

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Near to God—Near to One Another

Opening School Service

August 22 & 23, 2015

5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

What a wonderful thing it is to have a close-knit family. What a blessing it is when fellow members in the Church are near and dear to one another. But sin separates us from God and from one another. When separation threatens, we tend to call on our traditions and family rules to bring us together. Human efforts alone cannot really bring us close. But as we draw near to God, God draws near to us. As God draws us near to Himself with His forgiving love, we find that at the same time He is drawing us closer to one another in Christian love.

WELCOME

Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.
Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy
and be glad all our days. (Psalm 90:12, 14, NIV)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #686 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Staff sings stanzas 1,2,4 Congregation sings stanza 3

Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

INSTALLATION AND RE-DEDICATION OF STAFF

We rejoice to welcome our new staff members:

Rick Schneider, Principal

Bethany Dillon, 1st Grade Teacher

Melissa Leon, 3 / 4 Grades Teacher

(Rise)

OPENING SENTENCES *Joshua 24:15; 18–19, 24*

Pastor: As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

People: We also will serve the LORD, for He is our God.

Pastor: Through your own strength, you are to able to serve the Lord.

People: The LORD our God we will serve, and His voice we will obey.

Pastor: Then let us return to the covenant of our Baptism.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us draw near to God with repentance and faith, trusting His promise to draw near to us with forgiveness and life. Gracious Father, you gather us together in your family through faith in Jesus Christ.

People: We are your children, Father, brothers and sisters in Christ.

Pastor: Yet by our fallen sinful nature and by our own disobedience, we have in word and actions turned away from you, our loving God, and turned our backs on our fellow members.

People: Forgive us, Father, for Jesus, our Brother, has paid for our sins.

Pastor: Gracious Father, you gather us together in families as mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters.

People: You have placed us in our families to be loved and cared for and to love and care for one another.

Pastor: Yet by our fallen sinful nature and by our own disobedience, we have in word and actions failed to love our own family members as you have loved us.

People: Forgive us, Father, for Jesus, our Brother, has paid for our sins.

Pastor: Children of God, loved by the Lord, Jesus Christ has indeed taken your sins to the cross and paid for every one. By His resurrection from the dead He raises you from death in your sins to life in His forgiveness. By

the power of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, your sins are forgiven. God strengthen you in His love and forgiveness that you may share those blessings in your family and in the family of God.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE #895 "Now Thank We All Our God" Stanzas 1 & 3

Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love And still is ours today.

All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Merciful Father, you draw us close to yourself through the gift of your own Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. We are your forgiven children. Draw us, in like manner, close to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, forgiven and forgiving, loved and loving, in all our ways.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 29:11–19* (Honored with lips but not hearts)

For you this whole vision is nothing but words sealed in a scroll. And if you give the scroll to someone who can read, and say to him, "Read this, please," he will answer, "I can't; it is sealed." Or if you give the scroll to someone who cannot read, and say, "Read this, please," he will answer, "I don't know how to read." The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men. Therefore once more I will astound these people with wonder upon wonder; the wisdom of the wise will perish, the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish." Woe to those who go to great

depths to hide their plans from the LORD, who do their work in darkness and think, "Who sees us? Who will know?" You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, "He did not make me"? Can the pot say of the potter, "He knows nothing"? In a very short time, will not Lebanon be turned into a fertile field and the fertile field seem like a forest? In that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll, and out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see. Once more the humble will rejoice in the LORD; the needy will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 5:21–33* (Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.)

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- for we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 7:1–13* (Jesus rebukes the scribes and Pharisees.)

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were "unclean," that is, unwashed. (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.) So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?" He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: " 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in

vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.' You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men." And he said to them: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is Corban' (that is, a gift devoted to God), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."

(Be seated)

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

SERMON HYMN #862 "Oh, Blest the House"

Oh, blest the house, whate'er befall, Where Jesus Christ is all in all!
A home that is not wholly His How sad and poor and dark it is!

Oh, blest that house where faith is found And all in hope and love abound;
They trust their God and serve Him still And do in all His holy will!

Oh, blest the parents who give heed Unto their children's foremost need
And weary not of care or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!

Oh, blest that house; it prospers well. In peace and joy the parents dwell,
And in their children's lives is shown How richly God can bless His own.

Then here will I and mine today A solemn promise make and say:
Though all the world forsake His Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

SERMON "God's Gift of Family" Ephesians 5:21-33

(Rise)

NICENE 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. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

After each petition:

Pastor: . . . let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Pastor: . . . through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

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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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.

