

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Cloud of Witnesses

August 3 & 4, 2019

5:00 pm & 8:15 am



AS WE GATHER

Our world enjoys labeling people. Whether by skin color, gender, economic status, ethnic background, political affiliation, age, or whatever else it may be, labels are popular. This sort of labeling divides people into categories and causes much strife and argument. There was labeling going on in Colossae as well: Greek, Jew, circumcised, uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free. But in Colossians, Paul gives us a label that we share and a label that leads not to divisive evil but to amazing generosity and love. Paul writes, “You have been raised with Christ.” Imagine that. He doesn’t say that you will one day in the future be raised with Christ (although that is also true), he says, “You have been raised with Christ.” That is the label we are marked with in Holy Baptism. This comes to us by grace and calls forth from us a life abundant with generosity.

PRELUDE

Organ

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



WELCOME

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN “Praise and Thanksgiving”

LSB 789

**Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer For all things living, Created good:
Harvest of sown fields, Fruits of the orchard, Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood.**

**Bless, Lord, the labor We bring to serve You That with our neighbor We may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, We would work with You, Harvesting, milling For daily bread.**

**Father, providing Food for Your children, By Your wise guiding Teach us to share
One with another, So that, rejoicing With us, all others May know Your care.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,

People: **let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely,**

Pastor: and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

People: **looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.**

All: **Amen!** *Hebrew 12:1-2a*

(Please Stand)



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.** *Matthew 28:19b*

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *1 John 1:8-9*

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. 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. *[John 20:19-23]*

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 ✠

KYRIE *Lord, Have Mercy (sung)*

LSB 152

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: **Amen.**

**Saints, see the cloud of witnesses surround us;
 Their lives of faith encourage and astound us.
 Hear how the Master praised their faith so fervent:
 “Well done, my servant!”**

**Lord, give us faith to walk where You are sending,
 On paths unmarked, eyes blind as to their ending;
 Not knowing where we go, but You lead us—
 With grace precede us.**

**You, Jesus, You alone deserve all glory!
 Our lives unfold, embraced within Your story;
 Past, present, future— You, the same forever—
 You fail us never!**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: O Lord God, the light of minds that know You, the life of souls that love You, and the strength of hearts that serve You, give us strength to follow the example of Your servant Augustine, so that knowing You we may truly love You and loving You we may fully serve You—for to serve You is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

(Please Be Seated)



OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12–14; 2:18–26* (All is vanity.)

² Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. . . .¹² I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹⁴ I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind. . . .¹⁸ I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, ¹⁹ and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰ So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? ²³ For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity. ²⁴ There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, ²⁵ for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? ²⁶ For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**



EPISTLE *Colossians 3:1–11* (You have been raised with Christ.)

¹If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. ⁵Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please Stand)

GOSPEL VERSE “For All the Saints”

LSB 677, v. 1

**For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!**



HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 12:13–21* (Be on guard against covetousness.)

The congregation is invited to read the words in bold

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

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

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” ¹⁶And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷and he thought to himself, ‘**What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?**’” ¹⁸And he said, ‘**I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.**’” ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”” ²⁰But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’” ²¹So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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



APOSTLES’ CREED

LSB 159

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)



BACK PACK BLESSING

HYMN OF THE DAY “Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings” *LSB 782*

**Gracious God, You send great blessings New each morning all our days.
For Your mercies never ending, For Your love we offer praise.**

Refrain: Lord, we pray that we, Your people Who Your gifts unnumbered claim,
Through the sharing of Your blessings May bring glory to Your name.

**By Your Word You formed creation Filled with creatures large and small;
As we tend that endless treasure May our care encircle all. Refrain**

**In His earthly life, our Savior Knew the care of faithful friends;
May our deeds of dedication Offer love that never ends. Refrain**

**Heav’nly Father, may our caring Bear the imprint of Your grace;
With the Son and Holy Spirit, Praise be Yours in ev’ry place! Refrain**

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SERMON

(rise Stand)



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us come before God in prayer as His people, the sheep of His pasture, trusting that the Lord is good and His love endures forever For our Synod—our president, district presidents, pastors, teachers, and all servants of the Church, that we not become puffed up with pride or be made timid by our weaknesses, but instead together hold fast to our Head, the Lord Jesus. In mercy,

People: **O Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: For this nation in which we live, in thanksgiving for the abundance of life and freedom that we enjoy; for the president and Congress, for our governor and local elected officials, that all work for the common good, and serve not themselves. In mercy,

People: **O Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: For those in need in our community—the sick, those facing surgery, those with terminal illness—that they receive mercy and healing according to God’s will, that they find peace in the love of Jesus, and that their hearts may be opened to receive the love of Christ. [*Other petitions may be inserted here.*] In mercy,

People: **O Lord, hear our prayer.**

(Special Petitions)

Pastor: In faith we entrust our prayers to You, heavenly Father. You are good and Your love endures forever; Your faithfulness continues through all generations.

People: **Amen.**

(Please Be Seated)



GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

Your tithes and offerings shape the lives of people through the Gospel of Jesus Christ for now and eternity. Thank you for your generosity! “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7

(Please Stand)

OFFERTORY “Sing with All the Saints in Glory”

LSB 671, v. 1

**Sing with all the saints in glory, Sing the resurrection song!
Death and sorrow, earth’s dark story, To the former days belong.
All around the clouds are breaking; Soon the storms of time shall cease;
In God’s likeness we awaken, Knowing everlasting peace.**



✠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 Christians 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 gave His life on the cross and was raised on the third day and has raised us with Him to live renewed life. 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 “Sing with All the Saints in Glory”

LSB 671, v. 2

**Oh, what glory, far exceeding All that eye has yet perceived!
Holiest hearts for ages pleading Never that full joy conceived.
God has promised, Christ prepares it; There on high our welcome waits.
Ev’ry humble spirit shares it, Christ has passed the eternal gates.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB 162

LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 162

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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. *Matthew 6:9–13*

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

LSB 163

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

People: **Amen.**

COMMUNION CANTICAL “Sing with All the Saints in Glory”

LSB 671, v. 3

**Life eternal! Heav'n rejoices: Jesus lives who once was dead.
Shout with joy, O deathless voices! Child of God, lift up your head!
Life eternal! Oh, what wonders Crowd of faith; what joy unknown,
When, amid earth's closing thunders, Saints shall stand before the throne!**

(Please Be Seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS “Christ Be My Leader”

LSB 861

**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.**

“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!**

“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.**

(Please Stand)

CLOSING SENTENCES

Pastor: Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
People: **let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely,**

Pastor: and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
People: **looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.**

All: **Amen!** *Hebrew 12:1-2a*



BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

LSB 166

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.
People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN “Voices Raised to You We Offer”

LSB 795

**Voices raised to You we offer; Tune them, God, for songs of praise.
Hearts and hands we bring in tribute For Your gifts through all our days.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Triune God, to You we sing!**

**All creation joins to praise You; Earth and sky Your works display.
Art and music, gifts You lend us, We return to You today.
Alleluia! Alleluia! God, Creator, source of life!**

**Christ, the song of Love incarnate, Touching earth with heaven's grace,
For Your living, suff'ring, dying, For Your rising, hear our praise!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ, Redeemer, Lord of life!**

**Spirit, flaming through creation, Kindle faith within each heart.
Lift our voices high in chorus; Through our hands Your love impart.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Spirit, Helper, breath of life!**

**How can any praise we offer Measure all the thanks we owe?
Take our hearts and hands and voices—Gifts of love we can bestow.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Triune God, to You we sing!**

POSTLUDE

Organ

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