



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Best Is Yet To Come

September 7 & 8, 2013

AS WE GATHER

In his letter to the Philippians, the apostle Paul thanked God for His people and prayed for them with joy because of their "partnership in the Gospel." That's the relationship of pastor and people, of one member of the Body relating to another: we are all partners in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. First, we are all fellow partakers of God's grace and love for us in Jesus. Yet, responding to God's love and grace, we work together as partners in the sharing of that same Gospel for the furtherance of Christ's eternal kingdom. As we begin our journey in devoting ourselves to the study of God's Word and in growing together in Jesus, may God bless us to believe His promises and that, by the working of His Spirit, the best is yet to come.

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 #837

"Lift High the Cross"

*Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.*

Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. *Refrain*

All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. *Refrain*

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. *Refrain*

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil.

People: The Lord knows the way of the righteous.

Pastor: Therefore choose life, loving the LORD your God.

People: Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the LORD.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Dearly beloved, in order that we may receive life and good from God we must first confess our ways of death and evil. Our sin constantly separates us from the love of God and lures us to the way of loneliness and death. We confess our sin in the faith and hope of the promised forgiveness of our sin for the sake of Jesus Christ. I confess to almighty God,

People: and to you my brothers and sisters that I have sinned in my thoughts, words, and deeds, and chosen the way of death and evil. In sincere sorrow God's gift of faith moves me to plead for forgiveness and the earnest desire to choose life and good for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Lord.

Pastor: Love the Lord your God, obey His voice and hold fast to Him, for He is your life. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I pronounce to you His word and promise: 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

"This Is the Feast"

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

All: 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: O merciful Lord, you did not spare your only Son but delivered Him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (*The Choice of Life and Death*)

See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them. I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your father, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

EPISTLE Philippians 1:3-11 (*Partners in the Gospel*)

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ-- to the glory and praise of God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 14:25-35 (*The Cost of Discipleship*)

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters--yes, even his own life--he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple. "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #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:

When once You visit darkened hearts, Then truth begins to shine,
Then earthly vanity departs, Then kindles love divine.

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

May ev'ry heart confess Your name, Forever You adore,
And, seeking You, itself inflame To seek You more and more!

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

SERMON

"The Best is Yet to Come"

Philippians 1:3-11

(Rise)

APOSTLES' CREED

(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: Almighty God, bless all those who have been baptized into your holy family, that each of your children would be led by the Holy Spirit.

People: Grant us all to choose life in accordance with your holy will.

Pastor: Lord of the Church, we pray for this congregation and all the congregations of our Synod; for Matthew, our Synod president; for John, our district president; and for all the servants of the Church.

People: Fill them with zeal and strength for the tasks at hand, and bless them to cherish each member of Christ's body as dearly beloved brothers and sisters.

Pastor: Father in heaven, you have promised us that you always work for our good and the strengthening of our faith. As we begin our congregational study of your holy word, bless us all to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

People: By your Spirit, make us diligent in our study, open our minds to your Word, and grow us up in our salvation.

Pastor: Compassionate Lord, we pray for all who are suffering or in any kind of need, and especially those we have been asked to remember: Gina, Pat, Nancy, Helen, Jerry, Henry, Eleanor, Louise, Lorina, Anna, Bill, Jean, Sarah, and Joe. Be with Gilberte as she remembers with love, her son Robert.

People: Give them the courage and will to take up their crosses and follow the Savior through days of suffering and mourning, trusting your promise of the joys of life everlasting yet to come.

Pastor: Lord of all, we rejoice this day in the abundant blessings and mercies you bestow upon us, especially for Steve and Laura, thankful for their children.

People: Grant all your children to join them in their thanksgiving and praise.

Pastor: Dear heavenly Father, we pray for those who do not yet know the love of Christ, that the Holy Spirit may mightily send us forth to announce the joyful news of the free gift of salvation.

People: Fill us with joy in the privilege of sharing with others what our Savior has accomplished for us and for all: forgiveness, life, and eternal salvation.

Pastor: God of grace, we pray for all who approach the holy altar today to partake of the Savior's true body and blood, that they may receive this sacrament with a confident faith,

People: fully trusting in the all-sufficient sacrifice of Christ who died upon the cross to save us all from sin and death.

Pastor: Join these, our prayers and praises, with those of your faithful servants of every time and place and unite them in the ceaseless petitions of our great High Priest, until He comes again in power and glory as victorious Lord of all. Through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, 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

"Lamb of God"

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.
(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 #605

"Father Welcomes"

*Refrain: Father welcomes all His children To His fam'ly through His Son.
Father giving His salvation, Life forever has been won.*

Little children, come to Me, For My kingdom is of these.

