

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

God Gives Us Armour

August 29 & 30, 2015

AS WE GATHER

In 1943, General George Patton said, “It is absurd to believe that soldiers who cannot be made to wear the proper uniform can be induced to move forward in battle.” As we gather today, we stand as soldiers of the cross to receive God’s grace in Word and Sacrament. Having won the battle over sin and death, Jesus comes today to clothe you in the uniform of His righteousness and outfit you in the whole armor of God. The One whose foot crushed the head of the serpent is the One who forgives and renews you today. The peace He gives is what we stand “on our feet” to receive and then move forward into the world to share.

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 #656 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” *Rise for the last stanza*

A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from every need That hath us now o’er taken.
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe; Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight; On earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done, Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One, Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is, Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there’s none other God; He holds the field forever.

Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not over pow’r us.
This world’s prince may still Scowl fierce as he will, He can harm us none.
He’s judged; the deed is done; One little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain Nor any thanks have for it;
He’s by our side upon the plain With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life, Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone, Our vict’ry has been won’ The Kingdom ours remaineth.

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Based on Ephesians 6:11, 15*

Pastor: We put on the full armor of God.

People: We take our stand against the devil’s schemes.

Pastor: We stand on our feet.

People: We are ready to receive the gospel of peace.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Lamentations 3:23–24*

Pastor: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases! His mercies never come to an end!

People: They are new every morning! Great is His faithfulness!

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

People: Merciful God, your commands give true wisdom and understanding, but we have not kept in step with them. We have sinned against you in our thinking, our speaking, and our doing. Our hands and feet have done what you forbid, and they have not done what you desire. By the mercy you show us in the cross of Jesus, cleanse and renew us today. Forgive our sins and strengthen our trust in you, that we may be on our feet to do your will. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His great mercy has given His Son to die for you and for Jesus’ sake forgives you all your sins. Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, 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.

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

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, you clothe your people in the righteousness of your Son and place upon us your heavenly armor. Give to your people the gospel of peace that we may stand on our feet to share in your eternal victory; 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 READING** *Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–9* (God’s Word gives wisdom.)

Hear now, O Israel, the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you. Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? And what other nation is so great as to have such

righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today? Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 6:10–20* (We are outfitted with the armor of God.)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 7:14–23* (Jesus teaches what truly defiles a person.)

Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean.'" After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. "Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him 'unclean'? For it doesn't go into his heart but into his stomach, and then out of his body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods "clean.") He went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.' For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.'" "

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Rise)

SERMON HYMN #660 "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Ye soldiers of the cross.

Lift high His royal banner; It must not suffer loss.

From vict'ry unto vict'ry His army He shall lead

Till ev'ry foe is vanquished, And Christ is Lord in deed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus; The trumpet call obey;

Stand forth in mighty conflict In this His glorious day.

Let all His faithful serve Him Against unnumbered foes;

Let courage rise with danger And strength to strength oppose.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus; Stand in His strength alone,

The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own.

Put on the Gospel armor; Each piece put on with prayer.

Where duty calls or danger, Be never wanting there.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus; the strife will not be long;

This day the din of battle, The next the victor's song.

The soldiers, overcoming, Their crown of life shall see

And with the King of Glory Shall reign eternally.

SERMON "God is So Good He Gives Us Armor"

Ephesians 6:10-20

(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. 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 for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Almighty God, we ask you to be near us with your Word and Spirit. Guide and lead us, that we might walk the way of your commandments.

People: Help us to remember the wonderful blessings that you have given to us. Direct us always with your Word of truth.

Pastor: Holy Spirit, protect us this day from the assaults of the devil. Equip us with the full armor of God's good provision, that we might be clothed in truth, righteousness, peace, faith and salvation.

People: Inspire us to wield the sword of the spirit, which is God's Word, that we might dwell in safety and security, protected from the forces of the evil one.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, keep us from all that would defile us in heart and soul. Keep far from us all evil thoughts, immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, deceit, pride, and all kinds of wickedness.

People: Create in us pure hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us, that we would be holy even as you are holy.

Pastor: God of all knowledge and wisdom, we pray that you would grant to us all that is necessary to know you and your love. Bless our Together in Mission partner, Pastor Ferry and his family.

People: Bless all pastors and teachers, parents and grandparents, and all who teach the faith to others, that the Gospel might continue to spread throughout the world.

Pastor: Almighty God, you are the strength of the weak and the refuge of the powerless. We pray that you would be with your people who are struggling with doubt and temptation and facing trials and troubles in life.

People: Grant assurance to those facing difficult life situations and by your grace strengthen all who are in need of your power and presence.

Pastor: God of all health and life, we pray that you would bring healing and peace to your people. We pray for those in need of your healing hand,

including Wendy, Merle, Larry, Russ, LuEva, Eleanor, Linda, Gladys, Russ, Kathleen, Gretchen, Jack, Marge, Sharon, Helen, Shirley, Marion, Jack, Gretchen, Lois and Sarah.

People: Heal them in accord with your will. Strengthen them with your Word and grace, that they might look to you for comfort in the midst of their suffering and pain.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, into the world to give His body and blood on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. Bless us this day, as we receive these precious gifts in His holy supper.

People: Grant us all to remember and proclaim with joy the salvation accomplished for us by Christ's death and resurrection.

Pastor: Almighty God, you have received us all into your holy family, and we are truly brothers and sisters in Christ.

People: Grant us to rejoice with those who rejoice, carry the burdens of those who suffer, and welcome all your children with open arms.

Pastor: Ever-living One, in your presence live all those whom you have taken to yourself, even our dear departed loved ones. Bless the Wollerman family as they remember Russ on his birthday.

People: Bring us to share with your faithful saints the joy of your glory and the peace of your presence.

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

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

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”

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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.
(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 #575 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

His oath, His covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne! *Refrain*

HYMN #570 “Just as I Am, without One Plea”

Just as I am, without one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; Thy love unknown Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

HYMN #664 “Fight the Good Fight”

Fight the good fight with all your might;
Christ is your strength, and Christ your right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be Your joy and crown eternally.
Run the straight race through God’s good grace;
Lift up your eyes, and seek His face. Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.
Cast care aside, lean on your guide; His boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and enduring faith shall prove Christ is your life and Christ your love.
Faint not nor fear, His arms are near; He changes not who holds you dear;
Only believe, and you will see That Christ is all eternally.

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 *Ephesians 6:11, 15*

Pastor: We put on the full armor of God.

People: We take our stand against the devil’s schemes.

Pastor: We stand on our feet.

People: We are ready to share the gospel of peace.

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 #662 “Onward, Christian Soldiers”

Onward Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus Going on before.
Christ, the royal master, Leads against the foe;
Forward into battle See His banners go!

Refrain **Onward Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus Going on before.**

Like a mighty army Moves the Church of God;
Brothers, we are treading Where the saints have trod.
We are not divided, All one body we,
One in hope and doctrine, One in charity. *Refrain*

Crowns and thrones may perish, Kingdoms rise and wane,
But the Church of Jesus Constant will remain.
Gates of hell can never ‘Gainst that Church prevail;
We have Christ’s own promise, And that cannot fail. *Refrain*

Onward, then, ye faithful, Join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices In the triumph song:
Glory, laud, and honor Unto Christ, the king;
This through countless ages Men and angels sing. *Refrain*

Preacher	Pastor Gregg Stanton
Liturgist	Pastor Harold Bender
Lectors	Manley Hurst, Grant Gundersen, Bob Reynolds
Acolytes	Aidyn Roska, Isabella Foti, Kaden Hutchins
Organist	Roger Gottschalk
Music Coordinator	Kim Woller