

# THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2021 11:00 AM

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Pastor

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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 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays (Nepali Fellowship)

# THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JUNE 13, 2021 11:00 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](http://cph.org) for further description and details of the book, *Equipped: The Armor of God for Everyday Struggles*).

## PRELUDE:

## RINGING OF THE BELLS

## WELCOME

### OPENING SONG: SEEK YE FIRST

LSB 712

Seek ye first the kingdom of God,  
And His righteousness.  
And all these things shall be added unto you!  
Allelu, alleluia!

Ask and it shall be given unto you,  
Seek and ye shall find,  
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you,  
Allelu, alleluia!

Man does not live by bread alone,  
But by ev'ry word  
That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord,  
Allelu, alleluia!  
Allelu, alleluia!

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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.

*(Please Be Seated)*

## 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.

## 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*

<sup>22</sup>Thus 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. <sup>23</sup>On 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. <sup>24</sup>And 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*

<sup>1</sup>We 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. <sup>2</sup>For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, <sup>3</sup>if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. <sup>4</sup>For 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. <sup>5</sup>He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

<sup>6</sup>So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, <sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For 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.

<sup>11</sup>Therefore, 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. <sup>12</sup>We 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. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; <sup>15</sup>and 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.

<sup>16</sup>From 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. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, 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)*

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

Mark 4:26–34

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

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

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

<sup>30</sup>And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, <sup>32</sup>yet 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.”

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. <sup>34</sup>He 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)*

## SONG OF THE DAY: RESCUER

Hooper/Fike/Ryan

There is good news for the captive  
Good news for the shamed  
There is good news for the one who walked away  
There is good news for the doubter  
The one religion failed  
For the good Lord has come to seek and save

CHORUS: He's our Rescuer! He's our Rescuer!  
We are free from sin forevermore.  
Oh how sweet the sound! Oh how grace abounds!  
We will praise the Lord our Rescuer.

He is beauty for the blind man  
Riches for the poor  
He is friendship for the one the world ignores  
He is pasture for the weary  
Rest for those who strive  
Oh the good Lord is the way the truth the life  
Yes the good Lord is the way the truth the life CHORUS

So come and be chainless, Come and be fearless  
Come to the foot of Calvary There is redemption for every affliction  
Here at the foot of Calvary REPEAT, CHORUS

Will praise the Lord our Rescuer

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## 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](http://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.**

### **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.**

### **THE 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 SONGS ✝

**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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**SONG: GOOD, GOOD FATHER**

*Tomlin*

I've heard a thousand stories  
Of what they think You're like  
But I've heard the tender whisper  
Of love in the dead of night  
You tell me that You're pleased  
And that I'm never alone

CHORUS: You're a Good Good Father  
It's who You are  
It's who You are  
It's who You are  
And I'm loved by You  
It's who I am  
It's who I am  
It's who I am

I've seen many searching for answers  
Far and wide  
But I know we're all searching for answers  
Only You provide  
Because You know just what we need  
Before we say a word. CHORUS X2

You are perfect in all of Your ways  
You are perfect in all of Your ways  
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us X2

Love so undeniable I can hardly speak  
Peace so unexplainable I can hardly think  
As You call me deeper still  
As You call me deeper still  
As You call me deeper still  
Into love, love, love. CHORUS X2

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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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## BENEDICAMUS

- A** We are people loved by Christ;
- C** **Sharing Christ's love.**
- A** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God!**

## BENEDICTION

- 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 SONG: WHAT A FRIEND

*Maher, Parker, Palmer, Hein*

Everybody has trials and temptations. Everybody knows heart break isolation  
But we can lay our burdens down. Lay our burdens down

CHORUS: What a friend we have in Jesus.

East to West my sins are gone

I see grace on every horizon

And forever and ever His heart is my home

Everybody has fears everybody got worries. Everybody knows sorrow devastation  
But we can lay our burdens down. Lay our burdens down CHORUS

No more betrayal for He is faithful. He fills me up and my cup runneth over  
No more betrayal for He is faithful. How He has proven it over and over

No more betrayal for He is faithful. He fills me up and my cup runneth over

No more betrayal for He is faithful. How He has proven it over and over (over and oh) CHORUS X2

Forever and ever His heart is my home.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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