

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

First Place Honor

August 31 - September 1, 2013

AS WE GATHER

At first it would appear that the main issue of today's readings is merely a lesson in proper etiquette, the curbing of pride, the cultivation of humility, and how to conduct yourself in social gatherings. That, of course, is not the Gospel. Today, the Word uses an example of how we are with one another to raise our awareness of how we are with God, and He with us. When we know and truly believe that, as Luther said, "we are beggars" before God and cannot free ourselves from our sin, only then can we see our Lord's humble service for what it is, the one sacrifice that raises us to eternal life through the forgiveness of our sins. What humble thanksgiving our life becomes.

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 #902 "Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now" *Rise for the last stanza*

Lord, Jesus Christ, be present now; Our hearts in true devotion bow.

Your Spirit send with light divine, And let Your truth within us shine.

Unseal our lips to sing Your praise In endless hymns through all our days.

Increase our faith and light our minds; and set us free from doubt that blinds.

Then shall we join in hosts that cry, "O holy, holy Lord Most High!"

And in the light of that blest place We then shall see You face to face.

All glory to the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!

To You, O blessed Trinity, Be praise throughout eternity!

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence

People: or stand in the place of the great.

Pastor: Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,

People: and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us make humble confession of our sins before the presence of the King of the universe so that we may receive His gifts of love and offer up a sacrifice of praise. O God, our merciful Father,

People: we confess that we must take the lowest place in your holy presence, for we have sinned and do not deserve even your smallest kindness. Yet in our Baptism we have been claimed by you; and at your heavenly banquet we have been invited to "move up higher" because of the all-availing sacrifice of your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. For His sake, then, grant us forgiveness of our sin, and a new heart, that we may live in brotherly love and offer right sacrifices of praise to your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: "Friends, move up higher" in the grace and mercy of God who forgives you all your sins and welcomes you into the fellowship of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I pronounce to you that "Your sins are forgiven," in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"This is the Feast"

Page 171

Pastor: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

People: (sung)

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength
and honor and blessing and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord of grace and mercy, teach us by your Holy Spirit to follow the example of your Son in true humility, that we may withstand

the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT Proverbs 25:2-10 (*Do not put yourself forward.*) It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings. As the heavens are high and the earth is deep, so the hearts of kings are unsearchable. Remove the dross from the silver, and out comes material for the silversmith; remove the wicked from the king's presence, and his throne will be established through righteousness. Do not exalt yourself in the king's presence, and do not claim a place among great men; it is better for him to say to you, "Come up here," than for him to humiliate you before a nobleman. What you have seen with your eyes do not bring hastily to court, for what will you do in the end if your neighbor puts you to shame? If you argue your case with a neighbor, do not betray another man's confidence, or he who hears it may shame you and you will never lose your bad reputation.

EPISTLE Hebrews 13:1-17 (*Sacrifices Pleasing to God*)

Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by ceremonial foods, which are of no value to those who eat them. We have an altar from which those who minister at the tabernacle have no right to eat. The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 14:1-14 (*Jesus teaches in profound parables.*) One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. There in front of him was a man suffering from dropsy. Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?" But they remained silent, so taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him away. Then he asked them, "If one of you has a son or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull him out?" And they had nothing to say. When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this man your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #842 "Son of God, Eternal Savior"

Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us Hallows all our human race,
You our Head, who, throned in glory, For Your own will ever plead;
Fill us with Your love and pity, Heal our wrongs and help our need.

As You, Lord, have lived for others, So may we for others love.
Freely have Your gifts been granted; Freely may Your servants give.
Yours the gold and Yours the silver, Yours the wealth of land and sea;
We but stewards of Our bounty Held in solemn trust will be.

Come, O Christ, and reign among us, King of love and Prince of Peace;
Hush the storm of strife and passion, Bid its cruel discords cease.
By Your patient years of toiling, By Your silent hours of pain,
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure, Stem our selfish greed of gain.

Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us Hallows all our human race;
By Your praying, by Your willing That Your people should be one,
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition: Here on earth Your will be done.

SERMON "A Banquet For Beggars" Luke 14:1-14

(Rise)

NICENE CREED *(as found in 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)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray to our heavenly Father with confidence for He is full of mercy and compassion. Kind and loving Father, your Son came among us in humility, embracing the place of a servant in order to raise us to the dignity of being your children.

People: Fill all your baptized people with the same spirit of humility and grant us the joy that comes from knowing that in Christ we have a place in your kingdom.

Pastor: Holy God, your Son instituted the Office of the Holy Ministry that there might ever be in His Church men who are called to watch over the souls of your children as those who must give an account to Him. Strengthen all pastors to faithfully preach the Word and administer the sacraments.

People: Bless all pastors to bring the consolation of Christ to those struggling under the burden of sin and grant your children the grace to receive their service with joy.

Pastor: God of justice, you exalt the humble and humble the proud in your own appointed time. We commend to you the elected officials of our land.

People: Grant them the desire to govern as servants and give them wisdom and courage to know what is right and follow it.

Pastor: Faithful One, you call us to keep our lives free from love of money and to be content with what we have. We thank you for the gift of work. Grant all employers a determination to pay their workers a just wage, for the

laborer is worthy of his hire. Grant all employees to do their work with zeal as done unto you.

