

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

By Faith
August 6-7, 2016

AS WE GATHER

By faith, Abraham and Sarah went to the land God told them, even though they didn't fully understand why God wanted them to go. By faith, even though they had their moments of uncertainty, they rejoiced when God blessed them with a son in their old age. By faith, Abel honored God with his sacrifice, and God did not abandon him when he was murdered by his own brother. By faith, Enoch lived an exemplary life and God blessed him by taking Enoch to Himself. By faith, Noah built the ark when it seemed odd to do so. It is not only our faith ancestors of long ago who walked by faith. Many of us could tell the stories of a parent or grandparent or another faith mentor who walked by faith and so inspired us to do the same. It is also not only those who have gone before us who walk by faith; we do too. Like our forebears, we do not always understand where God is leading, nor do we always see the path clearly. Yet, when we walk by faith in the promises of God in Jesus Christ, we, too, are blessed and become part of God's blessing of the whole world.

WELCOME

MINISTRY MOMENT – Katie Kelly

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

Isaiah 26:4

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #726 “Evening and Morning”

Evening and morning, Sunset and dawning, Wealth, peace, and gladness,
Comfort in sadness: These are Thy works; all the glory be Thine!
Times without number, Awake or in slumber, Thine eye observes us,
From danger preserves us, Causing Thy mercy upon us to shine.

Father, O hear me, Pardon and spare me; Calm all my terrors,
Blot out my errors That by Thine eyes they may no more be scanned.
Order my goings, Direct all my doings; As it may please Thee,
Retain or release me; All I commit to Thy fatherly hand.

1 continued

Ills that still grieve me Soon are to leave me; Though billows tower,
And winds gain power, After the storm the fair sun shows its face.
Joys e'er increasing And peace never ceasing: These shall I treasure
And share in full measure When in His mansions God grants me a place.

To God in heaven All praise be given! Come, let us offer And gladly proffer
To the Creator the gifts He doth prize. He will receiveth
A heart that believeth; Hymns that adore Him Are precious before Him
And to His throne like sweet incense arise.

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES *Based on Hebrews 11*

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

People: By faith, we understand that God created the universe by His Word.

Pastor: By faith, Abel obeyed God and received eternal life.

People: By faith, Enoch pleased God.

Pastor: By faith, Noah built the ark and became an heir of God's righteousness.

People: By faith, Abraham obeyed God and ventured to a land he did not know.

Pastor: By faith, Sarah welcomed the promise of God in a son.

All: By faith, we look to God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—to overcome our worries, to guide our lives, and to open our eyes to our neighbor's needs.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Worry reveals that we are sinful to the core by nature and that we cannot free ourselves from it. By things done and left undone, we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

People: We confess our sins to you, Lord. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that by faith we join Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Sarah in blessing the world with your mercy.

2

Pastor: Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"This is the Feast"

Page 155

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. **Refrain**

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, you kept your promise to Abraham and Sarah in the fullness of time by sending Jesus Christ into the world to lay down His life for us. Help us to live by faith like those who have gone before us, so that we may be a blessing to our world and thereby participate in the fulfillment of your promise to our ancestors; 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 *Genesis 15:1–6* (God reiterates His promise to Abram.) After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward." But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is

Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir." Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir." He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars-- if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

EPISTLE *Hebrews 11:1–16* (By faith)

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead. By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith Abraham, even though he was past age-- and Sarah herself was barren-- was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country-- a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 12:22–40* (“Fear not, little flock.”)

Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? "Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #787 “The Temple Rang with Golden Coins”

The temple rang with golden coins
The rich in bright array
Contributed from gleaming hoards
Their scales could scarcely weigh.

A widow came with copper coins
And offered them in praise.
They were the last she had to give
Or save for darker days.

When Jesus saw her costly gift
And knew she had no more,
He praised a love that spared not self
And called her rich, though poor.

At last He brought His offering
And laid it on a tree;
There gave Himself, His life, His love
For all humanity.

Lord, help us all, with You, to yield
Whatever love demands
And freely give, as You have giv’n
With open hearts and hands.

SERMON

“The Temple Rang With Golden Coins”

Luke 21:1-4

(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 to the God and Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ, that He would provide for all our needs of body and soul and, above all, keep us steadfast in His Word and faith, even unto death, that we may find our peace and rest within His kingdom, here in time and hereafter in eternity.

Pastor: Merciful God and Father, you have raised up children to Abraham from all the nations through faith in your Word and promises. So bless your Church on earth by the seed of father Abraham, our Lord, Jesus Christ, that your people would be defended against the assaults and temptations of the adversary.

People: **Bless all servants of the Word to share boldly your truth, even as we rejoice in Pastor Hinz’s 65th anniversary in the ministry. By your Holy Spirit, grant us to live unto righteousness in Christ and to shine like the stars in the heavens forever and ever.**

Pastor: Lord God Almighty, by your Word you created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them out of nothing, and by your Word of promise you brought Abraham to faith in the inheritance of Christ.

