

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Can These Walls Tumble Down?

July 18, 21, 22, 2018

AS WE GATHER

We live in a divisive world. There are so many things out there that can divide us, including political viewpoints, race, gender, age, fashion, and many more. There are wars, conflicts, and rumors of war floating around every day in the news. In the Epistle, Paul speaks of a dividing wall of hostility. We have many such walls. Yet in Christ, we are reconciled to God and to one another. The walls that divide us are toppled over, and Christ makes peace between nations and peoples by His own blood. We are now one Body, one Church, serving under one Lord. May God's peace reign in your life and break down any walls that divide you from God or from others.

WELCOME

"For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.

Walk as children of light for the fruit of light is found
in all that is good and right and true." (Ephesians 5:8-9)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #904 "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word" *Rise last stanza*

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word We are gathered all to hear You.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred Now to seek and love and fear You,
By Your teachings, sweet and holy, Drawn from earth to love You solely.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till Your Spirit breaks our night With the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us; You must work all good within us.

Gracious Savior, good and kind, Light of Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind; Help us by Your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry Your Church now raises; Hear and bless our prayers and praises.

(Rise) Father, Son, and Spirit, Lord, Praise to You and adoration!
Grant that we may trust Your Word, Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander, Till we sing Your praises yonder.

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: The Lord is our righteous Shepherd.

People: He does not scatter us, but gathers us together.

Pastor: He makes us lie down in green pastures

People: and feeds us with the bread of life.

Pastor: He leads us in paths of righteousness

People: by breaking down our dividing walls of hostility.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, we have not lived a life worthy of our righteous Shepherd. We have all built dividing walls of hostility. Let us then confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father. Heavenly Father,

People: we confess that we have been divisive and have failed to live at peace with one another. At times, we have treated others as inferior because of differences of language and race, intelligence and appearance, gender and age. Forgive us for our prejudice, and break down the walls that divide us from one another and from you.

Pastor: You were once foreigners and strangers to God, but now you have been brought near by the blood of Christ. He Himself is our peace. Jesus Christ died and was raised for you so that you might be reconciled with God and with one another. 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. Through Christ we are no longer strangers, but we are members of the household of God.

HYMN OF PRAISE #811 "Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices" Stanzas 1,4,5

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.

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.

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.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, you sent your Son into our hostile world to make peace by His own blood. Lead us in paths of righteousness, that we seek justice, speak truth, and be peacemakers in this divisive world; 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 *Jeremiah 23:1–6* (God warns lazy, divisive shepherds of their future and promises a righteous branch to reign as King over His flock.) Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!" declares the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: "You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the LORD. Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD. "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

EPISTLE *Ephesians 2:11–22* (Christ makes peace and breaks down all dividing walls by His cross.) Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you

who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 6:30–44* (Jesus feeds the five thousand.)

The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" And he said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (Saturday & Sunday)

SERMON HYMN #644 “The Church’s One Foundation”

The Church’s one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation By water and the Word.
From heav’n He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, Yet one o’er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses With every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; Their cry goes up, “How long?”
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.

Through toil and tribulation And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
O blessed heav’nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us, May see You face to face.

SERMON *“Tearing Down the Walls ... in Love”*

(Rise)

NICENE CREED

(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 Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for through Christ we have access to Him in the Holy Spirit. Holy Father, your Son builds His Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets and makes Himself the cornerstone that unites us all.

People: **Through the peace of His forgiving blood, put away from your baptized children all that would divide them, that they may be truly joined together and grow together into a holy temple in the Lord.**

Pastor: Shepherd of Israel, you promised to set shepherds over your flock to care for them and drive fear away. Continue to send men into the Office of the Holy Ministry to feed the flock that your Son purchased with His own blood.

People: **Open their mouths to speak the word of forgiveness that releases from fear and discloses how precious your own are to you and how you will let nothing separate them from your love in Christ forever.**

Pastor: Lord of life, bless and be with the youth and counselors who embark on a retreat this weekend. Bless them to grow in their relationship with you, their God, even as they grow in relationship with friends, family, and others.

