

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 6, 2020 ~ 8:30am

AS WE GATHER

"Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Jesus' disciples asked. Our Lord responded by welcoming a child into His midst. "Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Children are highly valued by our gracious God because they are completely dependent. On their own, they have nothing, yet they need everything. This is true for all of us in our relationship with God! On our own, we have only our sinful, broken lives and are unable to please God and fulfill His commands. Yet, in Jesus Christ, we possess everything we need! Forgiveness of sins and the guarantee of life forever with God are freely given to those who turn from their sin and receive the forgiveness earned by our crucified and risen Savior. In Jesus, we are, like children, completely dependent. We have nothing to offer, yet everything we need is ours to receive from the gracious hands of our Savior.

Order of Worship

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ Preparation ✠

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

OPENING HYMN

"With the Lord Begin Your Task"

LSB 869

- 1. With the Lord begin your task; Jesus will direct it.
For His aid and counsel ask; Jesus will perfect it.
Ev'ry morn with Jesus rise, And when day is ended,
In His name then close your eyes; Be to Him commended.**
- 2. Let each day begin with prayer, Praise, and adoration.
On the Lord cast ev'ry care; He is your salvation.
Morning, evening, and at night Jesus will be near you,
Save you from the tempter's might, With His presence cheer you.**

4. **If your task be thus begun With the Savior's blessing,
Safely then your course will run, Toward the promise pressing.
Good will follow ev'rywhere While you here must wander;
You at last the joy will share In the mansions yonder.**
5. **Thus, Lord Jesus, ev'ry task Be to You commended;
May Your will be done, I ask, Until life is ended.
Jesus, in Your name begun Be the day's endeavor;
Grant that it may well be done To Your praise forever.**

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OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 92:1–2

- P** It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
- C** **to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;**
- P** to declare Your steadfast love in the morning,
- C** **and Your faithfulness by night.**
- P** The Most High God gathers us to praise His name and declare His love together!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 32:1

- P** Lord God, You promise grace and every blessing to all who come before You and repent of their sins. Hear us now as we, Your humble children, bring our prayers before You.

In silent prayer, we confess our sins to the Lord, seeking His cleansing forgiveness.

- P** Most merciful Father,
- C** **we come before You and admit our sinfulness. In our thoughts, words, and actions, we have failed to do what Your Word demands. We have not honored You fully with our lives, nor have we loved one another as You have first loved us. In the name of our loving Savior Jesus Christ, we ask for Your forgiveness. Because our Savior humbled Himself for our sake upon the cross, enable us in true humility to receive the remission You promise to Your repentant children. Amen.**
- P** "Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered." God the Father has taken your sins and laid them upon our humble Savior Jesus Christ. Because of Christ's sacrifice, God does not count your sins against you. He has taken them away! He remembers them no more! He preserves and delivers you as His child forever! As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

LSB 790

5. **Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen Sound from His people again; Gladly forever adore Him!**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

✠ Service of the Word ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *(The watchman warns the wicked to turn from his way.)* Ezekiel 33:7–9

⁷"So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

(Love is the fulfilling of the law.)

Romans 13:1–10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. ⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in

this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL *(Jesus calls the children of God to humility and repentance.)* Matthew 18:1–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

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

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"
²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. ¹⁰See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹¹For the Son of Man came to save the lost. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. ¹⁵If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON HYMN

"Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

LSB 707

- 1. Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!**
- 2. Order my footsteps by Thy Word And make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, Lord, But keep my conscience clear.**
- 3. Assist my soul, too apt to stray, A stricter watch to keep;
And should I e'er forget Thy way, Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.**

**4. Make me to walk in Thy commands 'Tis a delightful road
Nor let my head or heart or hands Offend against my God.**

SERMON

"Chains of Command"

Romans 13:1

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray. . .

Following each prayer petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

G **Amen.**

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

G **And also with you.** *2 Timothy 4:22*

P Lift up your hearts.

G **We lift them to the Lord.** *[Colossians 3:1]*

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.** *[Psalm 136]*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and to be our Savior. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we ask You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and lead us by Your Holy Spirit. Give us humility and faith to receive the remission of our sins freely offered to us in His body and blood. With dependence upon You and gratitude in our hearts, we praise You, O Father, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray,

G **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

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

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.

RECEIVING THE LORD'S SUPPER

Before opening the pre-packaged communion vessel, make sure the section holding the wafer/body of Christ is on top. When instructed open this section first. After you've consumed the wafer/body of Christ, turn the vessel over and open the wine/blood of Christ section. To avoid spills, please consume as much of the wine/blood of Christ as possible.

THE BLESSING OF THE LORD

PRAYER

P Let us pray. O God the Father, we thank You for the forgiveness and renewal of life You have given us in the precious body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Because we depend on You for everything, grant us Your Holy Spirit that we be sent forth to declare the wonders of our Savior to the world He died to save; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

Psalms 92:1-2; Numbers 6:24-26

P It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

C to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

P to declare Your steadfast love in the morning,

C and Your faithfulness by night.

P The Most High God now sends us out to praise His name and declare His love wherever we go!
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*

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Almighty Father, Bless the Word"

LSB 923

1. **Almighty Father, bless the Word
Which through Your grace we now have heard.
Oh, may the precious seed take root,
Spring up, and bear abundant fruit!**
2. **We praise You for the means of grace
As homeward now our steps we trace.
Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here
May all at last in heav'n appear.**
- △ 3. **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE



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