

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Have faith!

August 10 & 11, 2013

AS WE GATHER

Today's Word is all about faith. The reason for the existence of the Church and why we are here today is this very thing called faith. Faith is a divine gift from God. It is not just a thought or the production of our minds. Faith is the assurance and conviction that it is not because of anything in us but because of what faith grasps hold of---namely, the Word of God is the very content of faith. Walking by faith, as have the saints before us (most notably Abraham), increases our security, as we seek to rely on God's Word of grace. The world, steeped in sin, rallies against God's divine promises, confusing us and causing our hearts and minds to be insecure. But, through Holy Baptism, God grounds us firmly in the gift of faith, magnifies our joy, and assures us of life everlasting.

WELCOME

"They devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN #644 "The Church's One Foundation"

The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation By water and the Word.
From heave He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses With every grace endured.

Though with a scornful wonder The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.

Through toil and tribulation And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
O blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us, May see You face to face.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Our soul waits for the LORD;

People: He is our help and our shield.

Pastor: For our heart is glad in Him,

People: because we trust in His holy name.

Pastor: Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,

People: even as we hope in you. *Psalm 33:20-22*

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: God of grace and mercy,

People: we acknowledge before you the sinfulness of our thoughts, words, and deeds that turn us away from your love. We have not been genuinely grateful for the love you have shown us in Jesus, and we have not shown love or engaged in service to those around us. Instead we have been hurtful, impatient, and unkind. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus who gave His body and shed His blood to purchase and win us from all sins, death, and the power of the devil. Send your Holy Spirit to lead us in your way of divine peace and mercy.

Pastor: God our Father loves us, hears our confession, and speaks His steadfast forgiveness to each of us. Therefore, 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.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Glory be to God on high:

People: (sing) and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
 we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
 O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Father Almighty.
 O Lord God, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
 O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
 That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
 Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
 Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
 have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy;
 Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
 Art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Almighty and merciful God, it is by your grace that we live as your people who offer faithful service. Grant that we may walk by faith, and not by sight, in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 15:1-6 (*God's Covenant with Abram*) After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward." But Abram said, "O Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir." Then the word of the Lord came to him: "this man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir." He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars-if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

EPISTLE Hebrews 11:1-16 (*By Faith*) Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand

that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead. By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith Abraham, even though he was past age- and Sarah herself was barren-was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country-a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 12:22-40 (*Seek His kingdom.*)

Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? "Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there

your heart will be also. "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #735 "Have No Fear, Little Flock"

Have no fear, little flock; Have no fear, little flock

For the Father has chosen To give you the Kingdom; Have no fear little flock!

Have good cheer, little flock; Have good cheer, little flock,

For the Father will keep you In His love forever; Have good cheer, little flock!

Praise the Lord high above; Praise the Lord high above,

For He stoops down to heal you, Uplift and restore you;

Praise the Lord high above!

Thankful hearts raise to God; Thankful hearts raise to God,

For He stays close beside you, In all things works with you;

Thankful hearts raise to God!

SERMON

"A Better Country"

Hebrews 11:1-16

(Rise)

APOSTLES' CREED (*found on the inside back cover of the hymnal*)

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Because it is our Father's good pleasure to give us the kingdom, let us

pray to Him with confidence as dear children speak to their dear fathers.

After each petition:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Pastor: . . . through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Page 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the work,
grant us Thy peace. Amen.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #733

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:

Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream Dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!

HYMN #725 "Children of the Heavenly Father"

Children of the heav'nly Father Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven Such a refuge e'er was given.

God His own doth tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them; In His mighty arms He bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.

Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.

HYMN #743 "Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

Jesus, priceless treasure, Fount of purest pleasure, Truest friend to me,
Ah, how long in anguish Shall my spirit languish, Yearning, Lord, for Thee?
Thou art mine, O Lamb divine! I will suffer naught to hide Thee;
Naught I ask beside Thee.

In Thine arms I rest me; Foes who would molest me Cannot reach me here.
Though the earth be shaking, Ev'ry heart be quaking, Jesus calms my fear.
Lightnings flash And thunders crash; Yet, though sin and hell assail me,
Jesus will not fail me.

Satan, I defy thee; Death, I now decry thee; Fear, I bid thee cease.
World, thou shalt not harm me Nor thy threats alarm me While I sing of peace.
God's great pow'r Guards ev'ry hour; Earth and all its depths adore Him,
Silent bow before Him.

Hence, all earthly treasure! Jesus is my pleasure, Jesus is my choice.
Hence, all empty glory! Naught to me thy story Told with tempting voice.
Pain or loss, Or shame or cross, Shall not from my Savior move me
Since He deigns to love me.

Evil world, I leave thee; Thou canst not deceive me, Thine appeal is vain.
Sin that once did blind me, Get thee far behind me, Come not forth again.
Past thy hour, O pride and pow'r, Sinful life, thy bonds I sever,
Leave thee now forever.

Hence, all fear and sadness! For the Lord of gladness, Jesus, enters in.
Those who love the Father, Though the storms may gather, Still have peace within.
Yea, whate'er I here must bear, Thou art still my purest pleasure,
Jesus, priceless treasure!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Loving God, who ever cares for your people, we give you thanks for
feeding us in this Sacrament with the true body and blood of Jesus, our
Savior. Keep us listening to your voice in the Scriptures, trusting in your
promises like Abraham did, and bring us at last to the joys of your
kingdom and the life in your presence that never ends; through Jesus
Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine upon you
and be gracious unto you. The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and
+ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #798

"The God of Abraham Praise"

Stanzas 1,8,9

The God of Abr'ham praise, Who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days And God of love.
Jehovah, great I AM! By earth and heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name Forever blest.

The God who reigns on high The great archangels sing,
And "Holy, holy, holy!" cry, "Almighty King!
Who was and is the same And evermore shall be;
Jehovah, Father, great I AM! We worship Thee!"

The whole triumphant host Give thanks to God on high.
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!" They ever cry.
Hail, Abr'ham's God and mine! I join the heav'nly lays:
All might and majesty are Thine And endless praise!

Preacher & Liturgist

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Lectors

Grant Gundersen, Dan Vaclav, Pam Akey

Acolytes

Nate Gottschalk, Hailey Kadolph, Kelsey Koepke

Organist

Roger Gottschalk

Music Coordinator

Kim Woller