with your Spirit, that we may be your instruments, showing no partiality, but loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Pastor: Gracious God, you have commanded your Church to take the Word of life to the ends of the earth. Strengthen and support mission work and all who travel to foreign lands on behalf of the Church's mission.

People: Be with our Together in Mission Partners, Pastor Chuck Ferry and family. Give them wisdom and courage as they tell others about Christ. Bless their hearers with hearts that are receptive to your gifts.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, help parents to raise up their children to know you as their help and hope.

People: Bless our children to grow daily in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Lord of life, we thank and praise you for the gift of marriage and family in your grand design for life. Bless your people to live life in accordance with your will.

People: Bless especially Ralph and Judy Conrad as they celebrate their 57th wedding anniversary. Grant them to live in love and give to them more days to cherish one another.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, we place our hope in you and ask your blessing on all our elected and appointed government leaders, that all their plans serve the common good.

People: Guard and protect all those who serve in the armed forces as well as our police and emergency responders.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, graciously behold the sick and those in any need especially 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 and Sarah. Be with them and comfort them in their time of affliction.

People: Grant them healing in accord with your will and fill them with hope and peace through faith in Christ.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, your Son gave himself into the death of the cross for our salvation. Bless us to receive anew his saving grace in His body and blood.

People: As your children we may receive the fullness of this feast, rejoice in forgiveness, and live anew for him day by day.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, create and sustain in us a lively faith in Christ Jesus, and lead us by your Spirit to be active in all good works.

People: May all our words, our deeds, our very lives be a testimony to the love and grace of Christ Jesus.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, Source of all life and the life that never ends, receive our prayers this day in the name of your beloved Son, who lives and reigns with you and the 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

LSB p. 208

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

LSB p. 210

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*

“Make Me a Servant”

Make me a servant humble and meek
Lord let me lift up those who are weak
And may the prayer of my heart always be
Make me a servant make me a servant
Make me a servant today (repeat)

CCLI Song # 33131

“Knowing You”

All I once held dear built my life upon
All this world reveres and wars to own
All I once thought gain I have counted loss
Spent and worthless now compared to this

Chorus: Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You
There is no greater thing
You're my all, You're the best
You're my joy my righteousness
And I love You, Lord...

Now my heart's desire is to know You more
To be found in You and known as Yours
To possess by faith what I could not earn
All surpassing gift of righteousness

Chorus

Oh to know the pow'r of Your risen life
And to know You in Your sufferings
To become like You in Your death my Lord
So with You to live and never die

Final Chorus:

Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You
There is no greater thing
You're my all, You're the best
You're my joy my righteousness
You're my all, You're the best
You're my joy my righteousness
And I love You, Lord...Love You, Lord

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks, almighty God, that you have done what we could not do. You have shown us mercy, bestowed faith in our hearts, and provided the sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: We pray that you will strengthen us thereby so that we may serve you now in time and forever in eternity;

Pastor: 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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The mercy, strength, and peace of God Almighty—the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit—go with you, now and forever.

People: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

CLOSING HYMN

“Sanctuary”

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary; pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You.

Stained glass windows pour streams of colors from your Son's love.
Open my eyes.

Now I lay down, before Your altar. Lord, Your servant, am I.

Lord, teach Your children to stop their fighting, to start uniting, to live as one.
Let's get together, loving forever, as Your servants in Christ.

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary; pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You.

Preacher & Liturgist

Lector

Organist

Pastor Harold Bender

Don Horn

Deaconess Carole King

Please Remember In Your Prayers: Ralph Conrad, Carole Wirtala, Wendy Knight, June Stott, Audrey Spitzer, Janice Murach, David & Helga Sartori, Ruth Miller, Dick Ebert, Pastor Michael Schumacher, Margie Donahue, Anna Delikat, Charlene Coronado, Danielle Kosek, Marlene Schwenner, RoseMarie McGill, Dorothy Gundersen, Marga Kroening, Ardis Yingling, Noah Segura, Guy Tringali, Mike Kroner, Jill Rohloff, Janet Brusky, Vern Strand, Cathy Laux, Shirley Giese.

Bulletin Sponsors: Blessed with 57 years of marriage – with thankfulness and love. God is so good. Ralph & Judy Conrad

Relatives & Friends of Members: Louise Sturgill, the Baldwin family, and Nancy Parsley, relatives of Kristy Baars; Debbie, mother of Nadia & Tanya; Sharon & family, cousin of Deaconess Carole; Rosellen, friend of Deaconess Carole, and Kathi, Deaconess Carole's sister; Roger Nelson, brother of Bev Baumgart; Brittany Bouche's mother Pam; Joe Ananias, nephew of Lori & Tim Bolger; Randy, his wife Charity, & Beth Treibel, brother, sister-in-law & niece of Marlene & Russ Koehn; Mary Marrs, friend of Stacey Kukor; Susie, sister of Robert & Sharon Komor & and Tanya, daughter of Sharon & Bob; Gene Lunog; Joannie, friend of Lori Bolger; Paulette Fischer; Rick and Bill, friend and cousin of LouAnn Zimmel; Jodi and Virginia, friend and relative of Larry & Carol Hoffmann; Don, step-dad of Jackie Hinkes; Grace Welsh, friend of the Barry family; Beth, niece of Carole Wirtala; Jeff, and Terri, relatives of Sharon Stehmeier; Kelly Baker, friend of John Miller; Sydney Miracle, daughter of friends of Keith & Bev Baumgart; Debbie, sister of Dalen Heinzen; Luke, nephew of Pam Heinzen; Olympia, grand-niece of Roger & Lonna Wiedmeyer; Karen McLaughlin; Lukas, grandson of Pat & Don Zimmermann; Daryl Johnson, brother of Dean (Janet); **Military:** Ryan J Weiss (US Army); Cross Foti (US Marines); Connor Knapp (US Navy); Steven Raatz; Christopher; Graham Maline; Ryan Dembowiak (US Navy).