

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Fighting the Good Fight
September 1 & 2, 2012

AS WE GATHER

Nearing the end of his life the apostle Paul penned these words: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness" We are engaged in a spiritual battle each and every day. In our epistle reading, Paul wrote of the battle we have with the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (Eph. 6:12). The battle even rages *within us*, as we struggle against the evils Jesus spoke of in our gospel reading (Mark 7:20-23). Therefore, we must put on the full armor of God, employing the spiritual weapons of warfare our God has given us that we might "stand our ground" (6:13) and employ the "sword of the Spirit" (6:17) as we fight the good fight.

WELCOME

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN #573 "Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee"

Lord, 'tis not that I did choose Thee; That, I know, could never be;
For this heart would still refuse Thee Had Thy grace not chosen me.
Thou hast from the sin that stained me Washed and cleansed and set me free
And unto this end ordained me, That I ever live to Thee.

It was grace in Christ that called me, Taught me darkened heart and mind;
Else the world had yet enthralled me, To Thy heav'n-ly glories blind.
Now I worship non above Thee; For Thy grace alone I thirst,
Knowing well that, if I love Thee, Thou, O Lord, didst love me first.

Praise the God of all creation; Praise the Father's boundless love.
Praise the Lamb, our expiation, Priest and King enthroned above.
Praise the Spirit of salvation, Him by whom our spirits live.
Undivided adoration To the great Jehovah give.

(Rise)

INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Jesus speaks good news to us in today's Gospel: "There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him" (Mark 7:15a). But He continues with a condemning word of Law, "but the things that come out of a person are what defile him" (Mark 7:15b). We cannot face almighty God today with the sins that come from within; they produce the sinful thoughts, words, and

deeds for which He would be justified in excluding us from His presence. Yet, because - as St. Paul writes in the Epistle - our gracious heavenly Father has given us "the shield of faith" and "the sword of the Spirit," (Ephesians 6:16,17) we can confidently go to God in Christ's name, seeking and imploring His grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Gracious, heavenly Father,

People: I confess to you and to these, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned with my evil thoughts, words, and deeds. I am defiled by them and helpless to stop them without your aid. They are so much a part of my life that I am not even aware of them all. For Jesus' sake, forgive me. Hear me as I echo the psalmist's plea:

Pastor: Through Baptism the Holy Spirit has washed away all our sins. Our heavenly Father looks at us through the all-atoning blood of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. He promises grace and every blessing. 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 #554 "O Jesus, King Most Wonderful"

O Jesus, King most wonderful! O Conqueror renowned!
O Source of peace ineffable, In whom all joys are found:

O Jesus, light of all below, The fount of life and fire,
Surpassing all the joys we know, All that we can desire:

Oh, may our tongues forever bless, May we love You alone
And ever in our lives express The image of Your own!

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, the source of all that is just and good,

People: nourish in us every virtue and bring to completion every good intent that we may grow in grace and bring forth the fruit of good works,

Pastor: 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 Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 (*God's Law shows His care for His people, who dare not forget His righteous statutes and rules.*) Hear now, O Israel, the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you. Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today? Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

EPISTLE Ephesians 6:10-20 (*God provides all the spiritual armor we need to withstand assaults from all sides.*) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL Mark 7:14-23 (*The sin under our skin is the source of evil thoughts, words, and deeds.*) Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean.'" After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. "Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him 'unclean'? For it doesn't go into his heart but into his stomach, and then out of his body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods "clean.") He went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.' For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.'"

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #660 "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Ye soldiers of the cross.
Lift high His royal banner; It must not suffer loss.
From vic-t'ry unto vic-t'ry His army He shall lead
Till ev-'ry foe is vanquished, And Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus; The trumpet call obey;
Stand forth in mighty conflict In this His glorious day.
Let all His faithful serve Him Against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger And strength to strength oppose.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus; Stand in His strength alone.
The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your won.
Put on the Gospel armor; Each piece put on with prayer.
Where duty calls or danger, Be never wanting there.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus; The strife will not be long;
This day the din of battle, The next the victor's song.
The soldiers, overcoming, Their crown of life shall see
And with the King of Glory Shall reign eternally.

SERMON

"Engaged in Battle"

Ephesians 6:10-20

(Rise)

NICENE CREED (*found on the back cover of the hymnal*)

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS 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: In joyful confidence that our heavenly Father hears our requests and answers them according to His good and gracious will, let us pray for the Church, people redeemed by Christ the crucified, and for the needs of all people. Gracious God, in mercy You established Your holy church where forgiveness of sins is proclaimed. Grant faithful pastors to proclaim Your Word of life with boldness,

People: and bless the faithful who gather to hear this good news so that they may be made partakers of life everlasting.

Pastor: Holy Father, Your Word teaches that those who confess Your name will face the assaults of the old evil foe and that daily we are engaged in a war against evil forces. Grant us alertness each day and the power of Your Holy Spirit

People: that we would be armed with the truth of Your holy Word and enabled to stand firm to the end.