People: Remember in mercy those who can find no gainful employment, and keep them from a spirit of discouragement and fear. Transform the minds of those who think of work only as drudgery to see it as a precious gift from you.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, we commend to you all who pass through difficult circumstances: the lonely and the persecuted, the imprisoned and the addicted, those suffering from mental distress and those suffering from bodily affliction especially those we have been asked to remember at this altar: Nancy, Helen, Lois, Jerry, Henry, Eleanor, Louise, Lorina, Anna, Bill, Jean, Sarah and Joe.

People: Comfort them with your promise that you will never leave or forsake them.

Pastor: Almighty God, you have blessed mankind with the gift of marriage, and so we give you thanks for Jim and Janis Spitzer, as they celebrate their 43rd anniversary, and Phil and Danielle Spitzer, as they celebrate their first anniversary.

People: Bless these couples and all marriages with the holy love of Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Merciful Father, your Son has prepared His altar as a refuge for those who are weary and heavy-burdened with sin and the afflictions of this age.

People: Bless all who gather to receive their Savior's very body and blood with a joyful faith in His forgiveness and with hope in His promises.

Pastor: God of life, in the fellowship of your Son's Church, we do not die but live in Him forevermore. Receive our thanks for all who have departed this age in your faith and friendship. Bless especially the Weil family as they remember Cindy, their departed daughter and sister.

People: Bring us with them into the city that is to come, the heavenly Jerusalem, where with saints and angels we will praise your glorious name forever.

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

People: 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

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 world,
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 # 623 "Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray"

Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray That we may feast on You today;
Beneath these forms of bread and wine Enrich us with Your grace divine.

Give us, who share this wondrous food, Your body broken and Your blood,
The grateful peace of sins forgiv'n, The certain joys of heirs of heav'n.

By faith Your Word has made us bold To seize the gift of love retold;
All that You are we here receive, And all we are to You we give.

One bread, one cup, one body, we, Rejoicing in our unity,
Proclaim Your love until You come To bring Your scattered loved ones home.

Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray: O keep us steadfast till that day
When each will be Your welcomed guest In heaven's high and holy feast.

HYMN #789 "Praise and Thanksgiving"

Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer For all things living, Created good:
Harvest of sown fields, Fruits of the orchard,
Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood.

Bless, Lord, the labor We bring to serve You

That with our neighbor We may be fed.

Sowing or tilling, We would work with You, Harvesting, milling For daily bread.

Father, providing Food for Your children, By Your wise guiding Teach us to share
One with another, So that, rejoicing With us, all others May know Your care.

HYMN #636 "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"

Soul, adorn yourself with gladness, Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness, Come
into the daylight's splendor, There with joy your praises render. Bless the One
whose grace unbounded This amazing banquet founded;

He, though heav'nly, high, and holy, Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

Hasten as a bride to meet Him, And with loving rev'ence greet Him.

For with words of life immortal He is knocking at your portal.

Open wide the gates before Him, Saying, as you there adore Him:

Grant, Lord, that I now receive You, That I nevermore will leave You.

He who craves a precious treasure Neither cost nor pain will measure;

But the priceless gifts of heaven God to us has freely given.

Though the wealth of earth were proffered, None could buy the gifts here
offered: Christ's true body, for you riven, And His blood, for you once given.

Now in faith I humbly ponder Over this surpassing wonder
That the bread of life is boundless Though the souls it feeds are countless: With
the choicest wine of heaven Christ's own blood to us is given.

Oh, most glorious consolation, pledge and seal of my salvation!

Jesus, source of lasting pleasure, Truest friend, and dearest treasure,

Peace beyond all understanding, Joy into all life expanding:

Humbly now, I bow before You; Love incarnate, I adore You;

Worthily let me receive You And, so forward, never leave You.

Jesus, sun of life, my splendor, Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,

Jesus, joy of my desiring, Fount of life, my soul inspiring:

At Your feet I cry, my maker, Let me be a fit partaker

Of this blessed food from heaven, For our good, Your glory, given.

Lord, by love and mercy driven, You once left Your throne in heaven
On the cross for me to languish And to die in bitter anguish,
To forego all joy and gladness And to shed Your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living, Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.

Jesus, bread of life, I pray You, Let me gladly here obey You.
By Your love I am invited, Be Your love with love requited;
By this Supper let me measure, Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure. Through
the gift of grace You give me As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; 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 #923 "Christ, the Word of God Incarnate"

Preacher	Pastor Stanton
Liturgist	Pastor Bender
Lectors	Jim Laux, John Ficken
Acolytes	Riley Hoeg, Abigail Hoffman, Sydney Kadolph
Organist	Roger Gottschalk
Music Coordinator	Kim Woller



Starting the week of September 8, groups will gather to join together in the study of God's Word using a book written by John Kieschnick,

"The Best is Yet to Come".

A sermon series will also accompany the study. This ten week spiritual journey will help us all to see our Lord Jesus in the many different aspects of Christian life.

Groups are available:

Monday

11:30am in the Instructional Room
Leader: Laurel Privatt

6:30pm in the Instructional Room
Leader: John Ficken

Wednesday

1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall
Leader: Frank Gabler

6:30pm at Bob Reynolds & Bob Strysick's homes

Thursday

10:00am in the Fellowship Hall
Leader: Pastor Stanton

6:30pm at Pastor Bender's home or in the Fellowship Hall
Leader: Pastor Bender

Sign up sheets are in the narthex.

The book will cost \$15 and will be available starting Labor Day weekend in the narthex and also in the church office.

If you can't join a group, please consider purchasing the book and reading a chapter each week.