

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
God Handles What You Can't Handle
July 29-30, 2017

AS WE GATHER

"God never gives you more than you can handle." These words are often used to try to comfort someone who is suffering. These words are often spoken as if this is what the Scriptures teach about suffering. However, these words are not found in the Scriptures. Nor is the idea that you never face more than you can handle. This not-so-helpful idea is loosely based on today's Epistle, "all things work together for good," and 1 Corinthians 10:13, that God "will not let you be tempted beyond your ability." While it's a well-intended comment, "God never gives you more than you can handle" is simply not true. Life does sometimes give us more than we can handle. If we could handle these things and more, then why would we even need God? Instead of protecting us from more than we can handle, God handles what we can't handle. Joseph couldn't handle it when his brothers sold him into slavery. But God handled it as He guided Joseph toward leadership in Egypt. What amazing news it is that no matter what might happen to you in this life, even when you can't handle it at all and you feel like your life is crumbling to pieces, God can handle it!

WELCOME

"You, my brothers, were called to be free.
But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature;
rather, serve one another in love." (Galatians 5:13)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #868 "Awake, My Soul, and With the Sun" *Rise last stanza*

Awake, my soul, and with the sun Thy daily stage of duty run;
Shake off dull sloth and joyful rise To pay thy morning sacrifice.

In conversation be sincere, Thy conscience as the noon day clear;
Think how the all seeing God thy ways And all thy secret thoughts surveys.

All praise to Thee, who safe hast kept And hast refreshed me while I slept;
Grant, Lord, when I from death shall wake, I may of endless light partake.

Lord, I my vows to Thee renew; Disperse my sins as morning dew;
Guard my first springs of thought and will And with Thyself my spirit fill.

1 continued

Direct, control, suggest this day All I design or do or say
That all my pow'rs with all their might In Thy sole glory may unite.

(Rise)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Mighty and merciful Lord, with heavy hearts we confess our sin to you.
O Lord,

People: we have sinned against you, mighty God, in thought, word, and deed.

Pastor: When we have lived as though we are separated from your steadfast
love,

People: we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed.

Pastor: When our loneliness has caused us to question your abiding love,

People: we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed.

Pastor: When we have let others around us live in loneliness, when all they need
is a listening ear,

People: we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed.

Pastor: When we have separated ourselves from the Church, from friends, from
our families,

**People: we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. Bring us to
repentance, Lord. Forgive our sins, those of which we are aware and
those we do unwittingly. Have mercy on us. Seek us, for you alone can
find us and restore us.**

Pastor: Thus says the Lord God, "If God is for us, who can be against us?"
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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

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Pastor: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

People: (sung)

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength
and honor and blessing and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia, alleluia.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. You treasure us, O Lord, and you steadfastly love your
chosen people.

**People: In the midst of even the worst things that can happen to us, we are
more than conquerors through the love of Jesus.**

Pastor: Help us to know the peace that your presence brings in the midst of our
troubles,

People: and guide us toward the kingdom you promised;

Pastor: 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 *Deuteronomy 7:6–9* (Chosen to be a treasured possession) For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he

brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.

EPISTLE *Romans 8:28–39* (Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus.) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all-- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died-- more than that, who was raised to life-- is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 13:44–52* (Parables describing the kingdom of God) "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. "Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked. "Yes," they replied. He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old." (Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #649 "Blest Be the Tide That Binds"

Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christians love;
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.

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.

SERMON

(Rise)

APOSTLES' 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: As the Lord's treasured possession, a people loved and redeemed through our Savior Jesus Christ, let us bring acclamations of praise, cries for justice, pleas for mercy, and requests for peace for all those in need in our lonely and broken world and for ourselves. Your steadfast love sustains the Church throughout the world. Strengthen the Church wherever two or three are gathered in Your name. Guide the Church into all truth. Empower our proclamation of the Gospel, so that the

