

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

James: Wisdom for Life

September 16, 2018

11:00 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!"

PRE-SERVICE "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" *Instrumental*



WELCOME

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING SONG "Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)" Bleecker/Hall

**One day when heaven was filled with His praises, One day when sin was as black as could be,
Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin, Dwelt among men my example is He.
The Word became flesh and the light shined among us. His glory revealed.**

**CHORUS: Living, He loved me, dying He saved me. Buried, He carried my sins far away.
Rising, He justified freely forever.
One day He's coming, O glorious day, O glorious day.**

**One day they led Him up Calv'ry's mountain. One day they nailed Him to die on a tree.
Suffering anguish, despised and rejected, Bearing our sins my Redeemer is He.
The hand that healed nations stretched out on a treeAnd took the nails from me. CHORUS**

**One day the grave could conceal Him no longer, One day the stone rolled away from the door.
Then He arose over death He had conquered. Now is ascended my Lord evermore.
Death could not hold Him, the grave could not keep Him From rising again CHORUS**

**One day the trumpet will sound for His coming,
One day the skies with His glories will shine.
Wonderful day my beloved one bringing. My Savior Jesus is mine. CHORUS**

Glorious Day. O Glorious Day.

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(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 ✠

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.**



EPISTLE *James 3:1–12*

(“From the same mouth come blessing and cursing.”)

¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ² For 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. ³ If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴ Look 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. ⁵ So 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! ⁶ And 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. ⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹² Can 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)



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)



CHILDREN'S TIME "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

LSB 707, v.1

**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!**

SONG OF THE DAY "All My Hope" Ingram/Morgan (2011 Hillsongs)

**Light in my darkness, peace for my soul,
You are my rescue, you never let go.
Light in my darkness, peace for my soul,
You are my rescue, you never let go.**

**All my hope is in You. All my strength is in You.
With ev'ry breath my soul will rest in You.**

**Here in my weakness, always the same.
Your love is my shelter. Your life is my way.**

All my hope is in You. All my strength is in You.
With ev'ry breath my soul will rest in You.
All my hope is in You. All my strength is in You.
With ev'ry breath my soul will rest in You.

Constant Savior, Friend forever, Lord, You have my heart.
Sure foundation, never failing, Lord, You have my heart.
Constant Savior, Friend forever, Lord, You have my heart.
Sure foundation, never failing, Lord, You have my heart.

All my hope is in You. All my strength is in You.
With ev'ry breath my soul will rest in You.
All the earth beneath You. All my life before You.
With ev'ry breath my soul will rest in You.
With ev'ry breath my soul will rest in You.



SERMON

(Please Stand)



PRAAYER 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

OFFERTORY “The Power of the Cross” Townend/Getty v. 1 *Worship Team*

*Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day. Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men torn and beaten then. Nailed to a cross of wood.*

**CHORUS 1: This the pow'r of the cross. Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame bore the wrath. We stand forgiven at the cross.**

**Oh to see the pain written on Your face. Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought ev'ry evil deed. Crowning Your bloodstained brow. CHORUS 1**

**Now the daylight flees now the ground beneath. Quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two dead are raised to life. Finished the vict'ry cry. CHORUS 1**

**Oh to see my name written in the wounds. For through Your suff'ring I am free.
Death is crushed to death life is mine to live. Won through Your selfless love.**

**CHORUS 2: This the pow'r of the cross. Son of God slain for us.
What a love what a cost. We stand forgiven at the cross.**
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(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.**

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” Maichel

**Lamb of God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world.
Lamb of God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world.
And have mercy on us. Have mercy on us and grant us your peace. Grant us your peace.
Have Mercy on us, O Lamb of God. Grant us your peace we pray.**

(Please Be Seated)

DISTRIBUTION SONGS “Abide with Me”

LSB 878, v. 1-3

**Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

**I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.**

**Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.**

“Oceans” (Where Feet May Fail) Houston/Crocker/Ligthelm

**You call me out upon the waters
The great unknown where feet may fail
And there I find You in the mystery
In oceans deep my faith will stand**

**And I will call upon Your name
And keep my eyes above the waves
When oceans rise
My soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine**

**Your grace abounds in deepest waters
Your sovereign hand will be my guide
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me
You've never failed and You won't start now**

**And I will call upon Your name
And keep my eyes above the waves
When oceans rise
My soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine**

**Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders
Let me walk upon the waters Wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger In the presence of my Savior REPEAT BRIDGE X2**

**I will call upon Your name
Keep my eyes above the waves
My soul will rest in Your embrace
I am Yours and You are mine**

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(Please Stand)



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 SONG "Risen Today" Shust/Wesley

**Christ the Lord is risen today! Hallelujah!
Sons of man and angels say Hallelujah!
Raise your joys and triumphs high! Hallelujah!
Sing ye heavens and earth reply.**

**Love's redeeming work is done, Hallelujah!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Hallelujah!
Death in vain forbid Him rise, Hallelujah!
Christ has opened paradise!**

**CHORUS: Hallelujah! He is risen!
Hallelujah! our sins have been forgiven.
Now, we have power over the grave.
Christ the Lord is risen today!**

**Lives again our glorious King, Hallelujah!
Where O death is now thy sting, Hallelujah!
Dying once our souls to save, Hallelujah!
Where thy victory O grave? CHORUS**

**All creation sings: Hallelujah,
The King is risen!
Glory to the name of our risen Lord!
Let all the earth proclaim: Hallelujah,
Our sin's forgiven!
Glory to Your name forevermore! CHORUS**

We have power over the grave! Christ the Lord is risen today!

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POSTLUDE *Instrumental Music*

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