

# NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## Cloud of Witnesses

August 11, 2019

11:00 am



### AS WE GATHER

How easy it is to become anxious when things go differently than we had hoped. We worry about ourselves and our loved ones. We experience everyday anxieties and big cosmic ones too. Sometimes anxiety can become so serious that professional help is needed. Paul writes in Philippians 4:6, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Easier said than done, Paul! Jesus invites us to let anxiety be. Concerning the things most of us worry about—like food, clothing, provisions—Jesus observes that just as the birds, the lilies, and the grass are well-provided for, we will be taken care of as well. The adventure of life is one of faith: entrusting ourselves to the care of God, seeking first God’s reign, and experiencing the rich provision enjoyed by all of creation as a gift.

### PRE-SERVICE

*Instrumental*



**WELCOME**

### ✦ PREPARATION ✦

**OPENING SONG** “Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

Grul/Ezzy/McPherson

**Jesus lover of my soul  
Jesus you will never let me go  
You've taken me from the miry clay  
You've set my feet upon the rock  
And now I know**

**CHORUS: I love You I need You  
Though my world will fall  
You'll never let me go  
My Savior my closest Friend  
I will worship You until the very end REPEAT SONG**

**Jesus.**

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### 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 ✠

### SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God, by Your Spirit You brought Emperor Constantine to believe and confess the victory of the cross and moved his mother to help in the building of many churches where Your people could gather to receive Your gifts and praise Your name. Receive our thanks for them and for all benefactors who give generously of their wealth to further the work of Your Church in spreading the saving Gospel; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

*(Please Be Seated)*



**OLD TESTAMENT** *Genesis 15:1–6* (God’s promises to Abraham)

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” <sup>4</sup>And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” <sup>5</sup>And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**



**EPISTLE** *Hebrews 11:1–16* (The people of God living by faith)

<sup>1</sup>Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>For by it the people of old received their commendation. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. <sup>4</sup>By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. <sup>5</sup>By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. <sup>6</sup>And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. <sup>7</sup>By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. <sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. <sup>11</sup>By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. <sup>13</sup>These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. <sup>14</sup>For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup>If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup>But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please Stand)*



**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 12:22–34* (Let anxiety be.)

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

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

<sup>22</sup> And he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. <sup>23</sup> For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. <sup>24</sup> Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! <sup>25</sup> And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? <sup>26</sup> If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? <sup>27</sup> Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>28</sup> But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! <sup>29</sup> And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. <sup>30</sup> For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup> Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. <sup>32</sup> “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

**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)*



### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know”

LSB 588, v. 2

**Jesus loves me, He who died, Heaven's gate to open wide;  
He will wash away my sin, Let His little child come in.**

**Refrain:** Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me, The Bible tells me so.

### SONG OF THE DAY “Who You Say I Am”

Fielding/Morgan

**Who am I that the highest King  
Would welcome me  
I was lost but He brought me in  
Oh His love for me. Oh His love for me**

**CHORUS 1:** Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God. Yes I am

Free at last He has ransomed me  
His grace runs deep  
While I was a slave to sin  
Jesus died for me. Yes He died for me

**CHORUS 2:** Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God. Yes I am  
In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God. Yes I am

I am chosen not forsaken. I am who You say I am  
You are for me not against me I am who You say I am REPEAT BRIDGE, CHORUS 2

In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God. Yes I am

**Oh, Yes I am who You say I am.**

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**SERMON**



**INSTALLATION OF JOSHUA BRAKHAGE, PASTORAL ASSISTANT**

*(Please Stand)*



**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:** Let us pray together in Christ Jesus for all people according to their needs. Loving God, grant us freedom from anxiety. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Loving God, grant us wise and faithful pastors who speak Your truth in love and Your love in truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Loving God, grant us civil leaders in every society that serve for the good of all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Loving God, grant healing to the sick and all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, [*especially . . .*]. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

*(Special Petitions)*

**Pastor:** Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**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*

“What God Ordains Is Always Good”

*LSB 760, v. 1 & 4*

**What God ordains is always good: His will is just and holy.  
As He directs my life for me, I follow meek and lowly.  
My God indeed In ev’ry need  
Knows well how He will shield me; To Him, then, I will yield me.**

**What God ordains is always good; He is my friend and Father;  
He suffers naught to do me harm Though many storms may gather.  
Now I may know Both joy and woe;  
Someday I shall see clearly That He has loved me dearly.**

*(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 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.**

### 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***

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

**People:** Amen.

**AGNUS DEI** “My Victory”

Mulligan/Crowder/Cash/Bentley

**Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away our sin Who takes away our sin  
The holy Lamb of God Makes us alive again Makes us alive again REPEAT**

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*(Please Be Seated)*

**DISTRIBUTION SONGS** “Grace Like Rain”

Agnew/Collins/Excell/Newton

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost but now I'm found was blind but now I see so clearly.**

**CHORUS: Hallelujah, grace like rain falls down on me.  
Hallelujah, all my stains are washed away, they're washed away.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed. CHORUS**

*Interlude*

**When we've been there ten thousand years bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing Your praise than when we first begun. CHORUS X 2**

**. . . They're washed away.**

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“It's the Power of the Cross”

Townend/Getty

**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)*

## 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 SONG** “Great I AM”

J. Anderson

**I wanna be close, close to Your side, so Heaven is real and death is a lie  
I wanna hear voices of angels above, singing as one...**

**Hallelujah, Holy, Holy, God Almighty, Great I Am,  
Who is worthy none beside Thee, God Almighty, Great I Am.**

**I wanna be near, near to Your heart, loving the world, hating the dark  
I wanna see dry bones living again, singing as one...**

**Hallelujah, Holy, Holy, God Almighty, Great I Am,  
Who is worthy none beside Thee, God Almighty, Great I Am.**

**The mountains shake before You, the demons run and flee  
At the mention of Your name, King of Majesty.  
There is no pow’r in hell or any who can stand  
Before the power and the presence of the Great I Am.  
The great I am. The great I am.  
The great I am. The great I am. The great I am.**

**Hallelujah, Holy, Holy, God Almighty, Great I Am,  
Who is worthy none beside Thee, God Almighty, Great I Am.**

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## POSTLUDE

*Instrumental Music*

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