



## SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, September 27, 2020

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### *God's Good Pleasure*

#### **As We Gather**

It has become commonplace to speak of God as responsible for determining life and death for us. So we wonder where is God's justice when the innocent suffer or His mercy when tragedy strikes. But the Lord insists He has no pleasure in the death of anyone—not even the sinner who deserves his punishment. God's good and gracious will is that all would be saved and come to the knowledge of His Son. Think how differently we would approach the troubles and trials that affect us and the greater disasters of the world if we took the Lord at His Word and trusted in His will.

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#### **Prelude**

#### **Welcome**

#### **Ring of the Tower Bell**

#### **815 All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine**

1 All praise to Thee, for Thou, O King divine,  
Didst yield the glory that of right was Thine,  
That in our darkened hearts Thy grace might shine.  
Alleluia!

2 Thou cam'st to us in lowliness of thought;  
By Thee the outcast and the poor were sought;  
And by Thy death was God's salvation wrought.  
Alleluia!

- 3 Let this mind be in us which was in Thee,  
Who wast a servant that we might be free,  
Humbling Thyself to death on Calvary.  
Alleluia!
- 4 Wherefore, by God's eternal purpose, Thou  
Art high exalted o'er all creatures now,  
And giv'n the name to which all knees shall bow.  
Alleluia!
- 5 Let ev'ry tongue confess with one accord,  
In heav'n and earth, that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
And God the Father be by all adored.  
Alleluia!

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### Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

### Opening Sentences

*Psalm 25:6–7; 147:6*

- P** The Lord lifts up the humble;
- C** He casts the wicked to the ground.
- P** Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love
- C** for they have been from of old.
- P** Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
- C** according to Your steadfast love, remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O Lord!

### Exhortation

*LSB 290*

- P** I will go to the altar of God,
- C** to God my exceeding joy.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** who made heaven and earth.

### Confession and Absolution

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
- C** 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.

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

**P** May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

### Introit

*Psalm 147:1–5; antiphon: v. 6*

The LORD lifts up the humble;  
he casts the wicked to the ground.  
Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;  
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.  
The LORD builds up Jerusalem;  
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.  
He heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### 806 Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

**1 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.**

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### Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

**P** *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.

**C** **Amen.**

## Old Testament

*Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32*

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>“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’? <sup>3</sup>As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Behold, 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. . . .

<sup>25</sup>“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? <sup>26</sup>When 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. <sup>27</sup>Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. <sup>28</sup>Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet 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?

<sup>30</sup>“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. <sup>31</sup>Cast 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? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

*Psalm 25:1–10; antiphon: v. 4*

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD,  
I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**O my God, in you I trust;  
let me not be put to shame;  
let not my enemies exult over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;  
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

<sup>8</sup>**Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

<sup>9</sup>He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.

<sup>10</sup>**All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

## Epistle

## *Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18*

<sup>1</sup>If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,  
<sup>2</sup>complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. . . .

<sup>14</sup>Do all things without grumbling or questioning, <sup>15</sup>that 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, <sup>16</sup>holding 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. <sup>17</sup>Even 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. <sup>18</sup>Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## Holy Gospel

## *Matthew 21:23-27*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

**G** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] 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?” <sup>24</sup>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. <sup>25</sup>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?'  
<sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet."<sup>27</sup> 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."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### The Close of the Commandments

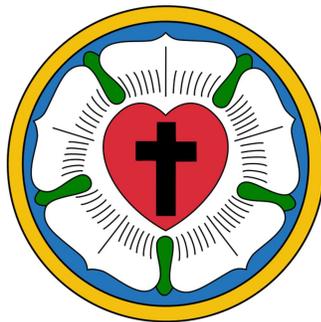
*What does God say about all these commandments?*

He says: "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments." (Exodus 20:5-6)

*What does this mean?*

God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

### Children's Message "A Seal of God's Love"



#### 543 What Wondrous Love Is This

- 1 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!
- 2 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.

- 3 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.**
- 4 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.**

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### **Sermon "Turn and Live" *Ezekiel 8:32***

#### **Hymn "Sinners, Turn, Why Will You Die?"**

- 1 Sinners, turn: why will you die?  
God, your Maker, asks you why.  
God, who did your being give,  
Made you, like Himself, to live.  
He, the Lord of life, demands,  
Asks the work of His own hands,  
Why, you thankless creatures, why  
Will you spurn His love, and die?**
- 2 Sinners, turn: why will you die?  
God, your Savior, asks you why.  
Christ, who did your souls retrieve,  
Died Himself that you might live.  
Will you let Him die in vain?  
Crucify the Lord again?  
Why, O ransomed sinners, why  
Will you slight His grace and die?**
- 3 Sinners, turn: why will you die?  
God, the Spirit, asks you why.  
He, who calls you by God's Word,  
Woos you to embrace His love.  
Will you not His calling heed?  
Will you still refuse to live?  
Why, you long-sought sinners, why  
Will you grieve your God, and die?**
- 4 Sinners, turn to God and live,  
He is speedy to forgive.  
You are His own chosen race,  
Heirs of His amazing grace.  
You who see the Gospel light  
Turn to God with all your life.  
Then, at last, at heaven's shore  
Enter life forevermore!**

## Offertory and Stewardship Minute

### Offering Prayer

### Prayer of the Church

### Lord's Prayer

**C** 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.

### Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

### Post-Communion Thanksgiving

**P** Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,  
**C** for His steadfast love endures forever!

**P** 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.  
**C** Amen.

### Benedicamus

**P** Let us bless the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

### Benediction

**P** 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.  
**C** Amen.

## Dismissal

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

### 704 Renew Me, O Eternal Light

- 1 Renew me, O eternal Light,  
And let my heart and soul be bright,  
Illumined with the light of grace  
That issues from Your holy face.
  
- 2 Remove the pow'r of sin from me  
And cleanse all my impurity  
That I may have the strength and will  
Temptations of the flesh to still.
  
- 3 Create in me a new heart, Lord,  
That gladly I obey Your Word.  
Let what You will be my desire,  
And with new life my soul inspire.
  
- 4 Grant that I only You may love  
And seek those things which are above  
Till I behold You face to face,  
O Light eternal, through Your grace.

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## ✠ Soli Deo Gloria ✠

To God Alone Be Glory

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