

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Debts Cancelled

June 15 & 16, 2013

AS WE GATHER Today, we encounter two parables---one in the Old Testament reading and one in our Gospel reading. They are two very different parables, but they both lead to the same result---forgiveness. In our reading from 2 Samuel 11, the prophet Nathan shares a story with King David, which involves a rich man stealing a little ewe lamb from a poor man. With the help of Nathan, David comes to see his own sin, repents, and receives forgiveness. In our reading from Luke 7, Jesus Himself tells a story of two debtors who owed different amounts of money; regardless, both debts were cancelled. Making a connection between the sinful woman at His feet and the debtor who owed much, Jesus forgives the woman's sins. As you hear God's Word today, know that it is His Word specifically for you. No matter who you are or what you have done, God's Word of Gospel gives forgiveness for Jesus' sake. Today Your mercy calls us to wash away our sin. However great our trespass, whatever we have been. However long from mercy our hearts have turned away. Your precious blood can wash us and make us clean today. *LSB 915:1*

+ PREPARATION +

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

OPENING HYMN #915 “Today Your Mercy Calls Us”

Today your mercy calls us To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass, Whatever we have been.
However long from mercy Our hearts have turned away,
your precious blood can wash us And make us clean today.

Today your gate is open, And all who enter in
Shall find a Father’s welcome And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten, A present joy be giv’n,
A future grace be promised, A glorious crown in heav’n.

Today our Father calls us; His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather Around the heav’nly gates.
No question will be asked us How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered, It is our Father’s home.

O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,
What should we do without you When heart and eye run o’er?
When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law,

People: for "The righteous shall live by faith."

Pastor: Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law

People: by becoming a curse for us---for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree."

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Lord God, we confess that so often we live lives as if Christ did not live in us. We choose to live for ourselves and not for others. We resent the various vocations to which you call us to serve others. We cannot free ourselves from this sin, since a person is "not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ" *Gal. 2:16*. As people belonging to Christ, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." *Gal. 2:20* Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I 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 #818

“In Thee Is Gladness”

In Thee is gladness Amid all sadness, Jesus sunshine of my heart.
By Thee are given The gifts of heaven, Thou the true Redeemer art.
Our souls Thou wakest, Our bonds Thou breakest;
Who trust Thee surely Has built securely; He stands forever: Alleluia!
Our hearts are pining To see Thy shining,
Dying or living To Thee are cleaving; Naught can us sever: Alleluia!
Since He is ours, We fear no powers, Not of earth nor sin nor death.
He sees and blesses In worst distresses; He can change them with a breath.
Wherefore the story Tell of His glory With hearts and voices;
All heav’n rejoices In Him forever: Alleluia!
We shout for gladness, Triumph o’er sadness, Love Him and praise Him
And still shall raise Him Glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gifts of faith, hope, and love that we may receive the forgiveness you have promised and love what you have commanded; 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 2 Samuel 11:26---12:10, 13-14 (*Nathan confronts David regarding his sin.*) When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the LORD. The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, "There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. "Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him." David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, "As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to die! He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity." Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.' Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. But because by doing this you have made the enemies of the LORD show utter contempt, the son born to you will die."

EPISTLE Galatians 2:15-21, 3:10-14 (*We, too, have put our faith in Christ.*) "We who are Jews by birth and not 'Gentile sinners' know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified. "If, while we seek to be justified in Christ, it becomes evident that we ourselves are sinners, does that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! If I rebuild what I destroyed, I prove that I am a lawbreaker. For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!" All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." Clearly no

one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith." The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "The man who does these things will live by them." Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

(Rise) **HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 7:36---8:3 (*He who has been forgiven little loves little.*) Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner." Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. "Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little." Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means. (Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN "By Your Life, O Lord, We Live"

(Sung to tune #680 "Thine The Amen, Thine the Praise")

By Your life, O Lord, we live. With Your Word, You now forgive.
By Your Spirit, we believe That our Father gives reprieve.
Burdens bearing, home preparing, Jesus gives us hope to sing;
Happy versing, we're rehearsing for our King, for our King!

In the water, in the Word, In the promise, be assured
Of His gift of grace so free, Of the life eternally!
Through the Savior, given favor from the Father on the throne
By the Spirit, let all hear it: Christ alone! Christ alone!

In His death, we die to sin; By His life, we live again.
Now with freedom all our days, Tell the wonder of His ways!
Sister, brother, father, mother, caring teacher, loving friend:
In all stations, all vocations, praises send---never end!