world may know the joy of your kingdom. Bless the work of missionaries and church leaders. Enable all congregations of our Synod to be sources of God's love and redemption to the people in the communities in which they live. God of steadfast love,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: You promise that nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Guide the rulers of our nation and of all the nations of the world toward justice, wisdom, mercy, and peace. Watch over our military personnel, and make your comforting presence known to their families. Protect innocent people in war-torn nations. Preserve us from acts of terrorism. Reconcile us with our enemies. God of steadfast love,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: You work all things together for good for those who love you. Let your love sustain and encourage those who are facing health troubles, including Gavin, Morgan, Gladys, Pat, Herb, Cliff, Doris, Carol, Ervin, Matthew, Arlene, Mae, Dorothy, John, Arlene, LuEva, Kathleen, Jean, Russ, Helen, Leonard, Linda, Jack, and Shirley. Bless those who are in danger, those who are feeling lonely or depressed, and those who feel separated from you. Help them to see that even in the midst of suffering, you are there, and that nothing in all creation can separate them from your love for us in Christ Jesus. God of steadfast love,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: You faithfully keep your covenant promise to love us and redeem us. We pray today for those in need who have requested our prayer, including Sarah. God of steadfast love,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: You grant countless blessings to us, and give us gifts we do not deserve. So often we neglect to thank you for your merciful kindness toward us, and we ask for your forgiveness. We join those who praise you for your gifts and blessings especially Henry and Eleanor celebrating their wedding anniversary, and ask that you would grant us ever thankful hearts. God of steadfast love,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: You redeemed us from slavery to sin through our Lord Jesus. Guide us to

recognize your kingdom at work in this world, and help us so to love you, that we serve our neighbors selflessly. God of steadfast love,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: You conquer death and despair. We give you thanks for those who have gone before us and now abide in your tender arms. We thank you for their life and witness, and how your grace was shown in some way through them. God of steadfast love,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Christ Jesus, the one who died and rose, is interceding for us. We boldly entrust our prayers to you, heavenly Father, 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

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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, 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 #833 "Listen, God Is Calling"

**Refrain: Listen, listen, God is calling Through the Word inviting,
Offering forgiveness, Comfort, and joy, joy.**

Jesus gave His mandate: Share the good news
That He came to save us And set us free. *Refrain*

Let none be forgotten Throughout the world.
In the triune name of God Go and baptize. *Refrain*

Help us to be faithful, Standing steadfast,
Walking in Your precepts, Led by Your Word. *Refrain*

HYMN #621 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Let all mortal flesh keep silence And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending Comes our homage to demand.

King of kings yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of Light, descending From the realms of endless day,
Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish As the darkness clears a way.

At His feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence As with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

HYMN #752 "Be Still, My Soul"

Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side; Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide; In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul; your God will undertake To guide the future as He has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul; though dearest friends depart
And all is darkened in this vale of tears;
Then you will better know His love, His heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
From His own fullness all He takes away.
Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: We give you thanks, dear Father, for your promise and presence that have carried through both the joys and sorrows of our lives. We gratefully receive this gift of Christ's body and blood through which we are reminded that we are never alone, and that nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord; 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: You are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for His treasured possession. Nothing in all creation will be able to separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus. 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 #818 "In Thee Is Gladness"

In Thee is gladness Amid all sadness, Jesus sunshine of my heart.
By Thee are given The gifts of heaven, Thou the true Redeemer art.
Our souls Thou wakest, Our bonds Thou breakest;
Who trust Thee surely Has built securely; He stands forever: Alleluia!
Our hearts are pining To see Thy shining, Dying or living To Thee are cleaving;
Naught can us sever: Alleluia!

Since He is ours, We fear no powers, Not of earth nor sin nor death.
He sees and blesses In worst distresses; He can change them with a breath.
Wherefore the story Tell of His glory With hearts and voices;
All heav'n rejoices In Him forever: Alleluia!
We shout for gladness, Triumph o'er sadness,
Love Him and praise Him And still shall raise Him Glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

Preacher & Liturgist Wednesday
Liturgist Saturday
Liturgist Sunday
Lectors
Acolytes
Organist
Song Leaders

Pastor Gregg Stanton
Pastor Tim Prince
Pastor Harold Bender
Bob Reynolds, Carri Wolcyk
Emma Harper, Cameron Skenadore
Michelle Prince
Bob Reynolds, Lillia Carson

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