

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

False Hopes and True Hope

August 17 & 18, 2013

AS WE GATHER

Through Jeremiah the Lord warned that His anger was building like a storm cloud and would soon "burst on the head of the wicked" because false prophets were leading the people astray. Jesus, in today's Gospel, chides His hearers that, though they can perceive the imminent clouds warning of coming storms, they failed to realize the impending divisive familial conflict between the faithful and unbelievers. But in the Epistle, we are reminded of another cloud--the "great cloud of witnesses"--the people with faith in God's promises, people who have gone before us confessing the one true faith in the midst of terrible oppression. They move us to "look to Jesus," who endured the cross for us and our salvation.

WELCOME

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN #905 **"Come, Thou Almighty King"** *Rise for the last stanza*

Come, Thou Almighty King, Help us Thy name to sing; Help us to praise;
Father all glorious, O'er all victorious, Come and reign over , Ancient of Days.

Come, Thou incarnate Word, Gird on Thy mighty sword; Our prayer attend.
Come and Thy people bless, And give Thy Word success,
And let Thy righteousness On us descend.

Come, holy Comforter. Thy sacred witness bear In this glad hour!
Thou, who almighty art, Now rule in ev'ry heart,
And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of pow'r.

(Rise) To Thee, great One in Three, Eternal praises be Hence evermore!
Thy sov'reign majesty May we in glory see, And to eternity Love adore.

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay

aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely.

People: Let us look to Jesus, who endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2, adapted

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: By faith Abraham, when tested, was willing to offer up Isaac because he believed God would raise him from the dead.

People: We confess that we have avoided many circumstances which might cause us hurt or sorrow, preferring easier roads and quieter paths. Forgive us, Lord, and strengthen our faith.

Pastor: By faith Moses chose to be mistreated with God's people rather than enjoying the treasures of Egypt and the pleasures of sin.

People: We confess that we have put higher value on worldly wealth, easy living, and the approval of our friends than we have on standing with our Savior. Forgive us, Lord, and strengthen our faith.

Pastor: By faith people throughout the centuries have endured injustice, oppression, imprisonment, and death rather than renouncing their Lord.

People: We confess that we have preferred to turn blind eyes as our brothers and sisters in the faith have stood up for their Lord, deciding to watch silently from the sidelines. Forgive us, Lord, and strengthen our faith.

Pastor: Look to Jesus! For us and our salvation He endured the cross, rose victorious over sin, death, and the power of the devil, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. For His sake our heavenly Father has had mercy on us. Through Word and Sacrament the Holy Spirit has worked faith in our hearts that we may look to Jesus in every time of trial. 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.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God!

HYMN OF PRAISE **"Glory to God in the Highest"**

Page 204

To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing-
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.

To You, O sole-begotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heart-felt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high-

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Merciful Lord, cleanse and defend your Church by the sacrifice of Christ.

People: United with Him in Holy Baptism, give us grace to receive with thanksgiving the fruits of His redeeming work and daily follow in His way;

Pastor: through the same 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 Jeremiah 23:16-29 (*The Lord rails against those who are listening to false prophets, who do not speak His Word of warning.*) This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hope. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord. They keep saying to those who despise me, 'The Lord says: You will have peace.' And to all who follow the stubbornness of their hearts they say, 'No harm will come to you.' But which of them has stood in the council of the Lord to see or to hear his word? Who has listened and heard his word? See, the storm of the Lord will burst out in wrath, a whirlwind swirling down on the heads of the wicked. The anger of the Lord will not turn back until he fully accomplishes the purposes of his heart. In days to come you will understand it clearly. I did not send these prophets, yet they have run with their message; I did not speak to them, yet they have prophesied. But if they had stood in my council, they would have proclaimed my words to my people and would have turned them from their evil ways and from their evil deeds. "Am I only a God nearby," declares the Lord, "and not a God far away? Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the Lord. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the Lord. "I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name. They say, 'I had a dream! I had a dream!' How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the delusions of their own minds? They think the dreams they tell one another will make my people forget my name, just as their fathers forgot my name through Baal worship. Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?" declares the Lord. "Is not my word like fire," declares the Lord, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"

EPISTLE Hebrews 11:17-31 (*People of faith throughout history point us to Jesus, who endured the cross and was victorious.*) By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only Son, even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones. By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days. By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 12:49-56 (*Jesus explains that His coming brings divisions, even within families.*) "I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed! Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against mother-in-law." He said to the crowd: "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does, And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is. Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time?"