Pastor: Lord of the nations, sustain and bless this nation with Your gracious favor. Grant us honest and upright rulers who will defend us against all adversaries

People: and who will seek to promote the freedoms You have permitted us to enjoy, especially so that Your church may continue to boldly and freely proclaim the Word of truth.

Pastor: Holy Lord, You have taught us that honest labor is a gift from Your most gracious hand. Bless all who work and serve fervently and faithfully, granting them safety in their labors and joy in their service to others.

People: Comfort those who have lost their jobs and are unable to find work, and in due time grant their requests for gainful employment.

Pastor: Visit, O Lord, the homes in which Your people dwell, making them a haven of blessing and peace. Strengthen the bonds of love and faithfulness between all married couples, honoring this institution that You have established.

People: Give courage and strength to all Christian parents, that they may faithfully teach their children to know the voice of Jesus and trust in Him alone for all good things.

Pastor: Almighty God, Your beloved Son healed many with diseased and frail bodies. As You so will, grant healing this day to those who cry to You in their time of distress Ron, Gerald and Joe. Comfort those who remember loved ones including Bill Rohloff and the Weil family.

People: Give them patience as they endure their affliction and keep them from every temptation of the evil one. Give peace to those who mourn.

Pastor: Father, the Source of all life and the life that never ends, receive our prayers this day that we offer to You in the name of Your beloved Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

(Tune: LSB #851 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us)

Lamb of God, O Jesus, Savior, You the world's sin take away.

Lamb of God, O Jesus, Savior, You the world's sin take away.

Ev'ry spot and ev'ry blemish Of Your bride You turn pure white.

Grant to us Your peace, Lord Jesus, Till our faith is turned to sight.

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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 #619 "Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior"

Thy body, giv'n for me, O Savior, Thy blood which Thou for me dist shed,

These are my life and strength forever, By them my hungry soul is fed.

Refrain

Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood

Be for my soul the highest good.

With Thee, Lord, I am now united; I live in Thee and Thou in me.

No sorrow fills my soul, delighted It finds its only joy in Thee. **Refrain**

Who can condemn me now? For surely The Lord is nigh, who justifies.

No hell I fear, and thus securely With Jesus I to heaven rise. **Refrain**

Though death may threaten with disaster, It cannot rob me of my cheer;

For He who is of death the master With aid and comfort e'er is near. **Refrain**

My heart has now become Thy dwelling, O blessed, holy Trinity.

With angels I, Thy praises telling, Shall lie in joy eternally. **Refrain**

HYMN #664 "Fight the Good Fight"

Fight the good fight with all your might; Christ is your strength, and Christ your right.

Lay hold on life, and it shall be Your joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace; Lift up your eyes, and seek His face.

Life with its way before us lies; Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside, lean on your guide; His boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and enduring faith shall prove Christ is your life and Christ your love.

Faint not nor fear, His arms are near; He changes not who holds you dear;
Only believe, and you will see That Christ is all eternally.

HYMN #620 "Jesus Comes Today with Healing"

Jesus comes today with healing, Knocking at my door, appealing,
Of-f'ring pardon, grace, and peace.

He Himself makes preparation, And I hear His invitation:
"Come and taste the blessed feast."

Christ Himself, the priest presiding, Yet in bread and wine abiding
In this holy sacrament,
Gives the bread of life, once broken, And the cup, the precious token
Of His sacred covenant.

Under bread and wine, though lowly, I receive the Savior holy,
Blood and body, giv'n for me,
Very Lamb of God from heaven, Who to bitter death was given,
Hung upon the cursed tree.

God descends with heav'n-ly power, Gives Himself to me this hour---
In this ordinary sign.

On my tongue His pledge receiving, I accept His grace, believing
That I taste His love divine.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

THANKSGIVING

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

People: for His steadfast love endures forever. *Psalm 118:1*

Pastor: We give thanks, almighty God, that in this sacrament you have assured us
that you alone cleanse us from our sin within. Strengthen us thereby that
we may show forth our faith in words and actions through your Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and + the fellowship of
the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #662 "Onward, Christian Soldiers"

Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus Going on before.
Christ, the royal master, Leads against the foe;
Forward into battle See His banners go!

Refrain **Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus Going on before.**

Like a mighty army Moves the Church of God;
Brothers, we are treading Where the saints have trod.
We are not divided, All one body we,
One in hope and doctrine, One in charity. **Refrain**

Crowns and thrones may perish, Kingdoms rise and wane,
But the Church of Jesus Constant will remain.
Gates of hell can never 'Gainst that Church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise, And that cannot fail. **Refrain**

Onward, then, ye faithful, Join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices In the triumph song:
Glory, laud, and honor Unto Christ, the king;
This through countless ages Men and angels sing. **Refrain**

Preacher

Lectors

Acolytes

Organist

Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender Jr.

Pat Graf, Virginia Sell

Jonathan Burkee, Amber Hren

Kim Woller

Kim Woller