People: **Bless them also with safe travels and joy in the journey.**

Pastor: Ruler of the nations, look in kindness on all who hold public office in our land and throughout the world. Guard and protect them and bless them to serve with integrity.

People: **Strengthen them in every good deed, and make them a blessing to the people.**

Pastor: Compassionate One, no need of your children escapes your notice or provision. Remember in mercy the hungry and homeless, the lonely and frightened, the sick and grieving. We pray especially for Anita, Scott, Mary, LuEva, Vern, Dorothy, Judy, Dick, Dorothy, Cindy, Carlene, Nancy, Sue, Jan, Dolores, Pat, Cliff, Shirley, Gladys, Herb, Matthew, Russ, Arlene, Dorothy, John, Arlene, Jack, Pat, Shirley, Jonathan, Helen, Leonard and Sarah.

People: **Open your hand, O Lord, grant healing and satisfy the desire of each hurting soul and of every living thing.**

Pastor: Kind Master, your Son once set a feast in a desolate place, miraculously multiplying five loaves and two fish to feed a multitude. Through the miracle of the his holy supper, He continues to bless, break and give us His own a heavenly feast: the gift of His own body and blood for our forgiveness.

People: Give us faith as we meet Him at His table, that we may ever greet Him as the Lord who is our righteousness.

Pastor: Holy One, in your Son's resurrection victory, death lost its power to separate us from your love. We praise you for all whom He has joined by His Spirit to Himself in the Church and to whom He has given a life that death will never snatch from them.

People: Bring us to sing with them and all who hope in His steadfast love the new song in the Kingdom.

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 ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Lord Jesus Christ, O Lamb of God, You take the whole world's sin away.

Lord Jesus Christ, O Lamb of God, You take the whole world's sin away.

Come, fill us with Your pow'r and peace; Grant that we trust in You always.

Text: Copyright ©2018 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Music: Public domain.

(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 #649 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christians love;

The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.

7 continued

Before our Father's throne We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows The sympathizing tear.

When here our pathways part, We suffer bitter pain;
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart, We hope to meet again.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free
And perfect love and friendship reign Through all eternity.

HYMN #871 "Greet the Rising Sun"

Greet the rising sun, Shining with bright force,

Like an athlete strong, Set to run the course;

Birds soar high above, Wildflow'rs below;

With the day's new light, Glad to work I go.

Father, hear my prayer, Keep me safe today;

Sanctify my thoughts, All I do and say; As I teach the young And esteem the old,
May Your bounteous grace By my life be told.

Lord, I will today On Your love rely; Let no evil thought Cloud the clear blue sky.
Joyful and content With life's simpler things,

Knowing all I need From Your kindness springs.

HYMN #535 "How Wide the Love of Christ"

How wide the love of Christ! It knows not class or race
But holds our one humanity Within its broad embrace.

How long the love of Christ! Its patience will not cease
Until this broken world is bound In everlasting peace.

How high the love of Christ! Beyond all thought it soars,
And yet upon our passing lives Unmeasured mercy pours.

How deep the love of Christ, Descending to a cross!
He bears within His wounded hands All human pain and loss.

All praise to You, O Christ, For love whose depth and height,

8 Whose length and breadth fill time and space With endless life and light!

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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #920 “Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go”

Forth in the peace of Christ we go; Christ to the world with joy we bring;
Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips,
Christ in our hearts, the world’s true king.

King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings;
Kingship with Him His servants gain; With Christ the Servant Lord of all,
Christ’s world we serve to share Christ’s reign.

Priests of the world, Christ sends us forth This world of time to consecrate,
This world of sin by grace to heal, Christ’s world in Christ to recreate.

Christ’s are our lips, His Word we speak;
Prophets are we whose deeds proclaim
Christ’s truth in love that we may be
Christ in the world, to spread Christ’s name.

We are the Church; Christ bids us show That in His Church all nations find
Their hearth and home where Christ restores
True peace, true love to all mankind.

Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Acolytes

Children’s Message

Organist

Pastor Harold Bender

Pastor Noah Kegley

Dan Vaclav, Carri Becker, Grant Gundersen

Logan Rauter, Olivia Kukor

Laurel Privatt

Michelle Prince

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 3. Copyright © 2018 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.