

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Be Still

August 18, 19, 2018

AS WE GATHER

Most of us like to be in control. We like to handle things ourselves. We often think that we can take care of everything we have to deal with in life . . . all on our own. Yet, there are times in life when life can overwhelm us, and even the small things in life can annoy us and distract us. In Psalm 46, our God speaks to us and says: "Be still and know that I am God." Too often we are quick to act and forget we have a God who is greater than all. Too often we try to handle difficult situations in life all on our own, when we should learn to trust God, turn to God, and "be still" and know that our God is God.

WELCOME

"Be still, and know that I am God.

I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

(Psalm 46:10, ESV)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN "Our God is Real and Present Here"

Our God is real and present here. When troubles come we need not fear.
Though mountains tremble, waters foam, Our God will not leave us alone.

The Lord of Hosts with us always; the God of Jacob is our stay.

Our God is real and still remains; the great I Am forever reigns!

Our God is present and when fear or trouble comes be of good cheer;
for God's own Son has washed away The sins that on our hearts now weigh.

Lord Jesus Christ with us today; He is the Truth, the Life, the Way.

He came to us, His life to give, that we might in His presence live.

The Holy Spirit has been sent, to bring us into covenant

With God the Father and the Son, And Comforter, to help us run

The race of faithfulness to God upon this earth where Jesus trod,

So that in faith we shall remain In Him who for the world was slain.

The Lord is God and says, "Be still!" I am your fortress, and I will
Be lauded and exalted now! My Word is true and this I vow:
I Am your God and I will make all wars to cease, all bows to break;
the nations of the world I claim And all the earth will praise My name!"

(Rise)

To God the Father we now raise our songs of thanks and endless praise;

To God the Son, our Risen Lord, All honor, glory, we accord;

To God the Spirit we bring laud, who brought us to our faith in God;

So let us all, with hearts aflame, The real and present God proclaim!

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us come into the light and approach our Lord in prayer.

Together, we pray.

People: O God our Father, light-creator, your perfect glory exposes the darkness of our ways. As children who stray from their Father's instruction, we have wandered in disobedience and stumbled in what we have thought, said, and done. By the rescuing work of your Son, the light of the world, shine on us the bright beams of forgiveness. Wash us in the light of His resurrection victory so that we make melodies with our lips and honor you with our lives. Amen.

Pastor: In Christ Jesus, you who once were darkness are now light. Walk as children of the light. Be who you are! As a called and ordained servant of the Word, 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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Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,

whose blood set us free to be people of God. **Refrain**

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are His. **Refrain**

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

Refrain

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, grant us grace to know your Son, Jesus,
who alone has the words of eternal life, that we would have a quiet
trust in His guiding presence and walk in the light of His glory and
truth; 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)

COMMISSIONING, INSTALLATION, AND RE-DEDICATION OF SCHOOL STAFF

HYMN #869 "With the Lord Begin Your Task"

With the Lord begin your task; Jesus will direct it.
For His aid and counsel ask; Jesus will perfect it.
Every morn with Jesus rise, And when day is ended,
In His name then close your eyes; Be to Him commended.

Let each day begin with prayer, Praise, and adoration.
On the Lord cast every care; He is your salvation.
Morning, evening, and at night Jesus will be near you,
Save you from the tempter's might, With His presence cheer you.

With your Savior at your side, Foes need not alarm you;
In His promises confide, And no ill can harm you.
All your trust and hope repose In the mighty Master,
Who in wisdom truly knows How to stem disaster.

If your task be thus begun With the Savior's blessing,
Safely then your course will run, Toward the promise pressing.
Good will follow everywhere While you here must wander;
You at last the joy will share In the mansions yonder.

Thus, Lord Jesus, every task Be to You commended;
May Your will be done, I ask, Until life is ended.
Jesus, in Your name begun Be the day's endeavor;
Grant that it may well be done To Your praise forever.

✠ WORD ✠

RESPONSIVE PSALM: PSALM 46

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength,

People: a very present help in trouble.

Pastor: Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way.

People: though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea.

Pastor: though its waters roar and foam,

People: though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

Pastor: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

People: the holy habitation of the Most High.

Pastor: God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;

People: God will help her when morning dawns.

Pastor: The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;

People: he utters his voice, the earth melts.

Pastor: The Lord of hosts is with us;

People: the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Pastor: Come, behold the works of the Lord,

People: how he has brought desolations on the earth.

Pastor: He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;

**People: he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the
chariots with fire.**

Pastor: "Be still, and know that I am God.

**People: I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the
earth!"**

Pastor: the Lord of hosts is with us;

People: the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son

People: and to the Holy Spirit;

Pastor: as it was in the beginning,

People: is now, and will be forever. Amen.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 5:6–21* (We walk as children of light.)

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 18:15-17*

Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE – BACKPACK BLESSING

HYMN #771 “Be Still, My Soul, Before the Lord”

Be still, my soul, before the Lord, For God is always near.

Before your mind is moved to pray, God listens and will hear.

