

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

A New Life of Love
August 5, 8 & 9, 2015

AS WE GATHER

We were all born with a sinful nature and that natural self loves self above all others. This love of self is to be put to death, laid to rest, that we might arise anew each day to live according to the new life and new self that God has created us to be in Christ Jesus. Dying and rising is the daily life of every sincere believer. We die to self to live for others. We die to sin to live for righteousness. We die to the old self and put on the new self. We seek to live a new life of love, loving and forgiving others as we have been loved and forgiven by God. In this world of hatred and enmity, a person who lives a "life of love" is refreshing to others and a fragrance of God's grace.

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 #811 "Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices"

Oh, that I had a thousand voices To praise my God, with thousand tongues!
My heart which in the Lord rejoices, Would then proclaim in grateful songs
To all, wherever I might be, What great things God has done for me.

O all you pow'rs that He implanted, Arise, keep silence now no more;
Put forth the strength that God has granted! Your noblest work is to adore.
O soul and body, join to raise With heartfelt joy our Maker's praise.

You forest leaves so green and tender That dance for joy in summer air,
You meadow grasses, bright and slender, You flow'rs so fragrant and so fair,
You live to show God's praise alone. Join me to make His glory known.

All creatures that have breath and motion, That throng the earth, the sea, the
sky. Come, share with me my heart's devotion, Help me to sing God's praises
high. My utmost pow'rs can never quite Declare the wonders of His might.

1 continued

Creator, humbly I implore You To listen to my earthly song
Until that day when I adore You, Together with the angel throng
And learn with choirs of heav'n to sing Eternal anthems to my King.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 34:4; John 6:51*

Pastor: I sought the LORD, and He answered me

People: and delivered me from all my fears.

Pastor: Jesus says, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven.

People: If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever."

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us look to Jesus to receive God's help and encouragement in all our
needs.

**People: I confess to Almighty God that I have relied on my own weak wisdom
and works and have neglected your mercy, love, and deliverance. My
sins have made me frustrated at myself and the world around me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and feed me with the food of
faith and eternal life. Amen.**

Pastor: Though the journey is too great for you on your own, firmly in these
words believe: Jesus sinners doth receive. As a called and ordained
servant of Christ, and by His command and authority, 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

To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless you, Father; Your holy name, we sing –
Our thanks for your great glory, Lord God, our Heav'nly King.
To You, O sole begotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.

2 continued

Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.
For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord. Forever and forever,
Be worshipped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High.
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious Father, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Grant that Christ, the bread of life, may live in us and we in Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *1 Kings 19:1–8* (Elijah flees Jezebel.)

Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them." Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day's journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 4:17–5:2* (Walking the new life of love)

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and

separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 6:35–51* ("I am the bread of life.")

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?" "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered. "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. I tell you the truth, he

who believes has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #700 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

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.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit; Let us find Thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.

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!

SERMON "A Life Filled with Love" Ephesians 4:17-5:2

(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: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their need. Lord of the Church, we pray for persecuted Christians here and throughout the world, asking you to provide for their physical and spiritual needs.

People: **As you once provided for the prophet Elijah when he was fleeing from the persecution of Jezebel, abide with them and be their strength and sufficiency.**

Pastor: Gracious God, we pray for all your children to live a life of love, showing forth the grace you have given us in Jesus Christ.

People: **Grant us all to love as we have been loved, forgive others as we have been forgiven, and to deal graciously with all people.**

Pastor: Lord of all, we pray for all those struggling with sin, that through the power of the Holy Spirit, they may put off the old self and put on the new.

People: **Bless them to live according to your will, following your ways, seeking true righteousness and holiness.**

Pastor: Source of everything good, we pray for our daily bread, asking you to richly provide all that we need to support our body and life.

People: **Give us especially the true bread of life found in your Son, Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: Author of life, we pray for those who are struggling with faith and are plagued by doubt.

People: **Provide comfort, peace and assurance to them in the light of Christ's death and resurrection.**

Pastor: Almighty God, we pray for the pastors of Christ's Church who are worn down and sometimes worn out by the demands of the ministry.

People: **Grant to them a renewed spirit and zeal, provide them with times of rest, and strengthen their faith and trust in the Lord who leads them.**

Pastor: Father in heaven, we pray for Christians everywhere, that we be given grace to build one another up in the joy of the Gospel of the forgiveness of sins.

People: **Strengthen our relationships, build us up in the faith, and grant us to walk closely together by your grace.**

Pastor: Giver of grace, we pray for the blessings of Holy Communion which we receive at the table this day.

People: Grant all who faithfully partake in the Sacrament the full blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation that Christ offers us in His body and blood.

Pastor: Lord of healing and hope, we pray for the sick, the hospitalized and all of those dealing with difficulty and distress, including Russ, LuEva, Eleanor, Linda, Gladys, Roy, Ron, Russ, Kathleen, Gretchen, Jack, Marge, Sharon, Helen, Shirley, Marion, Jack, Gretchen, Lois and Sarah.

People: Father in heaven, lay your healing hand upon them and fill them with comfort and peace.

Pastor: Almighty God, the giver of every good blessing, we rejoice with Phil and Barbara for your abundant goodness, even as we ask your blessing upon Sean and Lisa as they begin their life together as husband and wife.

People: Bless their marriage by the love of Christ and grant faithfulness to all those who live together in holy marriage.

Pastor: Eternal Lord, we ask you to bless those who mourn the passing of loved ones, especially the family and friends of Diane Ebert.

People: Comfort their hearts, dry their tears, support them in the days to come, and bless them with faith and hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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

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O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

7 (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 #628 "Your Table I Approach"

Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.

Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;
a contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.

Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.

O grant, most blessed Lord, That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

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.

8 continued

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.

HYMN #643 “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Sent forth by God’s blessing, Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
The Supper is ended. O now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching, Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all. His grace did invite us,
His love shall unite us To work for God’s kingdom and answer His call.

With praise and thanksgiving To God ever living,
The tasks of our ev’ry day life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring, Embracing His children of each tribe
and race. With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share. Then may all the living
With praise and thanksgiving Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: 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

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.

CLOSING 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.

Preacher & Liturgist
Lectors
Acolytes
Organist
Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender
Russell Hurst, Bob Reynolds
Macky Wessler, Adam Biedenbender
Roger Gottschalk
Kim Woller

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