

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Evident Faithfulness
February 18 & 19, 2017

AS WE GATHER

Faithfulness is the condition of being filled with faith. People filled with faith in God's faithfulness can do amazing things. They can love their neighbors as themselves. They can forgive their enemies. They can find delight in following the pathway of the Lord's Commandments. They can even discover reasons for hope and joy in adversity. The ultimate compliment Jesus mentions in the parable of the talents is when the master says to his worker, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:23). It doesn't get any better than that!

WELCOME

"Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: Jesus appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory." (1 Timothy 3:16)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #873 "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true and only light,
Sun of righteousness, arise; Triumph o'er the shades of night.
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.
Dark and cheerless is the morn Unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return Till Thy mercy's beams I see,
Till they inward light impart, Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
Visit then this soul of mine, Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, radiance divine, Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display, Shining to the perfect day.

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

People: He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Let us go to Him, confident that He will grant us forgiveness for Jesus' sake. Heavenly Father,

People: we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have failed to live in faithfulness, the fruit of your Holy Spirit, in our thinking, speaking, and acting. Yet we would hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. Our Lord Jesus revealed His person and ministry through His words and actions. In your great mercy, forgive, renew, and lead us so that we may be revealed as His faith-filled followers to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price." Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS ♪ **“Glory to God in the Highest”**

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Pastor: Glory be to God on high:

People: and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav’nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord, God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen

THEME CELEBRATION “Faithfulness”

Pastor: From the very first books of the Bible and through all of Scripture, the faithfulness of God is expressed as being central to His divine character. In his song included in Deuteronomy, Moses rejoices in this attribute of God, “The Rock, His work is perfect, for all His ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is He.” God has shown faithfulness to His people from the very beginning of His dealing with them. Proverbs says, “Those who act faithfully are His delight.” The faithfulness evidenced by God’s people is a reflection of His faithfulness to all generations. In the season of Epiphany, we can find opportunities to manifest some of this faithfulness.

HYMN #691 **“Fruitful Trees, the Spirit’s Sowing”**

Fruitful trees, the Spirit’s sowing, May we ripen and increase,
Fruit to life eternal growing, Rich in love and joy and peace.
Laden branches freely bearing Gifts the Giver loves to bless;
Here is fruit that grows by sharing, Patience, kindness, gentleness.

Rooted deep in Christ our Master, Christ our pattern and our goal,
Teach us, as the years fly faster, Goodness, faith, and self control.

Fruitful trees, the Spirit’s tending, May we grow till harvests cease;
Till we taste, in life unending, Heaven’s love and joy and peace.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: ♪ **And with thy Spirit.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: ♪ **Amen.**

(Be seated)

10:30 BAPTISM of Julia Jade Flask

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Please refrain from taking photos during the service.

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Leviticus 19:1–2, 9–18* (The Lord demands right living among His people.) The LORD said to Moses, "Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.'"Each of you must respect his mother and father, and you must observe my Sabbaths. I am the LORD your God. "'Do not turn to idols or make gods of cast metal for yourselves. I am the LORD your God. "'When you sacrifice a fellowship offering to the LORD, sacrifice it in such a way that it will be accepted on your behalf. It shall be eaten on the day you sacrifice it or on the next day; anything left over until the third day must be burned up. If any of it is eaten on the third day, it is impure and will not be accepted. Whoever eats it will be held responsible because he has desecrated what is holy to the LORD; that person must be cut off from his people.'"When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the LORD your God. "'Do not steal. "'Do not lie. "'Do not deceive one another. "'Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the LORD. "'Do not defraud your neighbor or rob him. "'Do not hold back the wages of a hired man overnight. "'Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but fear your God. I am the LORD. "'Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality

to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly. "Do not go about spreading slander among your people. "Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor's life. I am the LORD. "Do not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt. "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 3:10–23* (We are God's temple, the Spirit dwelling in us.)

By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames. Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple. Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a "fool" so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness"; and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile." So then, no more boasting about men! All things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future-- all are yours, and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

8:00 ANTHEM *"Sov'reign Lord"*

10:30 ANTHEM *"Builder of Everything"*

(Rise)

ALLELUIA 🎵

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the fifth chapter.

People: 🎵 Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 5:38–48* (Jesus continues to teach the Law with authority.)

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

5:00 & 8:00 NICENE CREED

(Be seated)

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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #809 *"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee. Thou changest not:
Thy compassions, they fail not; As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

**Refrain: Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain*

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6 continued

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

SERMON **“Life Built on the Solid Foundation”** **1 Corinthian’s 3:10-23**

(Rise)

OFFERTORY 

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Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.
(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 for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Lord God, heavenly Father, you are building a living temple for your Holy Spirit out of the Church, whose cornerstone is Jesus Christ, your Son. Grant faithful master builders to lay upon this foundation that which will survive the day of His return.

People: **Fill us with faith to believe we are the living stones of His temple. Move us to build our lives on Jesus Christ, never trusting or boasting in our own works, but only in the work you do by your Spirit through your Son.**

Pastor: Father, we rejoice in the extension of Christ’s kingdom, especially as Julia Jade Flask is baptized into Christ this weekend. Grant her parents to raise her to know Christ and grandparents to be good examples of Christian life.

People: **As your holy people, help us all to grow up in our salvation, growing in faith and living out our faith day by day.**

Pastor: When there are divisions in the Church on earth, let what is genuine, true, and right be recognized, that we may always walk the path of your commandments and so please you.