(Text: based on Galatians 2:15-21, Lisa M. Clark. Copyright (c) 2013 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Tune: THINE CCLI LICENSE #1443048)

SERMON **“What Kind of a Person Are You?”** *Luke 7:36-50*

(Rise)

NICENE CREED *(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 and for all people according to their needs. Lord of mercy, you sought out David in his sin, the Gentiles in their darkness, a sinful woman who anointed you, and Mary Magdalene once possessed by demons. You have brought each of us out of the darkness of our sin into the light of Your salvation.

People: Restore even today those lost in sin and living in the darkness of this evil age.

Pastor: Lord of mercy, you taught us to call you Father and gathered us as your sons and daughters from every corner of the earth. Bless all those who show to us a father’s love.

People: Guide all your servants to fulfill their holy calling and care for the children you have entrusted to their care.

Pastor: Lord, of mercy, you have promised to protect and defend your Church and that no one can snatch us from your hand. Bless your Church and all her servants, including, pastors and teachers, DCE’s and deaconesses, missionaries and all church workers.

People: Guide and sustain them, that they may not depart from your truth but serve faithfully in Christ’s holy church.

Pastor: Lord of mercy, you desire that all people be saved and come to the knowledge of your Son and the Word of His truth. Give peace to the nations, allow the free exercise of the faith by all who bear your name, and bless all in authority over us, especially Barack our president, Scott our governor, and all who make, administer and judge our laws.

People: Grant each of us to use our freedom to share the love of Christ and serve our neighbors.

Pastor: Lord of mercy, you claim our every weakness and wound as your own. Give to the sick, the suffering, the grieving and the dying the full measure of grace and heal them according to your will especially, Anna, Laura, Ashley, Dolores, Matthew, Bill, Jon, Dorothy, Eleanor, Diane, Carol, Jean, Sarah and Joe.

People: Lead us all to faithfully care for them in their time of trouble that they may not lose heart.

Pastor: Lord of mercy, you bid us come to your table. Help us by your Spirit to receive with faith the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith.

People: Grant each of us to depart the table in joy and peace, seeking to do the good works that glorify you.

Pastor: Lord of mercy, your victory over death and the grave has secured for your own an eternal inheritance. Receive today our thanks and praise for our brothers and sisters whose souls are gathered in heaven. This day we remember with thanksgiving our parents we hold up to you with praise the places they occupy in our hearts, and especially we pray with Pam, Jane, Dave, Diane and Betty.

People: Grant us to look forward to the joyful day of resurrection when we will be reunited with all those who have gone before us in the faith.

Pastor: Lord of mercy, all things are yours and in Christ you give us more than we either desire or deserve. Grant us also trusting and grateful hearts, believing that you hear and answer the prayers and petitions we have spoken this day; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

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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 #618 “I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table”

I come, O Savior, to Thy table, For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able To satisfy and make me whole:
Refrain: Lord, May Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!
Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning That sinners may salvation see Who,
Lord, to Thee in faith are turning; So I, a sinner, come to Thee. *Refrain*
Unworthy though I am, O Savior, Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never, For Thou my faithful shepherd art: *Refrain*
Weary am I and heavy laden; With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden my heart, for I am now Thy guest. *Refrain*
What higher gift can we inherit? It is faith’s bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and Spirit, The covenant of hope and grace. *Refrain*

HYMN #761 “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r.
Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill Thy Law’s demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.
Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly: Wash me, Savior, or I die.
While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.

HYMN #863 “Our Father, by Whose Name”

Our Father, by whose name All fatherhood is known,
Who dost in love proclaim Each family Thine own,
Bless Thou all parents, guarding well,
With constant love as sentinel, The homes in which Thy people dwell.
O Christ, Thyself a child Within an earthly home,
With heart still undefiled, Thou didst to manhood come;
Our children bless in ev’ry place That they may all behold Thy face,
And knowing Thee may grow in grace.

O Spirit, who dost bind Our hearts in unity, Who teachest us to find
The love from self set free, In all our hearts such love increase
That ev’ry home by this release May be the dwelling place of peace.

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: You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;

People: You surround me with shouts of deliverance.

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “God of Our Fathers” LW501

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies;
Our grateful songs before your throne arise.

Your love divine has led us in the past; In this free land by you our lot is cast;
Oh, be our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay;
Your Word our law, your paths our chosen way.

From war’s alarms, from deadly pestilence
Make your strong arm our ever sure defense.
Your true religion in our hearts increase;
Your bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh your people on their toilsome way;
Lead us from night to never-ending day’
Fill all our lives with heav’n born love and grace
Until at last we meet before your face.

Preacher & Liturgist	Pastor Gregg Stanton
Lectors	Marc Stefanic, Jim Laux
Acolytes	Tyler Kroner, Rhiannon Mueller, AJ Olson
Organist	Roger Gottschalk
Music Coordinator	Kim Woller