

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Merciful Mentoring
September 9 & 10, 2023
5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

The word *mentor* can be both a noun describing a trusted counselor or a verb meaning to guide someone in new learning. The word originally was the name of a person from classical literature: Mentor was a friend of the Greek hero Odysseus who was entrusted with the education of his son Telemachus. You may have had special mentors throughout your life. We are reminded that Jesus our Lord is our best and most devoted mentor. A well-loved hymn by German writer Sigismund von Birken begins with these words: "Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow His example pure" (*LSB* 685:1). Jesus is our merciful mentor who gently leads us day by day along the path that leads to eternal life. We follow gladly in His footsteps!

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

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.
Ephesians 4:32-5:1

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #528 "Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of His grace!
My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad, The honors of Thy name.

Jesus! The name that charms our fears, That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'Tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin; He sets the pris'ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood avails for me.

Look unto Him, ye nations; own Your God, ye fallen race.
Look and be saved through faith alone, Be justified by grace.

See all your sins on Jesus laid; The Lamb of God was slain.
His soul was once an off'ring made For ev'ry soul of man.

To God all glory, praise, and love Be now and ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above, The Church in earth and heav'n.

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion,

People: and to you shall vows be performed.

Pastor: O you who hears prayer, to you shall all flesh come.

People: When iniquities prevail against me, you atone for our transgressions.

Pastor: Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts!

People: We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, let us make confession to our merciful God,
acknowledging that we are sinful from birth and need His gracious
forgiveness.

**People: We confess that our thoughts and words and deeds are sinful and
hurtful, so we turn to you, our God, confident in the love that you
have shown to us through your Son, Jesus our Lord, who died to pay
the price of all our sins.**

Pastor: God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. 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 #806 “Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart”

Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy one,
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ His Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy one,
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ His Son.
And now let the weak say “I am strong.” Let the poor say “I am rich,”
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say “I am strong,” Let the poor say “I am rich,”
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks, give thanks.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, from whom all good proceeds,

People: grant to us, your humble servants, your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by your merciful guiding, accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Be seated)

☩ **WORD** ☩

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Exodus 33:7–9* (Ezekiel warns the wicked.)

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but

his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 13:1–10* (Paul reflects on the source of all authority)

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. ⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 18:1–20* (Dealing with responding to sin in our relationships)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ² And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³ and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶ but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷ "Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes!

⁸ And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹ And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

¹⁰ "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹² What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³ And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴ So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. ¹⁵ "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDRENS SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

"Jesus Loves the Little Children"

TOSBB 19

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world;
Red and yellow, black and white, They are precious in His sight;
Jesus loves the little children of the world. *Repeat*

SERMON HYMN #609 "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive" V. 1-4

Jesus sinners doth receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

We deserve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim; Here our ills have perfect healing.
Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shepherd e'er forsaketh;
Weary souls that lost their way Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh
In His arms that they may live: Jesus sinners doth receive.

I, a sinner, come to Thee With a penitent confession.
Savior, mercy show to me; Grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

SERMON "Led in the Way of Repentance and Forgiveness" Matt. 18:1-20

HYMN #609 "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive" v. 5-7

Oh, how blest it is to know: Were as scarlet my transgression.
It shall be as white as snow By Thy blood and bitter passion:
For these words I now believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Now my conscience is at peace; From the Law I stand acquitted.
Christ hath purchased my release And my ev'ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Jesus sinners doth receive; Also I have been forgiven:
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave: Jesus sinners doth receive.

(Rise)

NICENE CREED

People: 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.

(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.

Blessed Lord, you have promised that where two or three are gathered in your name, you are in the midst of them.

People: Hear the prayers of your people, and grant our supplications.

Pastor: Lord God, heavenly Father, you have sent us pastors as watchmen. Strengthen them in their calling to preach and teach your Word.

People: Let them be ever faithful in calling sinners to repentance and joyfully announcing your forgiveness to those who heed their warning.

Pastor: Gracious Father, because you have made us our brother's keeper, fill us with care for the members of our earthly families and for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

People: Forgive our sins, move us to forgive the sins of those who hurt us, and strengthen us to live so that we owe no one anything except to love each other.

