

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Spiritual Blessings in Christ

July 11 & 12, 2015

AS WE GATHER

"You have been so blessed!" Why do people say things like that and what is in their mind when it comes to blessings. The truth is that every blessing comes from God. Even as James once wrote: "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights . . ." Yet, all too often we think of "blessings" only in terms of earthly things. Today in the epistle reading, Paul praises God for all the spiritual blessings that we have received through Jesus. Indeed, he proclaims that we have received "every spiritual blessing in Christ." May God open the eyes of our hearts to see and embrace all these blessings.

WELCOME

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:10-11)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #686 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.

Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the bloodwashed linen, How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry Me to realms of endless day.

(Rise)

INVOCATION *Based on Ephesians 1:3, 7, 14*

Pastor: In the name of God the Father,

People: who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing,

Pastor: in the name of God the Son,

People: in whom we have redemption through His blood,

Pastor: and in the name of God the Holy Spirit,

People: who is the guarantee of our inheritance in heaven. Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 85:8*

Pastor: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

People: for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints;

Pastor: but let them not turn back to folly.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Amos 7:8; Ephesians 1:3, 7*

Pastor: Although we have repeatedly gone astray, by Jesus' sacrifice for us God has made forgiveness available, so that we should be holy and blameless before Him as He always intended. Let us therefore confess our sins, confident of His grace and mercy for Jesus' sake. Most merciful God,

People: when we recognize the straight plumb line of your Law, we see the crookedness of our ways. From birth, our sinful condition has shown in our thinking, speaking, and doing. When we recall the prophets of the Old Testament and John the Baptist, we recognize the weakness of our convictions. Without your aid, we are as good as dead. According to the riches of your grace, grant us forgiveness because of the redemption we have through Jesus' blood. By your Holy Spirit, raise us to newness of life that we may walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: God has blessed us in Christ that we should be holy and blameless before Him. 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 #794 "The Lord, My God, Be Praised" Stanzas 1 & 2

The Lord, my God, be praised, My light, my life from heaven;
My maker, who to me Has soul and body given;
My Father, who will shield And keep me day by day
And make each moment yield New blessings on my way.

The Lord, my God, be praised, My trust, my life from heaven,
The Father's own dear Son, Whose life for me was given,
Who for my sin atoned With His most precious blood
And gives to me by faith The highest heav'nly good.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, you brought your Son through death to life for our sake.

People: Give us confident faith that because He lives, we shall live also and that nothing shall separate us from your love in time or eternity;

Pastor: through the same 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)

9:00 BAPTISM of Mia Anne Veit

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☩ WORD ☩

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Amos 7:7–15* (Amos stands up against a false prophet and the king.) This is what he showed me: The Lord was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand. And the LORD asked me, "What do you see, Amos?" "A plumb line," I replied. Then the Lord said, "Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer. "The high places of Isaac will be destroyed and the sanctuaries of Israel will be ruined; with my sword I will rise against the

house of Jeroboam." Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent a message to Jeroboam king of Israel: "Amos is raising a conspiracy against you in the very heart of Israel. The land cannot bear all his words. For this is what Amos is saying: " 'Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will surely go into exile, away from their native land.' " Then Amaziah said to Amos, "Get out, you seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there and do your prophesying there. Don't prophesy anymore at Bethel, because this is the king's sanctuary and the temple of the kingdom." Amos answered Amaziah, "I was neither a prophet nor a prophet's son, but I was a shepherd, and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees. But the LORD took me from tending the flock and said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

EPISTLE *Ephesians 1:3–14* (Our eternal inheritance is sure because of God's grace in Christ.) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 6:14–29* (Herod thinks that Jesus is John the Baptist come back to life.) King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him." Others said, "He is Elijah." And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago." But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, the man I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!" For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. For John had been saying to

Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him. Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?" "The head of John the Baptist," she answered. At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON 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

SERMON "Blessed Beyond Measure" Ephesians 1:3-14

(Rise)

5:00 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 people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their need. O Lord, give ear to our pleas for mercy. Enter not into judgment with your servants, for no one living is righteous before you.

People: Instead, for the sake of Jesus, answer us in your faithfulness and righteousness.

