

## TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

How to Excel in the Grace of Giving

October 17 & 18, 2015

### AS WE GATHER

“Excel!” That is the message all of us hear from the time we’re born, if we are surrounded by people who love us and desire the very best for us. It’s the message that our God shares with us today-but he also wants to give us the grace we need to excel in the living out of our faith. Let’s get set to excel as we continue to focus on our Renewed in Christ campaign.

### WELCOME

**MINISTRY MOMENT** Diana Raasch from LCEF

Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31)

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

#### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**OPENING HYMN #895 “Now Thank We All Our God”** *Rise for the last stanza*

Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, In whom His world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers’ arms Has blest us on our way  
With countless gifts of love And still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us  
And keep us in His grace And guide us when perplexed  
And free us from all ills In this world and the next!

*Rise*

All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,  
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav’n adore;  
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.

### INVOCATION

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

**People: Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES** *Hebrews 4:7; Psalm 119:10; Mark 10:24, 27; Psalm 124:8*

Pastor: Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.

**People: With my whole heart I seek you.**

Pastor: How difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God!

**People: But all things are possible with God.**

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

**People: who made heaven and earth.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Lord, have we committed our way to you? Have we trusted in you, as you invite us?

**People: Lord, we confess that we have not. We have failed to thank you “with hearts and hands and voices.” Instead, we trust ourselves. We trust other people to give us a sense of worth. We trust institutions and organizations to provide us with security. We trust in wealth and the happiness we believe it will bring. Too often our commitments only lead to disappointment and failure. We are not worthy of your grace; yet, for the sake of Jesus, we ask for it, that in him we will receive forgiveness.**

*We pause to remember and repent of our sin.*

Pastor: In Christ, we see the generosity of our God. For all the times we fail to commit our way to God, our Savior was fully committed to the cross; because our trust in God fails, the trust of our Lord Jesus never did. In his sacrifice, and in his resurrection, we have the forgiveness of all our sin. What is our response to this grace?

**People: Let us excel in this grace, by responding to it with gratitude!**

### **HYMN OF PRAISE #806 “Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart”**

Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy one,  
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ His Son.  
Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy one,  
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ His Son.  
And now let the weak say “I am strong.” Let the poor say “I am rich,”  
Because of what the Lord has done for us.  
And now let the weak say “I am strong,” Let the poor say “I am rich,”  
Because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks, give thanks.

### **SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Lord Jesus,

**People: since you have given us every resource that is necessary for the future you will create, inspire us by your Holy Spirit to excel in the grace of giving, that we might see your future coming true in our midst; for with the Holy Spirit you live and reign with your Father as one God, now and forever. Amen.**

(Be seated)

**5:00 BAPTISM** of Hunter Todd Wilson

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*Please refrain from taking photos during the worship service.*

✂ **WORD** ✂

### **READING 2 Corinthians 8:1-9; 9:7-8**

And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But just as you excel in everything--in faith,

in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us--see that you also excel in this grace of giving. I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

**5:00 CHOIR ANTHEM**

*“The Giving Song”*

Grades 1-4

(Rise)

### **HOLY GOSPEL Luke 12:13-21**

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." "'But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

(Be seated)

### **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

#### **SERMON HYMN #782 “Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings”**

Gracious God, You send great blessings New each morning all our days.  
For Your mercies never ending For Your love we offer praise.

**Refrain: Lord, we pray that we, Your people Who gifts unnumbered claim,  
Through sharing of Your blessings May bring glory to Your name.**

By Your Word You formed creation Filled with creatures large and small;  
As we tend that endless treasure May our care encircle all. *Refrain*

In His earthly life, our Savior Knew the care of faithful friends;  
May our deeds of dedication Offer love that never ends. *Refrain*

Heav'nly Father, may our caring Bear the imprint of Your grace;  
With the Son and Holy Spirit, Praise be Yours in ev'ry place! *Refrain*

**SERMON "How to Excel in the Grace of Giving"**

(Rise)

**8:00 & 10:30 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.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Pastor: Gracious Lord,

**People: your generosity is endless; how can we respond to it? Inspire us by your Word to desire more of your grace, and having received it, to share it generously with your world. In your graceful name we ask it; Amen.**

(Rise)

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and all people according to their needs.

*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.**

**8:00 & 10:30 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**

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(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 #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*

**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*

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*

**HYMN #527 “O Savior, Precious Savior”**

O Savior, precious Savior, Whom yet unseen we love;  
O name of might and favor, All other names above,  
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;  
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our holy Lord and King.

O bringer of salvation, Who wondrously has wrought  
Thyself the revelation Of love beyond our thought,  
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;  
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our gracious Lord and King.

In Thee all fullness dwelleth, All grace and pow’r divine;  
The glory that excellet, O Son of God, is Thine.  
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;  
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our glorious Lord and King.

O grant the consummation Of this our song above  
In endless adoration And everlasting love;  
Then shall we praise and bless Thee Where perfect praises ring,  
And evermore confess Thee, Our Savior and our King!

**COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Father in heaven, as you have invited us to respond to the grace and love you have shown us, renew in us your Holy Spirit, that we may be fully prepared for the future you hold out for us; 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 blessing of almighty God, the Father and the ☩ Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and go with you now and all your days.

**People: Amen.**

**5:00 CLOSING SONG**

*“Give It Away”*

*Grades 1-4*

**8:00 & 10:30 CLOSING HYMN #850 “God of Grace and God of Glory”**

God of grace and God of glory, On Your people pour Your pow’r;  
Crown Your ancient Church’s story; Bring its bud to glorious flow’r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage For the facing of this hour,  
For the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us Free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage For the living of these days,  
For the living of these days.

Cure Your children’s waring madness; Bend our pride to Your control;  
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, Rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage Lest we miss Your kingdom’s goal,  
Lest we miss Your kingdom’s goal.

Save us from weak resignation To the evils we deplore;  
Let the gift of Your salvation Be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, Serving You whom we adore,  
Serving You whom we adore.

Preacher

Pastor John Sproul

Liturgist

Pastor Harold Bender & Pastor Gregg Stanton

Lectors

Dalen Heinzen, Pat Graf, Jane Adams

Children’s Ministry

Bethany Dillon

Acolytes

Thomas Kadolph, Emily Reinhardt, Montana Wendt

Organist

Roger Gottschalk

5:00 Choir Directors

Mrs. Dillon, Mrs. Heimsoth, Miss Leon

Music Coordinator

Kim Woller