

# NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Take Heart; It Is I; Do Not Be Afraid

July 28 & 29, 2012

## AS WE GATHER

"Fear is the mind killer," said one sci-fi character. Fear is the mind killer---it has the power to steal our joy, to distract us from our hope, and to enhance whatever current misery befalls us. We are surrounded by fears---for economic security, for the well-being of our family, for safety in our violent and contentious world, among others. Today, Jesus comes speaking to us and to our fears. "It is I," He says to us. And indeed it is Jesus---in the Word that speaks forgiveness to our guilty hearts, in the water that cleanses us from the stain of sin and marks us as God's own, and in the Sacrament that feeds us heaven's bread and salvation's cup to sustain our lives in Christ, both for now and for all eternity. Fear is the mind killer and Christ is the fear killer.

## WELCOME

## HANDSHAKES & HUGS

+ PREPARATION +

## OPENING HYMN # 595

"O Blessed Spring"

(Please rise)

## INVOCATION

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised.

**People: And His greatness is unsearchable.** *Psalm 145:3*

**All: They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.** *Psalm 145:6*

## CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

**People: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and given to us His only Son to suffer and die for our salvation. 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.**

Pastor: May He who began this good work in you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Peace be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

"This is the Feast"

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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.

## SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and most merciful God, the protector of all who trust in you, strengthen our faith and give us courage to believe that in your love you will rescue us from all adversities; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Please be seated)

+WORD+

**OLD TESTAMENT** Genesis 9:8-17 (*God places the rainbow as a sign of the covenant relationship between Him and all flesh.*) Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth." And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to

destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.” So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.”

**SECOND LESSON** Ephesians 3:14-21 (*Christ dwells in your hearts by faith.*) For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

(Please rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** Mark 6:45-56 (*Do not be afraid; I am here.*) Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray. When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened. When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed.

(Please be seated)

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

### SERMON HYMN #809 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

SERMON “SEEING GHOSTS” *Mark 6:45-56*

(Please rise)

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

(Please 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.

(Please rise)

## PRAYERS

**Pastor:** Giving thanks unto the Lord for He is good, let us present our petitions, confident that He will provide in the way He knows is best for our physical and spiritual well-being. Lord Jesus, we are sinners who too easily forget your love and goodness. Let your rainbow after storms remind us constantly of the breadth and length and height and depth of your love for us. Draw us constantly to you and keep us in the faith once delivered to the saints. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Lord Jesus, when we are afraid, calm us by the promise of your presence. When we are troubled, give us courage and peace, teaching us to turn our eyes to you in faith, relying on your promises. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Lord Jesus, you warned that there would be false prophets who come to us in sheep’s clothing. We confess that we too easily listen to them because they speak what we want to hear. Enlighten us by your Word so that we recognize all false teaching, that our ears might be closed to the message of any who distort your Scriptures. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Lord Jesus, ensure that pastors who have your Word speak that Word faithfully. Open their mouths to declare the whole counsel of God. Give them compassion to pay careful attention to the flock which the Holy Spirit has made them overseers. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Lord, we join those who remember and praise you for your many blessings; Henry & Eleanor Weil on their wedding anniversary; Denton Ebert who remembers his wife Linda; Robin Helinski remembering her sister Ruth and Carol Derus who praises you for her grandson Samuel and daughter-in-law Kim’s recovery. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Lord Jesus, all who touched even the fringe of your garment were made well. Grant healing to everyone in need today, Ron, Louise, Gerald, Donald, Irma and Joe. Watch over those who face difficulties in life. Protect those in the armed forces of our country. Grant your children the peace of your presence and patient trust in your promise to help them in times of trouble. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, Paul bowed his knees before your Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. Grant that our families on earth reflect His Fatherly care. Bless all whom you have joined as husband and wife, that our marriages become a reflection of your love for your Church. Fill parents with the desire to raise their children in the Holy Christian Church, and fill children with honor and respect for their parents. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and forever.

**People: Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT +

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### THE PEACE

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

**People: Amen.**

#### AGNUS DEI

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

(Please 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 # 628**

**"Your Table I Approach"**

**HYMN # 686**

**"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"**

**HYMN # 566**

**"By Grace I'm Saved"**

#### COMMON DISMISSAL

(Please rise)

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Father of mercy, into the darkness of our sin and death you sent your Son, who in word and deed fulfilled your saving promise and declared us to be a holy people. Give us trusting hearts that we may rejoice in His saving presence among us through the means of grace and be quieted from the fears and anxieties of our hearts, so that we may follow Him with all boldness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

#### BENEDICTION

**People: Amen.**

#### CLOSING HYMN # 722

**"Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"**

Preacher/Liturgist

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Lectors

Dan Vaclav, Jodi Drew

Acolytes

Connor Boinski, Rhiannon Mueller

Organist

Roger Gottschalk

Music Coordinator

Kim Woller