

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 2021 5:00 PM

SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2021 8:15 AM

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Pastor

REV. MATTHEW KOBS
Assistant Pastor

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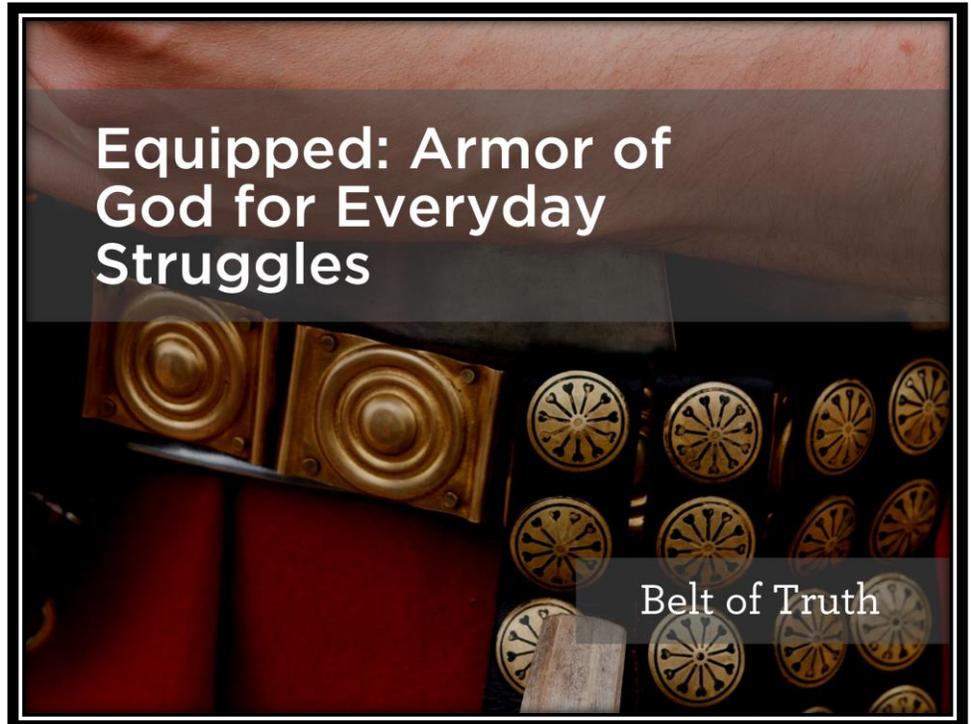
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LOVED BY CHRIST
SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Word of Life Lutheran School

ASCENSION LOCATION

5:00 pm Saturdays & 8:15 am Sundays (Traditional Music)

11:00 am Sundays (Contemporary Music)

9:45 am Sundays (Sunday School and Bible Class)

CFNA PEACE CENTER LOCATION

10:00 am 2nd through 5th Sundays (Nepali Fellowship)

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JUNE 12 & 13, 2021 5:00 PM & 8:15 AM

AS WE GATHER

The devil is working daily to make us turn away from our faith in Christ. Sometimes though, it's not in grand efforts, but in the small ones we encounter every day. The devil can work through exhaustion, anxiety, temptation, and frustration, all common daily occurrences. But God provides strength to battle the devil's ways by giving us His armor. Follow along with Ascension's summer sermon series on Ephesians 6 to see how the armor of God equips us to defend against Satan.

(see cph.org for further description and details of the book, *Equipped: The Armor of God for Everyday Struggles*).

PRELUDE

Organ

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: ALL WHO BELIEVE AND ARE BAPTIZED

LSB 601



1 All who be-lieve and are bap-tized Shall see the Lord's sal - va - tion;
2 With one ac - cord, O God, we pray: Grant us Your Ho - ly Spir - it.



Bap-tized in - to the death of Christ, They are a new cre - a - tion.
Help us in our in - fir - mi - ty Through Je - sus' blood and mer - it.



Through Christ's re-demp-tion they shall stand A - mong the glo-rious,
Grant us to grow in grace each day That by this sac - ra -



heav'n - ly band Of ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion.
ment we may E - ter - nal life in - her - it.

