

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

James: Wisdom for Life

September 15 & 16, 2018 5:00 pm & 8:15 am



AS WE GATHER

Imagine if you were the father in today's Gospel. Since childhood, his son has been plagued by an unclean spirit that makes him mute and throws him down, doing bodily harm. The dad brings his son to Jesus' disciples, and they are of no help. The father comes before Jesus and asks him to help . . . if He can. Jesus responds, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." To which the father cries out, "I believe; help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:23-24). This father, who is at the end of his rope, cries out with faith mixed with desperation. Thankfully, his worthiness, and our worthiness, does not depend on the greatness or smallness of faith. Instead, it depends on Jesus, the object of our faith. When we face desperate times, we, too, cry out in prayer and faith, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELLS - *We Prepare our hearts and minds for worship*



WELCOME

✠ **PREPARATION** ✠

OPENING HYMN "Word of God, Come Down on Earth"

LSB 545

**Word of God, come down to earth, Living rain from heav'n descending;
Touch our hearts and bring to birth Faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere You; Word made flesh, we long to hear You.**

**Word eternal, throned on high, Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav'n to die, Crucified for our salvation,
Saving Word, the world restoring, Speak to us, Your love outpouring.**

**Word that caused blind eyes to see, Speak and heal our mortal blindness;
Deaf we are: our healer be; Loose our tongues to tell Your kindness.
Be our Word in pity spoken, Heal the world, by sin now broken.**

**Word that speaks God's tender love, One with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above, God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.**

(Please Stand)

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: If any of you lacks wisdom,
People: **let him ask God, who gives generously**

Pastor: to all without reproach,
People: **and it will be given him. (James 1:5)**



INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

(If you would like private confession and absolution, please call the office at (314) 832-5600 to make an appointment with Pastor Clark)

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

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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.**

(OR)

Seminary Student: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. *John 1:12, Philippians 1:6*

People: **Amen.**

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

HYMN OF PRAISE "Praise to You and Adoration"

LSB 692

**Praise to You and adoration, Blessed Jesus, Son of God,
Who to serve Your own creation, Came to share our flesh and blood.
Guide me that I never may From Your fold or pastures stray,
But with zeal and joy exceeding Follow where Your steps are leading.**

**Hold me ever in Your keeping; Comfort me in pain and strife.
In my laughter and my weeping Be with me throughout my life.
Give me greater love for You, And my faith and hope renew
In Your birth, Your life, and passion, In Your death and resurrection.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defense in every need,

People: continue to preserve Your Church in safety, govern her by Your goodness, and bless her with Your peace;

Pastor: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Please Be Seated)



OLD TESTAMENT *Isaiah 50:4–10* (“He who vindicates me is near.”)

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; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸ He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. ⁹ Behold, the Lord GOD helps me; who will declare me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up. ¹⁰ Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the voice of his servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM “Holy, Holy, Holy”

Handbell Choir



EPISTLE *James 3:1–12* (“From the same mouth come blessing and cursing.”)

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.



HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 9:14–29* (Jesus casts out a spirit.)

The congregation is invited to read the scripture in bold

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁴ And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵ And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. ¹⁶ And he asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” ¹⁷ And someone from the crowd answered him, **“Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. ¹⁸ And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.”** ¹⁹ And he answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.” ²⁰ And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. ²¹ And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, **“From childhood. ²² And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”** ²³ And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” ²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, **“I believe; help my unbelief!”** ²⁵ And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” ²⁶ And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. ²⁸ And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” ²⁹ And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**



APOSTLES' CREED

LSB 207

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.

(Please Be Seated)



Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His statues still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!

HYMN OF THE DAY "Send, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit"

LSB 681

Send, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit On Your servant now, we pray;
Let him prove a faithful shepherd That no lamb be led astray.
Your pure teaching to proclaim, To extol Your holy name,
And to feed Your lambs, dear Savior, Make his aim and sole endeavor.

You, O Lord, Yourself have called him For Your precious lambs to care;
But to prosper in his calling, He the Spirit's gifts must share.
Give him wisdom from above, Fill his heart with holy love;
In his weakness, Lord, be near him, In his prayers, Good Shepherd, hear him.

Help, Lord Jesus, help him nourish All our children with Your Word
That in fervent love they serve You Till in heav'n their song is heard.
Boundless blessings, Lord, bestow On his faithful toil below
Till by grace to him be given His reward, the crown of heaven.



