



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, September 13, 2020

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Who Do You Think You Are

As We Gather

We live in a world filled with uncertainty, and much of this uncertainty is so personal. Who we are and what it is that gives our lives identity, meaning, and purpose go to the very heart of the questions for our times. Today, Paul reminds us that we belong to the Lord. Whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. Being the Lord's own is what shapes our self-understanding and defines how we relate to one another. All the things that divide us on earth and how we are tempted to identify ourselves by preference or desire are overcome by the Lord, who suffered for us, died to save us, and lives to set us free. This love makes it possible for us to see others as our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Preservice Music & Welcome

Ringing of the Tower Bell

609 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

sts. 1, 4-7

- 1 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.

- 4 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.

- 5 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.
- 6 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.
- 7 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.

Service of Prayer & Preaching

LSB pg. 260

Opening Versicles

- L** This is the day which the Lord has made;
C let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- L** Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;
C I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- L** Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.
C Teach me Your paths.
- L** Sanctify us in Your truth.
C Your Word is truth.
- L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C the name of the Lord is to be praised.
C 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.

Old Testament Canticle

LSB 261

- C** The Lord God is my strength and my song,
 and He has become my salvation.

With joy will you draw water from the wells of salvation.
 And you will say in that day:
 “Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name,
 make known His deeds among the peoples,
 proclaim that His name is exalted.”

**The Lord God is my strength and my song,
and He has become my salvation.**

**Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.**

**Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitants of Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

**The Lord God is my strength and my song,
and He has become my salvation.**

**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.**

**The Lord God is my strength and my song,
and He has become my salvation.**

Readings from Holy Scripture

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:1-12

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!
²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,**
³who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
⁴**who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

⁵who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

⁶**The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.

⁸**The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

⁹He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.

¹⁰**He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

¹²**as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place.

³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.

³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory

- L** Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
- C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**
- L** Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
- C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**
- L** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

Ten Commandments

- C** **You shall have no other gods.**
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Apostles' Creed

- C** **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.**

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.**

Children's Message "Disagreed, but Baptized"

Song "I Am the Church" (LSB 252)

Sermon Text: Romans 14:1-12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God.”

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Sermon "Omnivores, Herbivores, and To-the-Lord"

Romans 14:1-12

HYMN - Come, Imagine Life Together

(tune: LSB 827, Galilean)

- 1 Come, imagine life together,
Far beyond what we've conceived,
Urged by love to live lives worthy
Of the calling we've received:
Ever patient, gently caring,
God's beloved family,
Each forgiven and forgiving
In the Spirit's unity.

- 2 One in body, one in Spirit,
One in hope, one Lord of all,
One in faith, one God and Father,
One our blest baptismal call;
One our Savior in Christ Jesus,
Ours His blood-bought victory,
Ours His Spirit-sealed redemption—
His our praise eternally.

- 3 We in Christ are God's pure household,
No more strangers but God's own,
Built on prophets and apostles,
Christ Himself our Cornerstone;
We His Church, a living temple,
Reaching upward, pointing toward
Our true home, where angel hosts sing,
"Holy, holy, holy Lord!"

- 4 Till God calls us home to glory,
Till our Savior we adore,
We on earth with saints in heaven
Are one Church forevermore.
We in love are bound together,
Joined in mystic unity:
We by faith now see our Savior;
They by sight their Savior see.

- 5 Now to Alpha and Omega,
The beginning and the end,
May our prayers and praise like incense,
To His throne of grace ascend.
"Amen! Come, O come, Lord Jesus!"
Is the Bride's and Spirit's call;
Until Christ returns in glory,
May His grace be with us all!

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Offering Prayer

Prayer

- L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.

- L** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

Collect of the Day

- L** O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Collect for the Word

- L** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Morning Prayer

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

New Testament Canticle

LSB 266

C Christ has been raised from the dead! Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed.
Raised from the dead, He will never die again.
Death has no more dominion over Him.**

Christ has been raised from the dead! Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Dying, Christ dies to sin, once for all.
Living, He lives to God.
Count yourselves as dead to sin and alive to God in Christ
Jesus, our Lord.**

Christ has been raised from the dead! Alleluia. Alleluia.

Blessing

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

C Amen.

No Saint On Earth (tune: LSB 752, Finlandia)

1 No saint on earth lives life to self alone
Or dies alone, for we with Christ are one.
So if we live, for Christ alone we live,
And if we die, to Christ our dying give.
In living and in dying this confess:
We are the Lord's, safe in God's faithfulness.

2 For to this end our Lord by death was slain,
That to new life He might arise again.
Through sorrow on to triumph Christ has led,
And reigns o'er all: the living and the dead.
In living and in dying, Him we bless;
We are the Lord's, safe in God's faithfulness.

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✠ Soli Deo Gloria ✠

To God Alone Be Glory

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