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(Please Stand)

INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

From Ephesians 6

- P** Be strong in the Lord
C **and in the strength of His might.**
- P** Put on the whole armor of God,
C **that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.**
- P** Therefore, take up the whole armor of God
C **that you may be able to withstand in the evil day.**
- P** And having done all,
C **to stand firm.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Silence for self-examination.

- P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
C **I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and given to us His only Son to suffer and die for our salvation. 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. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** **Amen.**

(or)

- A** 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.
- C** **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: BE STRONG IN THE LORD

LSB 665 sts. 1–2

Be strong in the Lord
In armor of light,
With helmet and sword,
With shield for the fight;
On prayer be dependent,
Be belted and shod,
In breastplate resplendent:
The armor of God.

Integrity gird
You round to impart
The truth of His Word
As truth in your heart;
His righteousness wearing
As breastplate of mail,
His victory sharing,
Be strong to prevail.

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SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(Please Be Seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 17:22–24

²²Thus says the Lord GOD: “I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. ²⁴And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 5:1-17

¹We know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

⁶So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

GOSPEL VERSE: STAND UP, STAND UP FOR JESUS

Psalms 127:1a



1 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, Ye sol - diers of the cross.
3 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; Stand in His strength a - lone.



Lift high His roy - al ban - ner; It must not suf - fer loss.
The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own.



From vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry His ar - my He shall lead
Put on the Gos - pel ar - mor; Each piece put on with prayer.



Till ev - 'ry foe is van - quished, And Christ is Lord in - deed.
Where du - ty calls or dan - ger, Be nev - er want - ing there.

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HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 4:26–34

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁶[Jesus] said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? ³¹It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. ³⁴He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

C **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)

HYMN OF THE DAY: CREATOR SPIRIT, BY WHOSE AID

LSB 500



1 Cre - a - tor Spir - it, by whose aid The world's foun - da - tions
2 O Source of un - cre - at - ed light, The bear - er of God's
3 Giv - er of grace, de - scend from high; Your sev'n - fold gifts to
△ 4 Im - mor - tal hon - or, end - less fame At - tend the al - might - y



first were laid, Come, vis - it ev - 'ry hum - ble mind; Come,
gra - cious might, Thrice - ho - ly fount, thrice - ho - ly fire, Our
us sup - ply; Help us e - ter - nal truths re - ceive And
Fa - ther's name; The Sav - ior - Son be glo - ri - fied, Who



pour Your joys on hu - man - kind; From sin and sor - row
hearts with heav'n - ly love in - spire; Your sa - cred, heal - ing
prac - tice all that we be - lieve; Give us Your - self that
for all hu - man - kind has died; To You, O Par - a -



set us free; May we Your liv - ing tem - ples be.
mes - sage bring To sanc - ti - fy us as we sing.
we may see The glo - ry of the Trin - i - ty.
clete, we raise Un - end - ing songs of thanks and praise.

Text and tune: Public domain

(Please Be Seated)

SERMON

(Please Stand)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Be strong in the Lord,

C and in the strength of His might.

P For the Church, that God's people would gather together in person to hear the Word of the Lord, build each other up in song, and receive our Savior who comes to us in His body and blood. Be strong in the Lord,

C and in the strength of His might.

P For the gift of new church workers, that God would raise up a new generation to serve in faithfulness and love. Be strong in the Lord,

C and in the strength of His might.

P For our Congress, our president, our justices and all in authority in our land, that God would grant them wisdom, courage, and honor as they carry out their vocations. Be strong in the Lord,

C and in the strength of His might.

P For Ascension's capital campaign, that the Lord would bless us with generous hearts that improvements to our facilities would enable us to better share Christ's love today and tomorrow. Be strong in the Lord,

C and in the strength of His might.

P For those who do not yet know Christ as Savior, that God would work through us to bear witness to Jesus and share the Good News of His Gospel. Be strong in the Lord,

C **and in the strength of His might.**

P For all who suffer oppression from the evil one, for all who struggle under sickness or loneliness or grief, for all whom we have been asked to remember, [especially _____,] that Christ would grant them deliverance and healing according to His gracious will, Be strong in the Lord,

C **and in the strength of His might.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

(Please Be Seated)

HYMN VERSE: BE STRONG IN THE LORD

LSB 665 sts. 3–4

With eagerness shod
Stand firm in your place,
Or go forth for God
With news of His grace;
No foe shall disarm you
Nor force you to yield,
No arrow can harm you
With faith as your shield.

