

# FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

In Us and Through Us  
September 8 & 9, 2012

## AS WE GATHER

It is easy to be bold when we have nothing to lose. A woman with nothing to lose came to Jesus on behalf of her daughter possessed by an unclean spirit. It was not easy. Jesus appeared to put up every roadblock in the path. But she refused to give up and asked for merely the crumbs of mercy from the Master's table. How could Jesus refuse such faith? Later, Jesus encountered a deaf and mute man. What seemed to be a hopeless cause was met with the surprise of grace and the healing touch of Jesus. These stories are not recipes to teach us how to get what we want from God. They illustrate who we are. We are those captive to evil who beg the Lord for the crumbs of His grace that are still sufficient to answer our need. We are the deaf and mute whom sin has cut off from God. The Lord is full of mercy and has restored to us ears to hear His Word of hope and mouths to proclaim what He has done. Today, we see ourselves in those who came to Jesus for aid, and we rejoice in the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that Jesus has so freely and richly bestowed on us.

+ PREPARATION +

## WELCOME

## HANDSHAKES & HUGS

## OPENING HYMN #537

“Beautiful Savior”

Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands, Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight, Bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shine purer Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration Now and forever-more be Thine!

(Rise)

## INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: To you, O LORD, I call;

People: my rock, be not deaf to me,

Pastor: hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to you for help;

People: when I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary.

Pastor: Blessèd be the LORD!

People: for He has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy. *Psalm 28:1, 2, and 6*

## CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

People: I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before God of all sins. I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. My Lord's name, I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not been thoroughly persuaded by His love for me, and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires are soiled with sin.

Pastor: Is this your sincere confession?

People: I am sorry for all my sins and I ask for grace that I may do better. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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: Having received the forgiveness of Christ, hear these words. The peace of the Lord be with you. *Philippians 1:6*

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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord, let your merciful ears be open to the prayers of your humble servants and grant that what they ask may be in accord with your gracious will; 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** Isaiah 35:4-7a (*Be strong, fear not, the Lord comes for you.*) say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.” Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

**EPISTLE** James 2:1-10, 14-18 (*Faith without works is dead.*) My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don’t show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong? If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

**10:30 ANTHEM**

*“You Are Mine”*

*Choir*

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** Mark 7: 24-37 (*Jesus casts out a demon from a young girl and heals a deaf man.*) Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an evil spirit came and fell at his feet. The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. “First let the children eat all they want,” he told her, “for it is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to their dogs.” “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “but even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” Then he told her, “For such a reply, you may go; the demon has

left your daughter.” She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged him to place his hand on the man. After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man’s ears. Then he spit and touched the man’s tongue. He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, “Ephphatha!” (which means, “Be opened!”). At this, the man’s ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. People were overwhelmed with amazement. “He has done everything well,” they said. “He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.” (Be seated)

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

### **SERMON HYMN #551 "When to Our World the Savior Came"**

*(Sung to tune LSB #563 “Jesus Thy Blood and Righteousness”)*

When to our world the Savior came  
The sick and helpless heard His name,  
And in their weakness longed to see  
The healing Christ of Galilee.

That good physician! Night and day  
The people thronged about His way;  
And wonder ran from soul to soul,  
“The touch of Christ has made us whole!”

His praises then were heard and sung  
By opened ears and loosened tongue,  
While lightened eyes could see and know  
The healing Christ of long ago.

Of long ago; yet living still,  
Who died for us on Calv’ry’s hill;  
Who triumphed over cross and grave,  
His healing hands stretched forth to save.

His sov’rign purpose still remains  
Who rose in pow’r, and lives and reigns;  
Till ev’ry tongue confess His praise,  
The healing Christ of all our days.

**SERMON**

*“Open”*

Mark 7:24-37

(Rise)

**APOSTLES’ CREED** (*found on the inside 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.

(Please rise)

**PRAYERS**

Pastor: In joyful obedience to God who commands us to pray and promises to hear us for Jesus’ sake, let us pray for His Holy Christian Church and for the needs of all people. Gracious God, you have commanded your church to take the Word of life to the ends of the earth. Strengthen and support all those who travel to foreign lands on behalf of the church’s mission.

**People: Give them wisdom and courage as they tell the good news of Jesus, and bless their hearers with hearts that are receptive to your gifts.**

Pastor: Lord God, as your church proclaims Christ crucified, help us to recognize the special needs of those whose physical impairments become obstacles to the reception of that good news, especially to those who are deaf or blind.

**People: Bless the efforts of those who minister to these people, so that your Word may have free course and be preached to the edifying of all.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, your Son welcomed the little children and gladly blessed them. Bless our Kids Bible Hour program that the children in our congregation may be rightly instructed in the saving knowledge of their Lord Jesus.

**People: Bless especially the parents of our children, that they bring their children to your house to worship and raise them in the nurture and instruction of Jesus.**

Pastor: Almighty God, remember our nation and all who serve in positions of public trust. Bless them and make them a blessing that they may faithfully and honorably fulfill their callings.

