

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Lowest Place at the Feast

August 27 & 28, 2016

5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

We like to think of ourselves as worthy of honor and respect. We would like to live as deserving of first-class treatment. But in today's Gospel, Jesus encourages us to live humbly among people around us, and He echoes the directives in Proverbs. Not only does He instruct us to humbly find the lowest seat, but when we do the inviting, He also cautions against expecting social payback. By ourselves, we would chafe under such limits, but our faith in the grace of God, coming to us through the sacrifice of Christ's blood on our behalf, moves us to rely on His undeserved favor. That frees us to hear those directives as descriptions of the sort of living by which we may return praise and honor to our Savior—life in first class, indeed!

WELCOME

MINISTRY MOMENT – Lutheran Special School

Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal.

Isaiah 26:4

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #907 “God Himself Is Present”

God Himself is present: Let us now adore Him

And with awe appear before Him, God is in His temple;

All within keep silence; Humbly kneel in deepest rev'ence.

He alone On His throne Is our God and Savior; Praise His name forever!

God Himself is present; Hear the harps resounding:

See the hosts the throne surrounding. “Holy, holy, holy!”

Hear the hymn ascending, Songs of saints and angels blending.

Bow Your ear To us here; Hear, O Christ, the praises That Your Church now raises.

Fount of ev'ry blessing, Purify my spirit, Trusting only in Your merit.

Like the holy angels, Worshipping before You, May I ceaselessly adore You.

Let Your will Ever still Rule Your Church terrestrial As the hosts celestial.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father,

People: who called us into being in this time and place;

Pastor: and of the ✠ Son,

People: whose sacrifice for us has sanctified us to be His own;

Pastor: and of the Holy Spirit,

People: whose gift of faith has freed us to walk humbly before the Lord. Amen.

KYRIE

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above, which we may reflect in humble living, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all who acknowledge Christ's name, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who, coming from their various callings and stations in life, offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE #700 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” Stanzas 1 & 4

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n to earth come down!

Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;

Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Finish then Thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee,
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav'n we take our place
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord of grace and mercy,

People: teach us by your Holy Spirit to follow the example of your Son in true humility, that we may withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride;

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Proverbs 25:2–10* (Do not think of yourself more highly than anyone else.) It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings. As the heavens are high and the earth is deep, so the hearts of kings are unsearchable. Remove the dross from the silver, and out comes material for the silversmith; remove the wicked from the king's presence, and his throne will be established through righteousness. Do not exalt yourself in the king's presence, and do not claim a place among great men; it is better for him to say to you, "Come up here," than for him to humiliate you before a nobleman. What you have seen with your eyes do not bring hastily to court, for what will you do in the end if your neighbor puts you to shame? If you argue your case with a neighbor, do not betray another man's confidence, or he who hears it may shame you and you will never lose your bad reputation.

EPISTLE *Hebrews 13:1–17* (Live the sanctified life for which Christ paid with His life.)

Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by ceremonial foods, which are of no value to those who eat them. We have an altar from which those who minister at the tabernacle have no right to eat. The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise-- the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 14:1–14* (Jesus teaches true humility.)

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. There in front of him was a man suffering from dropsy. Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?" But they remained silent. So taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him away. Then he asked them, "If one of you has a son or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull him out?" And they had nothing to say. When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this man your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the

crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

(Be seated)

SERMON HYMN #611 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.

Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heavens above,
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.

Only Jesus can impart Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiven, Joy that lifts the soul to heaven,
Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.

Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known, All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life Safe with Him from earthly strife.

O my Savior, help afford By Your Spirit and Your word!
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.

SERMON

"The Lowest Place"

Luke 14:1-14

(Rise)

APOSTLES' 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)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray to our God and Father in heaven with all boldness and confidence in our Lord, Jesus Christ, who humbled Himself unto death upon the cross and was exalted in His resurrection.

After each petition:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Pastor: . . . one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Having heard the Word of God and intending to receive our Lord's body and blood, let us confess our sins to God and in the presence of one another. When Jesus entered the house of the Pharisee and saw the man with dropsy who was left there as a trap, He saw a man who needed healing.