(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 #725 "Children of the Heavenly Father"

Children of the heav'nly Father Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven Such a refuge e'er was given.

God His own doth tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them; In His mighty arms He bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.

Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.

HYMN #651 "I Love Your Kingdom, Lord"

I love Your kingdom, Lord, The place of Your abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved With His own precious blood.

Beyond my highest joy I prize its heav'nly ways,
Its sweet communion, solemn vows, Its hymns of love and praise.

I love Your Church, O God, Your saints in ev'ry land,
Dear as the apple of Your eye And graven on Your hand.

For them my tears shall fall; For them my prayers ascend;
For them my cares and toils be giv'n Till toils and cares shall end.

Sure as Your truth shall last, To Zion shall be giv'n
The brightest glories earth can yield And brighter bliss of heav'n.

HYMN #813 "Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng"

Rejoice, O pilgrim Throng! Rejoice, give thanks and sing;
Your festal banner wave on high, The cross of Christ your king.

Refrain **Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

With voice as full and strong As ocean's surging praise,
Send forth the sturdy hymns of old, The psalms of ancient days. **Refrain**

With all the angel choirs, With all the saints on earth
Pour out the strains of joy and bliss, True rapture, noblest mirth. **Refrain**

Yet on and onward still, With hymn and chant and song,
Through gate and porch and columned aisle The hallowed pathways throng.

Refrain

Still lift your standard high, Still march in firm array,
As pilgrims through the darkness wend Till dawns the golden day. **Refrain**

7 continued

At last the march shall end; The wearied ones shall rest;
The pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest. **Refrain**

Praise Him who reigns on high, The Lord whom we adore:
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, One God forevermore. **Refrain**

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: O God the Father, fountain and source of all that is good,

People: in loving kindness you sent your only Son to share in our humanity.

Pastor: We thank you that, by all that He accomplished for our salvation, and by
the giving of His body and blood to us in this Sacrament,

People: You have given us pardon for our sins and peace in your forgiveness.

Pastor: O Lord, our God, you will never forsake your children who trust in you.

People: We look to you to graciously rule in our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit.

Pastor: Enable us by a steadfast faith always to serve you in love and joy,

People: through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless and keep you. The Lord shine upon you.

People: Graciously bless us with love's increase.

Pastor: The Lord smile upon you, Favor each morning new.

People: Lord, bless our lives with Your true peace. Amen.

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CLOSING HYMN #922 "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.

In My love's baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.

Go, My children, with My blessing – You are My own.

8 continued

Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son's story; Here you touched Him, Saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.
Here My Spirit's power filled you; Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace.
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace;
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you And give you peace.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Acolytes
Clarinet
Organist 5:00
Organist 8:00
Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Gregg Stanton
Marc Stefanic, Jane Adams
Isaac Kallas, Jeffrey Moravec
Ana Gonzalez-Clark
Kim Woller
Jo Bender
Kim Woller

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God is So Good!

This is the theme for the upcoming school year. We give thanks to our good God that many students will be blessed to grow in Christ and in the knowledge that will continue their education here at St. Paul's. With that theme in mind, we will have a five week sermon series entitled: **God's Good Gifts**. Each week's message will be based in the epistle reading, beginning on the weekend before school begins. Here are the themes of the messages:

God's Gift of Family – Ephesians 5:22-33 – August 22-23

God's Gift of Spiritual Armor – Ephesians 6:10-20 – August 29-30

God's Gift of Faith and Deeds – James 2:1-10, 14-18 – September 5-6

Special Guest Preacher – Rev. John Sproul – September 12-13

God's Gift of Wisdom and Humility – James 3:13-4:10 – September 19-20

God's Gift of Patience and Prayer – James 5:7-20 – September 26-27

Gather with your church family and rejoice in the gifts God gives us by His Spirit.

The Redefinition of Marriage

The Supreme Court of the United States of America has redefined marriage to include same-sex couples. This decision is contrary to the clear institution and teaching of God's Holy Word. As Christians, we live under two kingdoms: in the earthly sense, we are under the left-hand kingdom of God which is known as our government (Romans 13); in the spiritual sense, we are under the right-hand kingdom of God known as the church. Sometimes these two kingdoms are in conflict, as in the recent ruling of the Supreme Court.

A special Bible study will be held on August 30 at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

We will discuss these issues and seek wisdom, humility, and guidance from God's holy Word. All are welcome to attend.