**People: Lead our citizens to exercise their civic duties with wisdom, especially in this election year, so that we may elect candidates who will lead our country in ways that please you.**

Pastor: God of all comfort, you have commanded us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Grant us compassionate hearts that we might attend to the needs of our neighbor, our brothers and sisters in Christ, and especially any who suffer the effects of poverty and hunger.

**People: Open our hearts to share from our bounty, and bless the efforts of those who dedicate their lives to the care and support of the needy.**

Pastor: Merciful Father, attend to the needs of all who are sick and infirm especially Ron, Irma, Jerry and Joe. Heal their infirmities, strengthen them in times of anxiety, and deliver them from every evil of body and soul.

**People: Comfort as well all those who mourn and remember loved ones including Donald Ernst's family and Dolores. In the midst of their sorrow bring hope, that they may hold fast to the promise that Jesus' resurrection from the dead brings for all who die in the faith.**

Pastor: We thank you Lord for the blessings you freely grant us.

**People: We join with Ralph and Judy, praising your glorious name.**

Pastor: As you gather us at your table, O Lord, send your Spirit to remove from us all impenitence and unbelief so that, in godly fear and living faith, we may draw near to our Lord Jesus Christ

**People: to receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation which He has promised us in His body and blood.**

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

### THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

**People: Amen.**

### AGNUS DEI

**"Lamb of God"**

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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 #694 "Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower"

Thee will I love, my strength, my tower; Thee will I love, my hope, my joy.

Thee will I love with all my power, With ardor time shall ne'er destroy.

Thee will I love, O Light divine, So long as life is mine.

Thee will I love, my life, my Savior, Who art my best and truest friend.

Thee will I love and praise forever, For never shall Thy kindness end.

Thee will I love with all my heart Thou my Redeemer art!

I thank Thee, Jesus, Sun from heaven, Whose radiance hath brought light to me;

I thank Thee, who hast richly given All that could make me glad and free;

I thank Thee that my soul is healed By what Thy lips revealed.

O keep me watchful, then, and humble; Permit me never more to stray.

Uphold me when my feet would stumble, And keep me on the narrow way.

Fill all my nature with Thy light, O Radiance strong and bright!

Thee will I love, my crown of gladness; Thee will I love, my God and Lord,  
Amid the darkest depths of sadness, And not for hope of high reward,  
For Thine own sake, O Light divine, So long as life is mine.

**HYMN #580 "The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace"**

The Gospel shows the Father's grace, Who sent His Son to save our race,  
Proclaims how Jesus lived and died That we might thus be justified.

It sets the Lamb before our eyes, Who made the atoning sacrifice,  
And calls the souls with guilt oppressed To come and find eternal rest.

It brings the Savior's righteousness To robe our souls in royal dress;  
From all our guilt it brings release And gives the troubled conscience peace.

It is the pow'r of God to save From sin and Satan and the grave;  
It works the faith which firmly clings To all the treasures which it brings.

It bears to all the tidings glad And bids their hearts no more be sad;  
The weary, burdened souls it cheers And banishes their guilty fears.

May we in faith its message learn Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;  
May we in faith its truth confess And praise the Lord, our righteousness.

**HYMN # 797 "Praise the Almighty"**

Praise the Almighty, my soul, adore Him! Yes, I will laud Him until death;  
With songs and anthems I come before Him As long as He allows me breath.  
From Him my life and all things came;  
Bless, O my soul, His holy name. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Trust not in rulers; they are but mortal; Earthborn they are and soon decay.  
Vain are their counsels at life's last portal, When the dark grave engulfs its prey.  
Since mortals can no help afford, Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed, oh, blessed are they forever Whose help is from the Lord Most High,  
Whom from salvation can nothing sever, And who in hope to Christ draw nigh.  
To all who trust in Him, our Lord Will aid and counsel now afford. Alleluia, alleluia!

Penitent sinners, for mercy crying, Pardon and peace from Him obtain;  
Ever the wants of the poor supplying, Their faithful God He will remain.  
He helps His children in distress, The widows and the fatherless. Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise, all you people, the name so holy Of Him who does such wondrous things!  
All that has being, to praise Him solely, With happy heart its amen sings.  
Children of God, with angel host Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!  
Alleluia, alleluia!

**COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord, you have shown us the richness of your mercy by  
delivering us from sin and its death. Grant us every aid of your Spirit that  
we who have known your mercy may show forth your goodness in our  
lives, that our words and our works may testify to your grace and praise  
your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with  
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good.

**People: And His mercy endures forever. Amen.** *Psalm 118:29*

**BENEDICTION**

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN "We Sing Your Praise, O Christ"** *(Tune: #414 "Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here)*

We sing Your praise, O Christ, With hearts exalted high.  
Forgive us when we fail to hear Our neighbor's anguished cry.

When eyes are fixed above Where You in glory reign,  
Lord, lower them to earth again To see a world in pain.

We fall upon our knees And fold our hands in prayer.  
Lord, open them that grace received Be grace we gladly share.

Let praise we offer You Be echoed in our deeds.

Let love of You be manifest In serving other's needs.

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