SERMON

(Please Stand)



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Shepherd of youth, Your Son welcomed children inviting, "let the little children come to me."
Bless parents and teachers, homes and schools as they teach the faith. Work through us so children
and youth would grow in love for you and their neighbor. Encourage and strengthen our Word of
Life families and teachers (including...) Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: King of kings, You encourage that prayers "be made for all people, for kings and all who are in
high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way." Give
wisdom and integrity to all who serve in the government of our land and protect those who serve
in our armed forces. Provide peace and provision that Your Gospel can be proclaimed. Lord, in
Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Compassionate Lord, You sent Your Son to "seek and save the lost." Give us courage to share the
love for Christ with those who do not yet know their Savior. Give us compassion to show mercy
to those who are considered the least and lowly by the world. Help us to love because You first
loved us. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Merciful Lord, look with favor upon those who are sick and suffering. Assure them of Your mercy,
and comfort them in their illness (especially...). If it pleases You, restore them to health as you
give them courage and hope. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord, You have established Your church as more than a place to go to, but a family to belong to. Continue to lead this family of faith here at Ascension to be united in mission as a people who are, “Loved by Christ, sharing Christ’s love.” Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

(Special Petitions)

Pastor: All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ.

People: Amen!

(Please Be Seated)



GATHERING OF OFFERINGS “Shalom”

Handbell Choir

(Please Stand)



✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

We believe Holy Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christian to eat and to drink. If you are a communicant member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation, please feel free to commune with us. If not, please speak with the pastor before receiving the Lord’s Supper.

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, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who came into the world to be the Servant who would provide vindication for His beloved. Because of His great love for us, we can be confident that He is near even to the end of the age. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS — Holy, Holy, Holy *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

LSB 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

LSB 209

Pastor: Hear us as we pray in His name as He has taught us:

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

LSB 209

PAX DOMINI — *The Peace of the Lord John 20:19*

LSB 209

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI — *Lamb of God John 1:29*

LSB 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.**

(Please Be Seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS “Chief of Sinners Though I Be”

LSB 611

**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 heav'ns 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 forgiv'n, Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
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.**

O God, my faithful God, True fountain ever flowing,
Without whom nothing is, All perfect gifts bestowing:
Give me a healthy frame, And may I have within
A conscience free from blame, A soul unstained by sin.

Grant me the strength to do With ready heart and willing
Whatever You command, My calling here fulfilling;
That I do what I should While trusting You to bless
The outcome for my good, For You must give success.

Keep me from saying words That later need recalling;
Guard me lest idle speech May from my lips be falling;
But when within my place I must and ought to speak,
Then to my words give grace Lest I offend the weak.

Lord, let me win my foes With kindly words and actions,
And let me find good friends For counsel and correction.
Help me, as You have taught, To love both great and small
And by Your Spirit's might To live in peace with all.

Let me depart this life Confiding in my Savior;
By grace receive my soul That it may live forever;
And let my body have A quiet resting place
Within a Christian grave; And let it sleep in peace.

And on that final day When all the dead are waking,
Stretch out Your mighty hand, My deathly slumber breaking.
Then let me hear Your voice, Redeem this earthly frame,
And bid me to rejoice With those who love Your name.

Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.

(Please Stand)

NUNC DIMITTIS "Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go"
(sung to the tune of the Doxology)

LSB 854, v. 1-2

**Forth in The name, O Lord I go, My daily labor to pursue,
Thee, only Thee, resolved to know In all I think or speak or do.**

**The task Thy wisdom has assigned, O let me cheerfully fulfill;
In all my works Thy presence find, And prove Thy good and perfect will.**



BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION *Psalm 103:1*

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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. *Numbers 6:24-26*

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN "Christ, the Lord of Hosts, Unshaken"

LSB 521

**Christ, the Lord of Hosts, unshaken By the devil's seething rage,
Thwarts the plan of Satan's minions; Wins the strife from age to age;
Conquers sin and death forever; Slams them in their steely cage.**

**Michael fought the heav'nly battle, Godly angels by his side;
Warred against the ancient serpent, Foiled the beast, so full of pride,
Cast him earth-bound with his angels; Now he prowls, unsatisfied.**

**Long on earth the battle rages, Since the serpent=s first deceit;
Twisted God's command to Adam, Made forbidden fruit look sweet.
Then the curse of God was spoken: "You'll lie crushed beneath His feet!"**

**Jesus came, this word fulfilling, Trampled Satan, death defied;
Bore the brunt of our temptation, On the wretched tree He died.
Yet to life was raised victorious; By His life our life supplied.**

**Swift as lightning falls the tyrant From his heav'nly perch on high,
As the word of Jesus' vict'ry, Floods the earth and fills the sky.
Wounded by a wound eternal Now his judgment has drawn nigh!**

**Jesus, send Your angel legions When the foe would us enslave.
Hold us fast when sin assaults us; Come, then, Lord, Your people save.
Overthrow at last the dragon; Send him to his fiery grave.**

POSTLUDE

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