

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

James: Wisdom for Life

September 22 & 23, 2018

5:00 pm & 8:15 am



AS WE GATHER

Though today's Old Testament Reading happened about 2,600 years ago, it portrays a circumstance that may ring familiar to many of us. The prophet Jeremiah faithfully proclaimed God's Word to an increasingly unfaithful people. Their anger and attempts to silence Jeremiah blindsided him. If he was doing God's will, shouldn't people appreciate and thank him? The rejection of Jeremiah points forward to Jesus' rejection by His own people. In those times when we are blindsided by negative reactions to God's will for the world, our Savior empathizes with us and sustains us by the Holy Spirit. And because of the Father's love for us in Christ, there are times even now when we are blindsided by Jesus' mercy though we know we don't deserve it.

PRELUDE

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



WELCOME

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy" *LSB 434, v. 1*

**Lamb of God, pure and holy, who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer,
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!**

(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. O God, whose strength is made perfect in weakness,

People: grant us humility and childlike faith that we may please You in both will and deed;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Please Be Seated)



OLD TESTAMENT *Jeremiah 11:18–20*

(Jeremiah entrusts his life to the Lord as enemies plot to kill him.)

¹⁸The LORD made it known to me and I knew; then you showed me their deeds. ¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. I did not know it was against me they devised schemes, saying, “Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more.” ²⁰But, O LORD of hosts, who judges righteously, who tests the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



EPISTLE *James 3:13–4:10* (Christians are called to humbly submit to God and seek peace with one another.)

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. ¹⁹4 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ²⁰2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ²¹3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ²²4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ²³5 Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? ²⁴6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ²⁵7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ²⁶8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ²⁷9 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ²⁸10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please Stand)

ALLELUIA and VERSE

LSB 205

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 9:30–37* (Who is the greatest?)
(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.**

³⁰They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, **“The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.”** ³²But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him. ³³And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, **“What were you discussing on the way?”** ³⁴But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, **“If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.”** ³⁶And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷**“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”**

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!

HYMN OF THE DAY “Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us” *LSB 851*

Ascension Choir v. 1 & 3 **Congregation v. 2 & 4**

*Lord of glory you have bought us with Your life blood as the price,
 Never grudging for the lost ones that tremendous sacrifice;
 And with that have freely given Blessings countless as the sand
 To the unthankful and the evil With Your own unsparing hand.*

**Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Gladly, freely of Your own.
 With the sunshine of Your goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone
 Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by You, at length believe
 That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.**

*Wondrous honor You have given To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence, "You have done it all to Me."
Can it be, O gracious Master, That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?*

**Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones, That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on You;
But, oh, best of all Your graces, With Your love our love renew.**



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: Gracious God, You are truly the One from whom all blessings flow. Make us faithful stewards of all with which You have blessed us for Your Word says, "Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver." By the power of your Spirit, inspire us to give generously and joyfully so that our congregation can share Christ vigorously, giving life now and for eternity. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord of the nations, You instruct us, "treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself." Enable us to show welcome to new Americans, especially refugees. Give us unity and lead many to the waters of Holy Baptism and instruction in Your Word. 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: 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: Wise 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 “Thine the Amen” *Ascension 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, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who humbled Himself, suffered, and died on the cross and is now risen and exalted at the right hand of God, so that we be people who are peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. 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 “What Is the World to Me”

LSB 730

**What is the world to me With all its vaulted pleasure
When You, and You alone, Lord Jesus, are my treasure!
You only, dearest Lord, My Soul’s delight shall be;
You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!**

**The world seeks to be praised And honored by the mighty
Yet never once reflects That they are frail and flighty.
But what I truly prize Above all things is He,
My Jesus, He alone. What is the world to me!**

**The world seeks after wealth And all that mammon offers
Yet never is content Though gold should fill its coffers,
I have a higher good, Content with it I’ll be:
My Jesus is my wealth. What is the world to me!**

**What is the world to me! My Jesus is my treasure,
My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my pleasure,
My joy, my crown, my all. My bliss eternally.
Once more, then, I declare: What is the world to me!**

“Where Chariot and Love Prevail”

LSB 845

**Where charity and love prevail There God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ’s love By love are we thus bound.**

**With grateful joy and holy fear His charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and soul Now love Him in return.**

**Forgive we now each other’s faults As we our faults confess,
And let us love each other well In Christian holiness.**

**Let strife among us be unknown; Let all contention cease;
Be God's the glory that we seek; Be ours His holy peace.**

**Let us recall that in our midst Dwells Christ, His only Son;
As members of His body joined We are in Him made one.**

**For love excludes no race or clan That names the Savior's name;
His family embraces all Whose Father is the same.**

"Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord"

LSB 637

**Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured;
Offered was He for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and Himself the priest.**

**He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
To all believers life eternal yields;
With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.**

**Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow
As in this feast of love You bless us now.**

(Please Stand)

NUNC DIMITTIS "Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go"

LSB 854, v. 1 & 2

Sung to the tune of the Doxology

**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.**

**God’s own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it, Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth’s treasures many? I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free Lasting to eternity!**

**Sin, disturb my soul no longer: I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger: Jesus’ cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me Since my Baptism did release me
In a dear forgiving flood, Sprinkling me with Jesus’ blood?**

**Satan, hear this proclamation: I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation, I am not so soon enticed.
Now that to the font I’ve traveled, All your might has come unraveled,
And, against your tyranny, God, my Lord, united with me!**

**Death, you cannot end my gladness: I am baptized into Christ!
When I die I leave all sadness To inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes Faith’s assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine To make life immortal mine.**

**There is nothing worth comparing To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open eyed my grave is staring Even there I’ll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising, Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ; I’m a child of paradise!**

POSTLUDE

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