You need not multiply your words Nor pray with practiced art.

Beyond all speech, God understands The hunger of your heart.

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Wait, then, in quiet confidence, Your anxious thoughts at rest.

God knows your needs before you ask And works for what is best.

Be still, my soul, before the Lord, On God in patience wait.

God’s love, unseen, surrounds your life; God’s help will not be late.

SERMON

“Be Still... and Know that God is God”

Psalm 46

(Rise)

NICENE CREED (*found on the 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. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Heavenly Father, the words of our Savior are spirit and life. Give us grace to cling to them always.

People: When we find our Savior’s words especially hard to listen to, fill us with faith and trust to discover that Christ alone has the words of eternal life.

Pastor: Lord of love, as we begin another school year, bless St. Paul’s Lutheran School in all her activities. Bless our teachers to strive for excellence and be good models of Christian life. Bless our pastors to be spiritual leaders and support the school in all things. Bless our students to learn well and their parents to be of good support.

People: Bless us all to live and work together for the furtherance of Christ’s kingdom among us, loving, supporting, and accepting one another by the grace of our God.

Pastor: Lord of the church, look in mercy on all the baptized, pour out your Spirit on them and fill them with the light of your Word.

People: Strengthen our faith that we may, day by day, be still and know that you are God. Grant us also to live as children of the light, turning away from the works of darkness.

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Pastor: Lord of life, you place people in positions of leadership in the church in order that they would be a blessing to the people they serve. Remember Matthew, our Synod president; John, our district president; Harold, our circuit visitor; our pastors; and all servants of the Church.

People: Grant that they may always increase in knowing you to be the path of insight and leading your people in your ways.

Pastor: Ruler of all, look in compassion on Donald, our country's president; on all who serve in the legislature or as judges; and on all who serve in our armed forces.

People: Uphold them in honor and integrity, and make them to be a blessing.

Pastor: Kind Father, your Son is the healer of the sick, the resurrection of the dead and our bread of life. Hear our prayers today for those who suffer, those taking treatments or facing surgery, the sick and those who are dying. We commend to your loving hands above all those we have been asked to remember before you: Henry, Marilyn, Cindy, Elenor, Anita, Scott, Mary, LuEva, Dorothy, Dick, Nancy, Sue, Jan, Dolores, Shirley, Gladys, Russ, Arlene, Dorothy, John, Arlene, Jack, Shirley, Jonathan, Helen, Leonard and Sarah. We give you thanks for the comfort and care shown them by their brothers and sisters in Christ.

People: Comfort them and sustain them with your powerful Word, bless them with patience and peace, and grant them whatever healing you will.

Pastor: Dear heavenly Father, at the beginning of time you said that it was not good for the man to be alone and so you created woman and instituted marriage. Bless Adam and Marie as they are united in marriage this weekend. Bless them to love and cherish each other all their days.

People: Bless all marriages to live in the love, grace, and forgiveness of Christ.

Pastor: God of every good gift, we rejoice with Jack and RoseMarie as they celebrate their 64th wedding anniversary, Russ and Marlene celebrating their 37th anniversary, even as we join with the Baxter

family in celebrating Nicole's 22nd birthday and the Scheuer family upon Sarah's 21st birthday.

People: Grant us to acknowledge all your good gifts and to treasure the people you place in our lives.

Pastor: Bountiful Giver, your Son assures us that His flesh is true food and His blood true drink, and that those who feed on Him will live forever because of Him.

People: By your Spirit, prepare our hearts to welcome Him as He comes to us at His table, that we may rejoice in His promises and depart in His peace.

Pastor: Source of all life, on the great day of the resurrection your Son will call all who fell asleep in Him to arise from the dead and shine in His light. Receive our thanks for the faithful who departed this life trusting in His promises.

People: Bring us with them into the light of that day that has no evening.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #861

"Christ Be My Leader"

Christ be my Leader by night as by day;

Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.

Gladly I follow, my future His care, Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth,

Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him;

though shifting as sand, Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.

Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;

Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.

Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain

Can touch my salvation; with Jesus I reign.

CONCLUDING COLLECTS

Pastor: Blessed Lord, you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children. Give us calm strength and patient wisdom that, as they grow in years, we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Pastor: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

BENEDICTION

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 “You Have a Special Place”

You have a special place,
A purpose and a plan,
For me and everyone You love
Since life began.
Dear loving God,
Work out Your plan, achieve Your goal,
Fulfill Your dream.

I learned of You through Christ,
I came to You through Christ,
Your Spirit made me one with You
And all in Christ.
Great God of love,
Work out Your plan, achieve Your goal,
Fulfill Your dream.

You wrote into my heart
The pattern for my life,
And parents, teachers, friends, all left
Your mark on me.
Great God of grace,
Work out Your plan, achieve Your goal,
Fulfill Your dream.

How can I thank the ones
To whom I owe so much?
With Christ in me, may others, too,
Be drawn to You,
As blest as I—
Your plan worked out, Your goal assured,
Your dream fulfilled.

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