People: **Guide us all to rely on your Son, the One who perfectly loved His enemies. Let us imitate Him and be holy as you are holy.**

Pastor: Almighty Father, you ask us to pray for our enemies and do good to those who hate us. Help us in this task, that all may humbly come before you, confess their sins and be reconciled to you and to each other.

People: **Help us to consider others more significant than ourselves. Do not let us hate our brother in our heart, but instead model the humility of your Son and make peace with our neighbor.**

Pastor: Gracious Lord, you do not willingly afflict or grieve your children. Look with compassion on those who are suffering in body or mind especially this week we ask for Al, Lucille, Frank, Carol, Pastor Hinz, Ervin, Larry, Flora, Matthew, Arlene, Mae, Dorothy, John, Arlene, Roemelle, LuEva, Daniel, Kathleen, Jean, Russ, Hele, Leonard, Linda, Gladys, Jack, Shirley and Sarah. Remember them in your mercy, strengthen them in patience, comfort them with the memory of your goodness.

People: **Let your face shine on them, that they may have peace and hope through faith in Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: Giver of everything good, we rejoice in the gift of life, joining with the Baars family as they celebrate Carole’s birthday. We also rejoice in all who serve in your holy church, remembering this day the work of the Altar Guild.

People: **Bless us to acknowledge you as the source of every blessing. We join with LouAnn in thanksgiving for friends who help in time of need. In thankfulness, make us willing servants to serve our Lord in His church and in our daily lives.**

Pastor: Lord God, by your Word give us understanding to keep your Law and observe it with our whole heart. Grant us all repentant and faithful hearts as we approach Christ’s table this day.

People: By your Son's body and blood, confirm to us your promised mercy and grace, that you may be feared, our reproach turned away, and life granted us in your righteousness.

Pastor: Into your hands, dear Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

PREFACE 🎵 Page 194

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

People: It is meet and right so to do.

SANCTUS 🎵 Page 195

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

5:00 & 8:00 THE LORD'S PRAYER 🎵 Page 196

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD & PAX DOMINI 🎵 Page 197

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI 🎵 Page 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

(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 #645 "Built on the Rock"

Built on the Rock the Church shall stand Even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spiers in ev'ry land; Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest, But above all the souls distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.

Surely in temples made with hands God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
High above earth His temple stands, All earthly temples excelling,
Yet He who dwells in heav'n above Chooses to live with us in love,
Making our bodies His temple.

We are God's house of living stones, Built for His own habitation.
He through baptismal grace us owns Heirs of His wondrous salvation.
Were we but two His name to tell, Yet He would deign with us to dwell
With all His grace and His favor.

Here stands the font before our eyes, Telling how God has received us.
The altar recalls Christ's sacrifice And what His Supper here gives us.
Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim Christ yesterday, today, the same,
And evermore, our Redeemer.

Grant, then, O God, Your will be done, That, when the church bells are ringing,
Many in saving faith may come Where Christ His message is bringing;
"I know My own; My own know me. You, not the world, My face shall see.
My peace I leave with you. Amen."

HYMN #633 "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King.
Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from His pierced side. Alleluia!

Praise we Him, whose love divine Gives His sacred blood for wine,
Gives His body for the feast-Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!

Where the paschal blood is poured, Death's dread angel sheathes the sword:
Israel's hosts triumphant go Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas'chal victim, paschal bread; with
sincerity and love Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!

Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!

Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!

Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days; Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!

HYMN #629 "What Is This Bread"

What is this bread? Christ's body risen from the dead:
This bread we break, This life we take, Was crushed to pay for our release.
O taste and see the Lord is peace.

What is this wine? The blood of Jesus shed for mine;
The cup of grace Brings His embrace Of life and love until I sing!
O taste and see the Lord is King.

So who am I, That I should live and He should die Under the rod?
My God, my God, Why have You not forsaken me?

O taste and see the Lord is free.
Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,
In mouth and soul He makes us whole Christ, truly present in this meal.
O taste and see the Lord is real.

Is this for me? I am forgiven and set free!
I do believe That I receive His very body and His blood.
O taste and see the Lord is good.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

NUNC DIMITTIS 🎵

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Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face
of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the
beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THANKSGIVING 🎵

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Pastor: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

People: and His mercy endureth forever.

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.

SALUTATION & BENEDICAMUS 🎵

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Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Pastor: Bless we the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION 🎵

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Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon
you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon
you and + give you peace.

People: Amen, amen, amen.

CLOSING HYMN #727

“On Eagles’ Wings”

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, Who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord: “My refuge, My rock in whom I trust!”

**Refrain: And He will raise you up on eagles’ wings.
 Bear you on the breath of dawn,
 Make you to shine like the sun,
 And hold you in the palm of His hand.**

The snare of the fowler will never capture you, And famine will bring you no fear;
Under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield. *Refrain*

You need not fear the terror of the night, Nor the arrow that flies by day;
Though thousands fall about you, Near you it shall not come. *Refrain*

For to His angels He’s given a command To guard you in all of your ways;
Upon their hands they will bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.
Refrain

Preacher	Pastor Harold Bender
Liturgist	Pastor Gregg Stanton
Lectors	Russell Hurst, Joseph Bender, John Ficken
Acolytes	Placido Ramos Jr, Rachel O’Brien, Emma Harper
Organist & PK4 - 1 st Grade Director	Michelle Prince
Choir Director	Nancy Hoelke