People: We confess that in our pride we sometimes ignore the needs of others, we neglect to show hospitality to strangers, we forget those who are in prison, and we turn a blind eye to those who are mistreated. Forgive us, heavenly Father, and teach us by your Holy Spirit to follow the example of your Son in true humility.

Pastor: In Jesus' parable He chided His hearers about their seeking places of honor.

People: We confess that in our self-centeredness, we sometimes consider ourselves worthy of honor, even while allowing personal desires to come between us and our Lord. Forgive us, heavenly Father, and teach us by your Holy Spirit to follow, in true humility, the example of your Son.

Pastor: Jesus warned against doing anything for others in expectation of being repaid.

People: We confess that in our fallen human nature we sometimes forget that, because of our Savior's sacrifice for us, the resurrection awaits us. We are free to love our neighbors as ourselves, relying on God's grace for all we need. Forgive us, heavenly Father, and teach us by your Holy Spirit to follow, in true humility, the example of your Son.

Pastor: Jesus suffered in order to sanctify us through His own blood. 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. Let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God. Amen.

+ 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 #547

"The Lamb"

Stanzas 1,2,5

The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!

Refrain **Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!**
 The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. **Refrain**

He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows.
His song prolong Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. **Refrain**

(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 #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 sorr'wing 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!

HYMN #524 "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds In a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, And drives away our fear.
It makes the wounded spirit whole And calms the heart's unrest;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul and to the weary, rest.

Dear name! The rock on which I build, My shield and hiding place;
My never failing treasury filled With boundless stores of grace.

O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend, My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end, Accept the praise I bring.

How weak the effort of my heart, How cold my warmest thought!
But when I see Thee as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought.

Till then I would Thy love proclaim With ev'ry fleeting breath;
And may the music of Thy name Refresh my soul in death!

HYMN #627 “Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior”

Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior, Turned away God’s wrath forever;
By His bitter grief and woe He saved us from the evil foe.

As His pledge of love undying, He, this precious food supplying,
Gives His body with the bread, And with the wine the blood He shed.

Jesus here Himself is sharing; Heed then how you are preparing,
For if you do not believe, His judgment then you shall receive.

Praise the Father, who from heaven To His own this food has given,
Who, to mend what we have done, Gave into death His only Son.

Firmly hold with faith unshaken That this food is to be taken
By the sick who are distressed, By hearts that long for peace and rest.

Agony and bitter labor Were the cost of God’s high favor;
Do not come if you suppose You need not Him who died and rose.

Christ says: “Come, all you that labor, And receive My grace and favor:
Those who feel no pain or ill Need no physician’s help or skill.

“For what purpose was My dying If not for your justifying?
And what use this precious food If you yourself were pure and good?”

If your heart this truth professes And your mouth your sin confesses,
You will be your Savior’s guest, Be at His banquet truly blest.

Let this food your faith so nourish That its fruit of love may flourish
And your neighbor learn from you How much God’s wondrous love can do.

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in
loving-kindness sent your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we give
thanks for the assurance of sins forgiven and ask that your Holy Spirit
would strengthen us to resist the temptations of our self-centeredness
that we strive each day to give you thanks and praise in thought, word,
and deed; 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: 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.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN #707 “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep His statutes still!
Oh, that my God grant me grace To know and do His will!

Order my footsteps by Thy Word And make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, Lord, But keep my conscience clear.
Assist my soul, too apt to stray, A stricter watch to keep;
And should I e’er forget Thy way, Restore Thy wand’ring sheep.

Make me to walk in Thy commands ‘Tis a delightful road-
Nor let my head of heart or hands Offend against my God.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Acolytes
Organist

Pastor Gregg Stanton
Pastor Harold Bender
Jodi Drew, Bob Reynolds, Heidi Leiser
Elena Gonzalez-Clark, Claire Igielski, Thomas Kadolph
Michelle Prince

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