

## SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Called to Follow and Keep Following

June 22, 25, 26, 2016

### AS WE GATHER

Many of us were brought up being told, "Don't be a follower!" There is wise truth to that in regards to choices we make, especially as youth. But the Lord turns that idea upside down for all people of all ages. He tell us to be a follower! Yet not following out of peer pressure or compulsion, but following where we know we are led to life, hope, and promise. In a time of great need, the Lord would call Elijah to keep on following Him and would give assurance that in his following, the Lord would be present. In freedom from sin, we are able to follow the Lord in all confidence and in the joy of serving others. Jesus also gives the urgent call to follow Him. Even as it can bring change to a lifestyle, it is a following filled with lasting promise and eternal blessings. As we follow, we know that He leads us beside quiet waters and restores our soul; He leads us in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

### WELCOME

[Jesus said,] But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14:26

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

#### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### OPENING HYMN #688 "Come, Follow Me," the Savior Spake"

"Come, follow Me," the Savior spake, "All in My way abiding;  
Deny yourselves, the world forsake, Obey My call and guiding.  
O bear the cross, whate'er betide, Take My example for your guide."

"I am the light, I light the way. A godly life displaying;  
I bid you walk as in the day; I keep your feet from straying.  
I am the way, and well I show How you must sojourn here below."

"My heart abounds in lowliness, My soul with love is glowing;  
And gracious words my lips express, With meekness overflowing.  
My heart, My mind, My strength, My all, To God I yield, on Him I call."

1 continued

"I teach you how to shun and flee What harms your soul's salvation,  
Your heart from ev'ry guide to free, From sin and its temptation.  
I am the refuge of the soul And lead you to your heav'nly goal."

Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, And take the cross appointed  
And, firmly clinging to His Word, In suff'ring be undaunted.  
For those who bear the battle's strain The crown of heav'nly life obtain.

(Rise)

### INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: For freedom Christ has set us free;

**People: stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.**

Pastor: Follow Jesus, and walk by the Spirit,

**People: and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Jesus says, "Follow Me."

**People: Often we are not quick to follow, or we choose to go our own way.**

Pastor: Jesus looks at a lost world in need of witnesses and says, "Follow Me."

**People: We look at this lost world in need of the Gospel, and we hesitate and shy away.**

Pastor: Jesus knows the temptations and the decisions we face, and He says, "Follow Me."

**People: We falter on the way, we follow the ways of this world, and we fail to keep God's Law and make ourselves slaves to sin.**

Pastor: Let us pray and silently confess our sins to God. Lord God, you have called us to follow your only-begotten Son, to learn from Him, to live and grow in Him, to tell others of Him, and to be faithful to Him.

**People: We sin against you and one another in thought, word, and deed. We have become enslaved to those things around us and have failed to live in the freedom you have won for us. For the sake of Jesus Christ, forgive us, and grant us the clear vision of following Him through all the confusion of this world, and bring us by faith to the promise of everlasting life in your presence. Amen.**

Pastor: Jesus says, "Follow Me," and we follow Him as forgiven people with grace to do His will. "For freedom Christ has set us free; . . . those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May He who began this good work in you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: Amen.**

#### **HYMN OF PRAISE**

**"Gloria in Excelsis"**

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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.**

#### **SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious Lord, as we have been called to follow you, grant your Spirit that we may daily know we have been set free from the slavery of sin. In response to your liberating work for our lives now and eternally, grant us hearts to use our freedom to love and serve one another in your name and to your glory; 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 1 Kings 19:9b–21** (Elijah reassured and the call of Elisha) And the word of the LORD came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." The LORD said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel-- all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him." So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. "Let me kiss my father and mother good-by," he said, "and then I will come with you." "Go back," Elijah replied. "What have I done to you?" So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his attendant.

**EPISTLE Galatians 5:1, 13–25** (Freedom in Christ and a response of faith and love toward others by the Spirit) It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. 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. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is

contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 9:51–62* (The challenge of Jesus' call to follow)

As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" But Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they went to another village. As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family." Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

(Be seated)

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**SERMON HYMN #685** "Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus"

Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure,  
Through a world that would deceive us And to sin our spirits lure.  
Onward in His footsteps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above,  
full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.  
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.

Let us suffer here with Jesus And with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness; Where He is, there is no loss.  
Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy;  
All discomforts that annoy Shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
Jesus, here I share your woe; Help me there your joy to know.

Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death He conquered death,  
He will free us from destruction, Give to us immortal breath.  
Let us mortify all passion That would lead us into sin;  
And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven.  
Jesus, here with you I die, There to live with you on high.

Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead  
That to life we may awaken. Jesus, you are now our head.  
We are your own living members; Where you live, there we shall be  
In your presence constantly, Living there with you forever.  
Jesus, let me faithful be, Life eternal grant to me.

### SERMON

"Which Way is Jerusalem?"