Pastor: Bless all missionaries around the world as they seek to share the gospel of salvation. Especially be with our Together in Mission partner, Pastor Chuck Ferry and family.

People: By your Spirit, open the hearts of many to hear and believe, repent and be saved.

Pastor: God of every good and perfect gift, thank you for hearing and answering our prayers and providing for us a Director of Parish Music.

People: Bless Deaconess Carole King in all her preparations to come and serve among us and make her a blessing to many.

Pastor: Righteous God, you give leaders to every nation and people. Grant us good and wise public servants to bear the sword righteously, defending the innocent and punishing wrongdoers.

People: Guard those who protect us, especially our armed forces, police and firefighters.

Pastor: Father, you call us to show compassion and care upon all people, especially our families. Bless all caregivers with wisdom and strength, love and mercy.

People: Help us all care for those people in our lives as a witness to the sacrificial love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Merciful Lord, look with compassion upon those who are struggling with illness, grief, loneliness or any malady especially Janice, Bill, Marga, Caitlin, Nadia, Chris, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Don, Pat, Shirley, Tom, Jill, Janet, Norma, Vern, Amy, Cathy, Cindy, Dorothy, Helga, Carol, June, Jerry, Shirley and Sarah.

People: Reassure them of your love, which is like that of the shepherd who seeks and saves the one lost sheep.

Pastor: God of all comfort, bless and keep in your care all those grieving the passing of loved ones, especially Pam Krahn and Debbie Stefanic and their families, as they grieve the death of Nancy.

People: Bless Nancy Fluor and the Ullerich family as they remember Jack and Al Weil and family as they remember Cindy. Comfort all with the hope and peace found in Christ.

Pastor: O Lord, grant that we would receive Christ's body and blood with childlike faith. Let us humbly trust that your forgiveness is poured out for us in this Sacrament.

People: May it strengthen us in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another.

Pastor: Almighty God, because you desire that none of your little ones should perish and because we battle sin daily, we beg you to call us to turn back to you when we are tempted to stray.

People: Deliver us from temptation, and keep us in the faith. Make us humble like little children, seeing how your Son humbled Himself for us and for our salvation.

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

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 #550

"Lamb of God"

Your only Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod, And to become the Lamb of God.

Refrain: O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Your Gift of love they crucified, They laughed and scorned Him as He died:
The humble King they named a fraud, And sacrificed the Lamb of God. **Refrain**

I was so lost, I should have died, But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod, And to be called a lamb of God. **Refrain**
(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #610 "Lord Jesus, Think on Me"

Lord Jesus, think on me And purge away my sin;
From worldly passions set me free And make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me, By anxious thoughts oppressed;
Let me Your loving servant be And taste Your promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me Amid the battle's strife;
In all my pain and misery, O be my health and life!

Lord Jesus, think on me Nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity Point out Your chosen way.

Lord Jesus, think on me That, when this life is past,
I may the eternal brightness see And share Your joy at last.

HYMN #611 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.

Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heavens above,
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me wondrous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.

Only Jesus can impart Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiven, Joy that lifts the soul to heaven,
Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.

Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known, All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life Safe with Him from earthly strife.

O my Savior, help afford By Your Spirit and Your word!
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.

HYMN #801 “How Great Thou Art”

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hands hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow’r throughout the universe displayed;

**Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
 How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
 Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
 How great Thou art! How great Thou art!**

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; **Refrain**

But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in-
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin; **Refrain**

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim: “My God, how great Thou art!” **Refrain**

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, we thank and praise you for having fed us with the life-giving body and blood of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Keep us in your faith and favor that all we do may be to your glory. As you live in us, may we also live in you. By your grace, grant that your body and blood preserve us in the true faith unto everlasting life. This we ask in the name of Jesus, our loving Savior.

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 #722 “Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life’s way:
Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day.
Without Your grace and favor I go astray;
So take my hand , O Savior, And lead the way.

Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.
Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go.

Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,
I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend;
So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.

Preacher& Liturgist
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Harold Bender
Jodi Drew, Debbie Nier
JoLynn Bender

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