

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

James: Wisdom for Life

September 23, 2018

11:00 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.

PRE-SERVICE "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Instrumental



WELCOME

✦ PREPARATION ✦

OPENING SONG "I Walk By Faith"

Falson

WOL Students & Congregation

**I walk by faith -- each step by faith. To live by faith I put my trust in You.
I walk by faith -- each step by faith. To live by faith I put my trust in You.**

**Every step I take is a step of faith. No weapon formed against me shall prosper.
And every prayer I make is a prayer of faith. If my God is for me, who can be against me? REPEAT
SONG**

**I walk (I walk) by faith (by faith) -- each step (each step) by faith (by faith).
To live (to live) by faith I put my trust in You. REPEAT VERSE**

**I put my trust in You. I put my trust in You.
I put my trust in You. I put my trust in You.**

CCLI #219979 Used by permission

(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. 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.)

¹⁸ The LORD made it known to me and I knew; then you showed me their deeds. ¹⁹ But 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." ²⁰ But, 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.)

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. ⁴ What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ² 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. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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”? ⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ 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)



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.**

³⁰ They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, ³¹ for 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.”** ³² But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him. ³³ And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, **“What were you discussing on the way?”** ³⁴ But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵ And 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.”** ³⁶ And 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!**

SONG OF THE DAY "Christ Be My Leader" *LSB 861 v. 1 WOL Students*

*Christ be my Leader by night as by day; Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care, darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.*

**Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth, Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand, Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.**

**Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife; Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain Can touch my salvation; with Jesus I reign.**



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

OFFERTORY "Step By Step"

Strasser

O God, You are my God and I will ever praise You.

O God, You are my God and I will ever praise You.

I will seek You in the morning and I will learn to walk in Your ways.

And step by step You'll lead me. And I will follow You all of my days. REPEAT SONG

And step by step You'll lead me. And I will follow You all of my days.

CCLI #219979 Used by permission

(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 John 1:29*

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 “We Believe”

Hooper/Fike/Ryan

**In this time of desperation, When all we know is doubt and fear.
There is only one foundation. We believe, we believe.
In this broken generation, When all is dark, You help us see.
There is only one salvation. We believe, we believe.**

**CHORUS: We believe in God the Father, We believe in Jesus Christ,
We believe in the Holy Spirit, And He's given us new life,
We believe in the crucifixion. We believe that He conquered death.
We believe in the resurrection, And He's coming back (again. We believe.)**

**So let our faith be more than anthems. Greater than the songs we sing.
In our weakness and temptations. We believe, we believe. CHORUS**

**Let the lost be found and the dead be raised. In the here and now let love invade.
Let the church live loud our God we'll say, We believe, we believe.
And the gates of hell will not prevail. For the pow'r of God has torn the veil.
Now we know Your love will never fail. We believe, we believe. CHORUS**

He's coming back again, He's coming back again, We believe, we believe.

CCLI #219979 ,Used by permission

**There's a peace I've come to know Though my heart and flesh may fail
There's an anchor for my soul I can say it is well**

**Jesus has overcome and the grave is overwhelmed
The victory is won He is risen from the dead**

**CHORUS: (And) I will rise when He calls my name
No more sorrow no more pain
I will rise on eagle's wings
Before my God fall on my knees and rise
I will rise**

**There's a day that's drawing near When this darkness breaks to light
And the shadows disappear And my faith shall be my eyes**

**Jesus has overcome and the grave is overwhelmed
The victory is won He is risen from the dead CHORUS**

**And I hear the voice of many angels sing Worthy is the Lamb
And I hear the cry of ev'ry longing heart Worthy is the Lamb
And I hear the voice of many angels sing Worthy is the Lamb
And I hear the cry of ev'ry longing heart
Worthy is the Lamb Worthy is the Lamb CHORUS**

I will rise.
CCLI #219979 Used by permission

**In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all— Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on the cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid— Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine— Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death— this is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home— Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.**

Here in the pow'r of Christ we stand.
CCLI #219979 Used by permission

(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 “This Little Gospel Light of Mine”

WOL Students

*This little gospel light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little gospel light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little gospel light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine all the time let it shine.*

*Don't you try to blow it out; I'm gonna let it shine.
Don't you try to blow it out; I'm gonna let it shine.
Don't you try to blow it out; I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine all the time let it shine.*

*Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine all the time let it shine.*

*All around the neighborhood; I'm gonna let it shine.
All around the neighborhood; I'm gonna let it shine.
All around the neighborhood; I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine all the time let it shine.*

*It will point the way to heaven, I'm gonna let it shine.
It will point the way to heaven, I'm gonna let it shine.
It will point the way to heaven, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine all the time let it shine.*

POSTLUDE

Instrumental Music

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 3. Copyright © 2018 Concordia Publishing House.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Used by permission. LSBHymnLicense.net #100012046