People: Preserve and protect your holy Church throughout the world by the faithful preaching of your Word, and help all who hear this proclamation rightly to understand and truly to believe it.

Pastor: Father in heaven, as you have called us into the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, so grant us by your Holy Spirit to set our hearts upon that priceless treasure.

People: Implant your Word in us, that we may keep it and bring forth the fruits of faith in the unity of the Spirit, in the bond of peace and in righteousness of life.

Pastor: Father above, we rejoice in the extension of Christ's kingdom as Rhyder and Haylee are baptized into Christ this weekend. Bless parents and Godparents to raise them in the faith.

People: Bless us all to grow with them in faith and life in Christ.

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God, because you desire not the death of sinners but that all people should repent and be saved by your grace, have compassion on those who remain ignorant of your Son and the mystery of faith.

People: Free them from their error, and for the glory of your name bring them into the fellowship of your holy Church.

Pastor: Lord God, heavenly Father, you open your hand to feed the ravens and to adorn the lilies of the field, and how much more do you satisfy the wants and needs of our body and life in this world. Order our days and our deeds in your peace.

People: Grant us also the wisdom to live within our callings, being neither anxious nor afraid of any foe on earth, but with steady confidence in your gracious providence.

Pastor: Lord God Almighty, the consolation of the sorrowful and the strength of the weak, rescue us and all your people from all harm and danger. Take away disease, ward off famine, set free those in bondage and grant health to the sick and distressed particularly Sylvia, Rosalie, Gavin, Marion, John, Roemelle, Arlene, Ruth, Kathleen, Doris, Jean, Mae, Marion,

Helen, Leonard, LuEva, Linda, Gladys, Russ, Jack, Shirley, Richard, Lois and Sarah.

People: Deliver those who call upon your name, that they may rejoice in your manifold help and comfort.

Pastor: Almighty Father, at the beginning of time you said it was not good for the man to be alone and so you created woman and instituted marriage. Bless your servants Kevin and Mollie as they are united in marriage this weekend. Bring joy to Lisa and Sean as they celebrate their first wedding anniversary.

People: Bless all couples living in marriage to love and forgive, to cherish and serve each other.

Pastor: O Lord our God, grant your Holy Spirit unto your servants who recline at your table this day. Enlighten them by your Word as a lamp unto their feet.

People: Bless them by your grace that they may live in your grace and be ready for the day of Christ's return.

Pastor: Lord of the church, we rejoice with the saints who now dwell in glory with you. Bless Howard and Debbie as they remember their mothers, Elsbeth and Dolores, who have departed this life and entered the life that is eternal.

People: Bless all who remember departed loved ones, that they may find hope and peace in Christ.

Pastor: Hear us, most merciful Father, in these our humble requests, which we offer unto you in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ 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

Page 163

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 #712 “Seek Ye First”

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, And His righteousness.

And all these things shall be added unto you! Allelu, alleluia!

Ask and it shall be given unto you, Seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you, Allelu, alleluia!

Man does not live by bread alone, But by ev’ry word
that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord, Allelu, alleluia!

HYMN #740 “I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb”

I am Jesus’ little lamb, Ever glad at heart I am;

For my Shepherd gently guides me. Knows my need and well provides me,
Loves me ev’ry day the same, Even calls me by my name.

Day by day, at home, away. Jesus is my staff and stay.

When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, Into pleasant pastures meads me:

When I thirst, He bids me go Where the quiet waters flow.

Who so happy as I am, Even now the Shepherd’s lamb?

And when my short life is ended, By His angel host attended,

He shall fold me to His breast, There within His arms to rest.

HYMN #782 “Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings”

Gracious God, You send great blessings New each morning all our days.

For Your mercies never ending For Your love we offer praise.

Refrain **Lord, we pray that we, Your people Who gifts unnumbered claim,
Through sharing of Your blessings May bring glory to Your name.**

By Your Word You formed creation Filled with creatures large and small;

As we tend that endless treasure May our care encircle all. *Refrain*

In His earthly life, our Savior Knew the care of faithful friends;

May our deeds of dedication Offer love that never ends. *Refrain*

Heav’nly Father, may our caring Bear the imprint of Your grace;

With the Son and Holy Spirit, Praise be Yours in ev’ry place! *Refrain*

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We thank you, almighty Lord, that you provide even for the birds of the air and the lilies of the field. How much more do you provide for us, your dear children. You give us this Holy Communion—Christ present for us in forgiveness in the midst of the worry and anxiety of our lives. We thank you, adore you, and praise you now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

People: Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

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 #789 “Praise and Thanksgiving”

Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer
For all things living, Created good:
Harvest of sown fields, Fruits of the orchard,
Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood.

Bless, Lord, the labor We bring to serve You
That with our neighbor We may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, We would work with You,
Harvesting, milling For daily bread.

Father, providing Food for Your children,
By Your wise guiding Teach us to share
One with another, So that, rejoicing
With us, all others May know Your care.

Preacher & Liturgist

Lectors

Acolytes

Organist

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Marc Stefanic, Grant Gundersen

Riley Zacharias, Isabella Foti

Michelle Prince