

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Lord, Open to Us the Narrow Door

August 24 & 25, 2013

AS WE GATHER

Heaven is wide open, thanks to the sacrifice of God's Son, our Savior. Isaiah had prophesied that "all flesh shall come to worship before Me, declares the Lord." But Jesus warned that God's Old Testament people might not be included--if they failed to enter by Him, the Narrow Door. Yet those of us in whom the Holy Spirit has worked faith are not immune to straying. So, we trust that when we encounter difficulties, we may be sure that our heavenly Father is using them to discipline us so that we may be with Him forever.

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 #868 "Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun" *Rise for the last stanza*

Awake, my soul, and with the sun Thy daily stage of duty run;
Shake off dull sloth and joyful rise To pay thy morning sacrifice.

In conversation be sincere, Thy conscience as the noon day clear;
Think how the all seeing God thy ways And all thy secret thoughts surveys.

All praise to Thee, who hast kept And hast refreshed me while I slept;
Grant, Lord, when I from death shall wake, I may of endless light partake.

Lord, I my vows to Thee renew; Disperse my sins as morning dew;
Guard my first springs of thought and will And with Thyself my spirit fill.

Direct, control, suggest this day All I design or do or say
That all my pow'rs with all their might In Thy sole glory may unite.

(Rise)

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.

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: People will come from east and west, and from north and south,

People: and recline at table in the kingdom of God.

Pastor: Strive to enter through the narrow door.

People: Many will seek to enter and will not be able.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: By ourselves in our fallen condition, we would not be able to enter. But for Jesus' sake, God offers forgiveness, free and full. Let us therefore confess our sins. Most merciful God,

People: we confess that we have taken your Son's sacrifice for granted. We have assumed that heaven's gate is wide open for us. Worse, at times we have thought that we deserved to be admitted. Forgive us. When you have disciplined us as the loving Father you are, we have failed to trust that it was for our own good. We have complained and rebelled. Forgive us. We have not striven for peace with everyone; we have not seen each other as those for whom Christ died. Forgive us, and help us to make straight paths, walking in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: You have not come to a fearful place, as did Moses nearing Mount Sinai, but "you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem . . . and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant." By the sacrifice of His body and blood He has forgiven all our sins. The gate to the heavenly banquet is open to all who enter through Him. 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE #901 "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty" *Stanza 5*

Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee; Let Thy will be done indeed.
May I undisturbed draw near Thee While Thou dost Thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord, you have called us to enter your kingdom through the narrow door.

People: Guide us by your Word and Spirit, and lead us now and always into the feast of your Son, Jesus Christ,

Pastor: who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 66:18-23 (*The Lord promises to bring His people home; people from many nations shall join them.*) “And I, because of their actions and their imaginations, am about to come and gather all nations and tongues, and they will come and see my glory. “I will set a sign among them, and I will send some of those who survive to the nations—to Tarshish, to the Libyans and Lydians (famous as archers), to Tubal and Greece, and to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations. And they will bring all your brothers, from all the nations, to my holy mountain in Jerusalem as an offering to the LORD—on horses, in chariots and wagons, and on mules and camels,” says the LORD. “They will bring them, as the Israelites bring their grain offerings, to the temple of the LORD in ceremonially clean vessels. And I will select some of them also to be priests and Levites,” says the LORD. “As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me,” declares the LORD, “so will your name and descendants endure. From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me,” says the LORD.

EPISTLE Hebrews 12:4-13 (*The Lord disciplines those He loves as a father disciplines his children.*) In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.” Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. “Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 13:22-30 (*Only those entering the heavenly banquet by the narrow door will be able to enter.*) Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?” He said to them, “Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Sir, open the door for us.’ “But he will answer, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’ “Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ “But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from. Away from

me, all you evildoers!’ “There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last.”

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #702 “May Faith Looks Up to Thee”

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.

Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away:

O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart; My zeal inspire!

As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee

Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!

While life’s dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread, Be Thou my guide;

Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow’s tears away,

Nor let me ever stray From Thee aside!

When ends life’s transient dream, When death’s cold, sullen stream Shall o’er me roll,

Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;

O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

SERMON

“The Harvest of Discipline”

Hebrews 12:4-13

(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: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Gracious Father, your Son who is first made Himself last for us and our salvation. Because the door is narrow and many will not enter, do not let us be led astray or lose the faith you have granted to us.

People: Instill in us an abiding trust in your Son that looks forward to the day when all your children will be gathered at the table in your kingdom.

Pastor: Gracious Father, thank you for making us your children in Baptism. Help us to receive your discipline in faith, rejoicing that you discipline those whom you love so that we may share your holiness.

People: When that discipline feels painful, remind us of that the harvest of righteousness and peace is the result of Your loving discipline in our lives.

Pastor: Gracious Father, because the door is narrow, open the mouths of your people to proclaim the saving work of Jesus and open the ears of those who do not know Christ to hear and believe.

People: Give to us joy and boldness that moves us to share the truth with others; bless also the outreach efforts of this congregation and our Synod.