Life and love I have to give, Mercy for your sin. *Refrain*

In the water, in the Word, In His promise, be assured;

Those who are baptized and believe Shall be born again. *Refrain*

Let us daily die to sin; Let us daily rise with Him.

Walk in the love of Christ our Lord, Live in the peace of God. *Refrain*

HYMN #688 "Come, Follow Me," the Savior Spake"

"Come, follow Me," the Savior spake, "All in My way abiding;

Deny yourselves, the world forsake, Obey My call and guiding.

O bear the cross, whate'er betide, Take My example for your guide."

"I am the light, I light the way. A godly life displaying;

I bid you walk as in the day; I keep your feet from straying.

I am the way, and well I show How you must sojourn here below."

"My heart abounds in lowliness, My soul with love is glowing;

And gracious words my lips express, With meekness overflowing.

My heart, My mind, My strength, My all, To God I yield, on Him I call."

"I teach you how to shun and flee What harms your soul's salvation,

Your heart from ev'ry guide to free, From sin and its temptation.

I am the refuge of the soul And lead you to your heav'nly goal."

Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, And take the cross appointed

And, firmly clinging to His Word, In suff'ring be undaunted.

For those who bear the battle's strain The crown of heav'nly life obtain.

HYMN #427 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

In the cross of Christ I glory, Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time,
All the light of sacred story Gathers round its head sublime.
When the woes of life o'er-take me, Hope deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
When the sun of bliss is beaming Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming Adds more luster to the day.
Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure, Joys that through all time abide.

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: Because of Christ you have chosen life and good. May God give you strength to live faithful to His calling.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May you take up your cross and follow Christ in faith, hope, and love.

People: Amen.

Pastor: The blessing of God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you today and forever.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #791 "All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth-tell ; Come ye before Him and rejoice.
Know that the Lord is God indeed; Without our aid He did us make.
We are His folk, He doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.
O enter then His gates with praise; Approach with joy His courts unto.
Praise, laud, and bless His name always, For it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good; His mercy is forever sure.
His truth at all times firmly stood And shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, The God whom heav'n and earth adore,
From us and from the angel host Be praise and glory evermore.

Preacher Pastor Harold Bender
Liturgist Pastor Gregg Stanton
Lectors Debbie Ulbing, Marc Stefanic
Acolytes Josh Klement, Emma Kallas, Nik Mueller
Organist & Music Coordinator Kim Woller

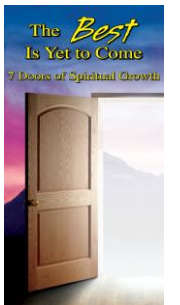
"The Best is Yet to Come" Studies Begin this Week!

If you are signed up for a study, you need to have a book available to read. Please read the introductory chapter, answer the questions on page 19, and come to your group prepared to grow together with others in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus. The following are the locations and leaders of each group:

Monday @ 11:30 a.m. in the Instructional Room (Old Library) – Laurel Privatt
Wednesday @ 1:00 p.m. in the Instructional Room – Frank Gabler
Wednesday @ 6:30 p.m. at the Stryck's home; 3026 S. 106th – Bob Stryck
(Most other weeks will meet at the Reynold's home; 3048 S. 124th)

Thursday @ 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall – Pastor Stanton
Thursday @ 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall – Pastor Bender

As of last Sunday we had 80 people signed up for the group studies and another 15 who have purchased the book to read on their own. It's not too late to sign up to join a group. Books will be on sale after each service this weekend. Join with your brothers and sisters in Christ as we grow in Jesus together.



New Sunday Morning Bible Studies

Two new Sunday morning Bible studies are available here at St. Paul's. Each of these studies is led by one of our pastors.

The Parables of Jesus – Pastor Bender

Jesus regularly used parables to teach important spiritual truths to all those who "had ears to hear." He used rather common earthly things to illustrate and even reveal what His kingdom is all about. Come and have the seed of His truth planted more deeply in your soul. The class meets in the Fellowship Hall from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

The Lost Books of the Bible – Pastor Stanton

There have been many claims that other books of the Bible have been lost or wrongly excluded. There has been confusion, conspiracy theories, and doubts that have been raised in many minds over these purportedly "lost books." Come and learn about these books, and understand better how we got the books in the Bible. The class meets in room #203 from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