Luke 9:51-62

(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: On the sure foundation of the prophets and apostles, in the name of the Lord who has caused His Word to be preached to us, let us pray for His continued blessing upon us and all people.

*After each petition:*

Pastor: . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

*At the conclusion of the prayers:*

Pastor: . . . 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**

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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 #684 "Come unto Me, Ye Weary"**

"Come unto Me, ye weary, And I will give you rest."

O Blessed voice of Jesus, Which comes to hearts oppressed!

It tells of benediction, Of pardon, grace, and peace,

Of joy that hath no ending, Of love that cannot cease.

"Come unto Me, ye wand'ers, And I will give you light."

O loving voice of Jesus, Which comes to cheer the night!

Our hearts were filled with sadness, And we had lost our way;

But Thou hast brought us gladness And songs at break of day.

"Come unto Me, ye fainting, And I will give you life."

O Cheering voice of Jesus, Which comes to aid our strife!

The foe is stern and eager, The fight is fierce and long;

But Thou hast made us mighty And stronger than the strong.

"And whosoever cometh, I will not cast him out."

O patient love of Jesus, Which drives away our doubt,

Which, though we be unworthy Of love so great and free,

Invites us very sinners To come, dear Lord, to Thee!

**HYMN #560 "Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed"**

Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed

With healing gifts for souls distressed,

To find in Thee my life, my rest, Christ crucified, I come.

Thou knowest all my griefs and fears, thy grace abused, my misspent years;

Yet now to Thee with contrite tears, Christ crucified, I come.

Wash me and take away each stain; Let nothing of my sin remain.

For cleansing, though it be through pain, Christ crucified, I come.

And then for work to do for Thee, Which shall so sweet a service be

That angels well might envy me, Christ crucified, I come.

**HYMN #636 "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"**

Soul, adorn yourself with gladness, Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,

Come into the daylight's splendor, There with joy your praises render.

Bless the One whose grace unbounded This amazing banquet founded;

He, though heav'nly, high, and holy, Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

Hasten as a bride to meet Him, And with loving rev'ence greet Him.

For with words of life immortal He is knocking at your portal.

Open wide the gates before Him, Saying, as you there adore Him:

Grant, Lord, that I now receive You, That I nevermore will leave You.

He who craves a precious treasure Neither cost nor pain will measure;

But the priceless gifts of heaven God to us has freely given.

Though the wealth of earth were proffered, None could buy the gifts here

offered: Christ's true body, for you riven, And His blood, for you once given.

Now in faith I humbly ponder Over this surpassing wonder  
That the bread of life is boundless Though the souls it feeds are countless:  
With the choicest wine of heaven Christ's own blood to us is given.  
Oh, most glorious consolation, pledge and seal of my salvation!

Jesus, source of lasting pleasure, Truest friend, and dearest treasure,  
Peace beyond all understanding, Joy into all life expanding:  
Humbly now, I bow before You; Love incarnate, I adore You  
Worthily let me receive You And, so forward, never leave You.

Jesus, sun of life, my splendor, Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,  
Jesus, joy of my desiring, Fount of life, my soul inspiring:  
At Your feet I cry, my maker, Let me be a fit partaker  
Of this blessed food from heaven, For our good, Your glory, given.

Lord, by love and mercy driven, You once left Your throne in heaven  
On the cross for me to languish And to die in bitter anguish,  
To forego all joy and gladness And to shed Your blood in sadness.  
By this blood redeemed and living, Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.

Jesus, bread of life, I pray You, Let me gladly here obey You.  
By Your love I am invited, Be Your love with love requited;  
By this Supper let me measure, Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.  
Through the gift of grace You give me As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

### COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

### POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; 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 #826 "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying"

Hark, the voice of Jesus crying, "Who will go and work today?  
Fields are white and harvests waiting- Who will bear the sheaves away?"  
Loud and long the Master calleth; Rich reward He offers thee.  
Who will answer gladly saying, "Here am I, send me, send me?"

If you cannot speak like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus, You can say He died for all.  
If you cannot rouse the wicked With the judgment's dread alarms,  
You can lead the little children To the Savior's waiting arms.

If you cannot be a watchman, Standing high on Zion's wall,  
Pointing out the path to heaven, Off'ring life and peace to all,  
With your prayers and with your bounties You can do what God commands;  
You can be like faithful Aaron, Holding up the prophet's hands.

Let none hear you idly saying, "There is nothing I can do,"  
While the multitudes are dying And the Master calls for you.  
Take the task He gives you gladly, Let His work your pleasure be;  
Answer quickly when He calleth, "Here am I, send me, send me!"

Preacher & Liturgist

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Lectors

Laurel Privatt, Marc Stefanic, Jim Laux

Acolytes

Dante Militello, Sophia Moravec, Laura Quigley

Children's Message

Laurel Privatt

Organists

Kim Woller, Roger Gottschalk