Pastor: Gracious Father, the time is coming when you will gather all nations and tongues, when all flesh will come to worship before you. We give you thanks for Loni Orth, Arnold Schank, and for all those who lived with faith in Jesus, whose souls now dwell with you.

People: Fill your entire Church with gratitude that we have received a kingdom that cannot be shaken, so that all of your people offer to you acceptable worship, with reverence and awe.

Pastor: Gracious Father, guide, protect and direct those who govern us according to your will. Bless our president, our governor and mayor, and for all who make, administer and judge our laws.

People: Help them to bear the sword of civil government faithfully and bring peace and unity to our nation and world.

Pastor: Gracious Father, you promise that though a righteous man may have many troubles, you deliver him from them all. Deliver all who are enduring the troubles of earth, sickness, affliction, and times of distress, including Jerry, Henry, Eleanor, Louise, Lorina, Anna, Bill, Jean, Sarah and Joe.

Pastor: Help them, heal them, protect them from the evil one and grant them a faith that looks humbly but confidently to you through all the trials of life.

Pastor: Gracious Father, thank you for the many blessings you bestow upon us.

People: We join with Virginia and Harvey Laurich and Nancy Cesar praising your holy name.

Pastor: Gracious Father, thank you for giving us each day our daily bread. Grant your blessing to all farmers. Protect them from harm, strengthen them

for their labors, and provide a plentiful harvest.

People: Protect all people and crops from flood and drought, from famine and disease. Fill our hearts with gratitude for your provision of everything we need for this body and life.

Pastor: Gracious Father, in Christ, the mediator of your new covenant, you have set your people apart and made us your own. Prepare us to receive your Son's body and blood in the fellowship of this altar.

People: Because the sprinkled blood of your Son has brought us to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, enable us to live each day not in immorality but in holiness that reflects your holiness.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI HYMN #527 "O Savior, Precious Savior"

Stanzas 1-2

O Savior, precious Savior, Whom yet unseen we love;
O name of might and favor, All other names above,
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our holy Lord and King.

O bringer of salvation, Who wondrously has wrought
Thyself the revelation Of love beyond our thought,
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our gracious Lord and King.

(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 #526 "You Are the Way; through You Alone"

You are the way; through You alone Can we the Father find;
In You, O Christ, has God revealed His heart and will and mind.

You are the truth; Your Word alone True wisdom can impart;
You only can inform the mind And purify the heart.

You are the life; the empty tomb Proclaims Your conqu'ring arm,
And those who put their trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.

You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win Whose joys eternal flow.

HYMN #862 "Oh, Blest the House"

Oh, blest the house, whate'er befall, Where Jesus Christ is all in all!
A home that is not wholly His How sad and poor and dark it is!

Oh, blest that house where faith is found And all in hope and love abound;
They trust their God and serve Him still And do in all His holy will!

Oh, blest the parents who give heed Unto their children's foremost need
And weary not of care or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!

Oh, blest that house; it prospers well. In peace and joy the parents dwell,
And in their children's lives is shown How richly God can bless His own.

Then here will I and mine today A solemn promise make and say:
Though all the world forsake His Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

HYMN #694 "Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower"

Thee will I love, my strength, my tower; Thee will I love, my hope, my joy.
Thee will I love with all my power, With ardor time shall ne'er destroy.
Thee will I love, O Light divine, So long as life is mine.

Thee will I love, my life, my Savior, Who art my best and truest friend.
Thee will I love and praise forever, For never shall Thy kindness end.
Thee will I love with all my heart Thou my Redeemer art!

I thank Thee, Jesus, Sun from heaven, Whose radiance hath brought light to me;
I thank Thee, who hast richly given All that could make me glad and free;
I thank Thee that my soul is healed By what Thy lips revealed.

O keep me watchful, then, and humble; Permit me never more to stray.
Uphold me when my feet would stumble, And keep me on the narrow way.
Fill all my nature with Thy light, O Radiance strong and bright!

Thee will I love, my crown of gladness; Thee will I love, my God and Lord,
amid the darkest depths of sadness, And not for hope of high reward,
For Thine own sake, O Light divine, So long as life is mine.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;

People: for His steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, we give thanks that you have refreshed us with
this foretaste of the feast to come. And we ask that you accompany us in
our pilgrimage until we enter the marriage feast of the Lamb in His
kingdom, which has no end; 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: May our heavenly Father, who created you, bless you; may our Lord
Jesus, who opened heaven to you, bless you; may the Holy Spirit, who has
worked faith in your heart, bless you now and forever.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #861 "Christ Be My Leader"

Christ be my Leader by night as by day; Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care, Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth, Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand,
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.

Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife; Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation; with Jesus I reign.

Preacher & Liturgist
Lectors
Acolytes
Organist
Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender, Jr.
Jane Adams, Jodi Drew
Rachel Osell, Kaylee Quillen, Cassy Barry
Roger Gottschalk
Kim Woller