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #610 "Lord Jesus, Think on Me"

Lord Jesus, think on me And purge away my sin;
From worldly passions set me free And make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me, By anxious thoughts oppressed;
Let me Your loving servant be And taste Your promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me Amid the battle's strife;
In all my pain and misery, O be my health and life!

Lord Jesus, think on me Nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity Point out Your chosen way.

Lord Jesus, think on me That, when this life is past,
I may the eternal brightness see And share Your joy at last.

SERMON ***"Worthless Words and Worthy Words"*** **Jeremiah 23:16-29**

(Rise)

NICENE 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: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

After each petition:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Pastor: through 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: And also with you.

AGNUS DEI ***"Lamb of God"***

Page 210

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(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 #606 "I Lay My Sins on Jesus"

I lay my sins on Jesus, The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us From accursed load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus To wash my crimson stains
Clean in His blood most precious Till not a spot remains.

I lay my wants on Jesus; All fullness dwells in Him;
He heals all my diseases; My soul He does redeem.
I lay my griefs on Jesus, My burdens and my cares;
He from them all releases; He all my sorrows shares.

I rest my soul on Jesus, This weary soul of mine;
His right hand me embraces; I on His breast recline.
I love the name of Jesus, Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;
Like fragrance on the breezes His name abroad is poured.

HYMN #580 "The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace"

The Gospel shows the Father's grace, Who sent His Son to save our race,
Proclaims how Jesus lived and died That we might thus be justified.

It sets the Lamb before our eyes, Who made the atoning sacrifice,
And calls the souls with guilt oppressed To come and find eternal rest.

It brings the Savior's righteousness To robe our souls in royal dress;
From all our guilt it brings release And gives the troubled conscience peace.

It is the pow'r of God to save From sin and Satan and the grave;
It works the faith which firmly clings To all the treasures which it brings.
It bears to all the tidings glad And bids their hearts no more be sad;
The weary, burdened souls it cheers And banishes their guilty fears.

May we in faith its message learn Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;
May we in faith its truth confess And praise the Lord, our righteousness.

HYMN #411 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

*Refrain: In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, And show me the way to the Father.
Refrain

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, We shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks, heavenly Father, that you have strengthened us in faith for whatever trials lie ahead. By your Holy Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith and in fervent love toward one another through good times and bad until we join the saints who have gone before us in faith and who now behold and know Jesus in the beauty of the heavenly realms; through the same 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 on you and be gracious to you; the LORD look on you in favor and + give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #813 "Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng"

Stanzas 1-3 & 7

Rejoice, O pilgrim Throng! Rejoice, give thanks and sing;
Your festal banner wave on high, The cross of Christ your king.

Refrain Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

With voice as full and strong As ocean's surging praise,
Send forth the sturdy hymns of old, The psalms of ancient days. *Refrain*

With all the angel choirs, With all the saints on earth
Pour out the strains of joy and bliss, True rapture, no blest mirth. *Refrain*

Yet on and onward still, With hymn and chant and song,
Through gate and porch and columned aisle The hallowed pathways throng. *Refrain*

Still lift your standard high, Still march in firm array,
As pilgrims through the darkness wend Till dawns the golden day. *Refrain*

At last the march shall end; The wearied ones shall rest;
The pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*

Praise Him who reigns on high, The Lord whom we adore:
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, One God forevermore. *Refrain*

Preacher & Liturgist
Lectors
Acolytes
Organist
Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender
Manley Hurst, Jim Adams, Bob Reynolds
Tyler Kroner, Rhiannon Mueller, AJ Olson
Roger Gottschalk
Kim Woller