Though Satan presume
To test you and try,
In helmet and plume
Your head shall be high;
Beset by temptation
Be true to your Lord,
Your helmet salvation
And Scripture your sword.

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OFFERING

Due to COVID-19 we will not be passing an offering plate. Please place gifts and offerings in the wooden box in the narthex. You can also give online as a one-time gift or reoccurring donation. Simply click "Online Giving" at www.ascensionstl.com.

"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

✠ 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.

How should we each examine ourselves before coming to Holy Communion?

1. Be aware of our sins and be sorry for them
2. Believe in our Savior, Jesus Christ, and in His words in the Sacrament
3. Intend, by the help of the Holy Spirit, to live as God's forgiven people walking in newness of life

(Please Stand)

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P 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, who with Your only-begotten Son and the Holy Spirit are one God, one Lord. In the confession of the only true God, we worship the Trinity in person and the Unity in substance, of majesty coequal. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

C 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.**

WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

(Please be Seated)

✝ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS ✝

HYMN: COME, WE THAT LOVE THE LORD

LSB 669



1 Come, we that love the Lord, And let our joys be
 2 Let those re - fuse to sing Who nev - er knew our
 3 The hill of Zi - on yields A thou - sand sa - cred
 4 Then let our songs a - bound, And ev - 'ry tear be



known; Join in a song with sweet ac - cord,
 God; But chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King,
 sweets Be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields,
 dry; We're march - ing through Em - man - uel's ground,



Join in a song with sweet ac - cord And thus sur -
 But chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King May speak their
 Be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, Or walk the
 We're march - ing through Em - man - uel's ground To fair - er



round the throne, And thus sur-round the throne.
 joys a - broad, May speak their joys a - broad.
 gold - en streets, Or walk the gold - en streets.
 worlds on high, To fair - er worlds on high.



Refrain
 We're march - ing to Zi - on, Beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on;



We're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, The beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.

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HYMN: O WORSHIP THE KING

LSB 804



1 O wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.
 2 O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
 3 This earth, with its store of won - ders un - told,
 4 Thy boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?



O grate - ful - ly sing His pow'r and His love;
 Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space;
 Al - might - y, Thy pow'r hath found - ed of old,
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,



Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
 His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
 Es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
 It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,



Pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.
 And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.
 And round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
 And sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust
 and feeble as frail,
 In Thee do we trust,
 nor find Thee to fail.
 Thy mercies, how tender,
 how firm to the end,
 Our maker, defender,
 redeemer, and friend!

O measureless Might,
 ineffable Love,
 While angels delight
 to hymn Thee above,
 Thy humbler creation,
 though feeble their lays,
 With true adoration
 shall sing to Thy praise.

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HYMN: PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY

LSB 790



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
 3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,
 4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -
 5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your
 reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -
 made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly
 fend you; Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy shall
 dore Him! All that has life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His
 lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is
 fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has
 dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -
 prais - es be - fore Him! Let the A - men Sound from His



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 need - ful has been Sent by His gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.
 might - y can do As with His love He be - friends you.
 peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him!

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(Please Stand)

DISMISSAL

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

C Amen.

HYMN VERSE: BE STRONG IN THE LORD

LSB 665 st. 5

So wield well your blade,
 Rejoice in its pow'rs,
 Fight on undismayed
 For Jesus is ours!
 Then in Him victorious
 Your armor lay down,
 To praise, ever glorious,
 His cross and His crown.

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BENEDICTION

P We are people loved by Christ,
C **Sharing Christ's love.**

P Let us bless the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

P 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.
C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: ON WHAT HAS NOW BEEN SOWN

LSB 921



1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;
2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;
3 O grant that each of us, Now met be - fore Thee here,



The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou
Ac - cept what is Thine own And par - don what is ours. Our prais -
May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -



in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!
es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless - ing give.
low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!

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