Pastor: Almighty God, although we in no way deserve it, you predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, that we might be holy and blameless before you. Preserve us from all temptation that would lead us astray from your ways and your salvation.

People: When we fall, move us quickly to repentance and renewed confidence of your grace.

Pastor: God of all grace, bless and comfort those who suffer or are in prison because of your holy Word. Whenever you allow your people to suffer punishment at the hands of man, preserve their faith and trust in Christ.

People: Sustain them by the promise that they have redemption through Christ's blood and forgiveness and continue to receive the riches of your grace.

Pastor: Lord of the church, we rejoice in the growth of Christ's kingdom among us, especially as Mia and Mila are baptized into Christ. Bless their parents to raise them in the faith and within the fellowship of believers.

People: Grant them to grow with us to believe in Jesus, trust His promises, and follow Him all the days of our lives.

Pastor: Father in heaven, we should daily give you praise for all the goodness you bestow upon us each and every day. We join with the Graf family as they celebrate Jay's birthday. We give you special thanks as Jack and Gladys celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary and pray for Zach and Josephine and Michael & Julie as they are united in holy marriage.

People: We rejoice in your binding them together in your love and pray that all marriages would be blessed by having Christ as the center of their life together.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, as you have lavished upon us the riches of your grace, we pray that, according to your will, you would lavish healing of body and mind upon all those who are in need especially Eleanor, Linda, Jo, Gladys, Helene, Roy, Ron, Russ, Kathleen, Gretchen, Jack, Marge, Sharon, Helen, Shirley, Marion, Jack, Gretchen, Lois and Sarah. Comfort all who suffer and grant to them your peace.

People: Fill them with the conviction of faith that your abiding presence is with them and that you will never leave them nor forsake them.

Pastor: O Lord, surely your salvation is near to those who fear you. We give great thanks that you dwell with us by your Word and Sacraments. Bless all your people this day who partake of your Holy Supper.

People: Grant that each of us would receive your holy body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins, the strengthening of our faith, and the renewal of our lives.

Pastor: We give thanks to you, O Lord, for the saints who have gone before us, whom you preserved in grace and who now rest from their labors. Comfort and support Nancy as she mourns the death of her mother, Carol, Mary as she mourns the death of her mom, Minette. Bless and comfort all those who remember loved ones: Jean as she remembers Frank, and Nancy as she remembers Jimmy.

People: Continue to preserve us in faith for the sake of Christ, until that day when with all the saints we enter into the eternal inheritance you have prepared for us, to the praise of your glorious grace.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through faith in Christ Jesus.

People: Amen.

5:00 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 #550

Stanzas 1 & 2

Your only Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod, And to become the Lamb of God.

**Refrain O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

Your Gift of love they crucified, They laughed and scorned Him as he died:
The humble King they named a fraud, And sacrificed the Lamb of God. **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 #633 "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" Stanzas 1-6

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!

HYMN #617 “O Lord, We Praise Thee”

O Lord we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish: O Lord, have mercy!
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary, That our sins and sorrows did carry,
And Thy blood for us plead In all trial, fear, and need: O Lord, have mercy!
Thy holy body into death was given, Life to win for us in heaven.
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;
May this feast there-of remind us! O Lord, have mercy!
Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;
Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mercy!
May God bestow on us His grace and favor That we follow Christ our Savior
And live together here in love and union
Nor despise this blest Communion! O Lord, have mercy!
Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us; Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see Days of peace and unity: O Lord, have mercy!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, for you have refreshed us on our pilgrim way. Grant us opportunity to proclaim boldly your gracious pardon and peace. Strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another; through your Son, Jesus Christ, 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 #924 “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing, Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Your love possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us; O refresh us, Trav'ling through this wilderness.
Thanks we give and adoration For Your Gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of Your salvation In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful To Your truth may we be found.

Savior, when Your love shall call us From our struggling pilgrim way.
Let not fear of death appall us, Glad Your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever Reign with You in endless day.

Preacher	Pastor Harold Bender
Liturgist	Pastor Gregg Stanton
Lectors	Jane Adams, John Ficken
Acolytes	Elena Gonzalez-Clark, Isabella Foti
Puppet Ministry	Laurel Privatt
Organist	Roger Gottschalk
Music Coordinator	Kim Woller

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