

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

RSVP

September 12 & 13, 2015

5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER



When we receive a wedding invitation, we imagine what the ceremony and reception will be like, and become excited about the future event. Today, let's receive God's invitation to the future events he desires to bring about at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School, imagine those possibilities together, and accept his invitation with excitement as we begin our **Renewed in Christ** campaign.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21, NIV)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #905 "Come, Thou Almighty King" *Rise for last stanza*
Come, Thou Almighty King, Help us Thy name to sing; Help us to praise;
Father all glorious, O'er all victorious, Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come, Thou incarnate Word, Gird on Thy mighty sword; Our prayer attend.
Come and Thy people bless, And give Thy Word success,
And let Thy righteousness On us descend.

Come, holy Comforter. Thy sacred witness bear In this glad hour!
Thou, who almighty art, Now rule in ev'ry heart, And ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of pow'r.

(Rise) To Thee, great One in Three, Eternal praises be Hence evermore! Thy
sov'reign majesty May we in glory see, And to eternity Love and adore.

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 25:4-5; 86:11-12; 119:159-160*

Pastor: Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

People: Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

Pastor: Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.

People: I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.

Pastor: Consider how I love your precepts! Give me life according to your steadfast love.

People: The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 25:1-13

Pastor: "When the end comes, the kingdom of heaven will be like ten bridesmaids. They took their oil lamps and went to meet the groom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. The foolish bridesmaids took their lamps, but they didn't take any extra oil. The wise bridesmaids, however, took along extra oil for their lamps. Since the groom was late, all the bridesmaids became drowsy and fell asleep. "At midnight someone shouted,

People: 'The groom is here! Come to meet him!'

Pastor: Then all the bridesmaids woke up and got their lamps ready. "The foolish ones said to the wise ones,

People: 'Give us some of your oil. Our lamps are going out.'

Pastor: "But the wise bridesmaids replied,

People: 'We can't do that. There won't be enough for both of us. Go! Find someone to sell you some oil.'

Pastor: "While they were buying oil, the groom arrived. The bridesmaids who were ready went with him into the wedding hall, and the door was shut. "Later the other bridesmaids arrived and said,

People: 'Sir, sir, open the door for us!'

Pastor: "But he answered them, 'I don't even know who you are!' "So stay awake, because you don't know the day or the hour.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: We are here by God's invitation;

People: but we are not ready to RSVP. Lord, prepare our hearts to receive your vision of our future.

Pastor: It is only by grace that we can receive God's vision;

People: Lord, we desire to be engaged in your vision; make us ready to serve you.

Pastor: Father in Heaven,

People: Forgive us for the times we ignore your invitation to worship you in spirit and truth; forgive us for the times we decline your invitation to grow through the power of your Word; forgive us for the times we bring you gifts and offerings which are not given from the heart, and not given cheerfully. In Jesus' name, make us ready to receive your vision.

We pause to remember and repent of our sin-

Pastor: Because Jesus was led by his Father's vision of a forgiven humanity, he went to the cross; because our Savior accepted his Father's invitation to be the sacrifice for our sins, you and I now receive the grace of our God. All our sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. We are invited to respond with praise; what shall we do?

People: We will RSVP with praise to our God!

HYMN OF PRAISE #806 "Give Thanks"

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: Forgiving Father,

People: may your grace inspire us and equip us to follow you into your future, that we may be engaged in your kingdom work, and celebrate as the invitation of your gospel is received by many, who then come to faith in their Savior Jesus; for you live and reign with him and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

(Be seated)

5:00 CHOIR ANTHEM "10,000 Reasons" (Bless the Lord) Choral setting by Lloyd Larson

✠ WORD ✠

READING Revelation 19:6-9

Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!' " And he added, "These are the true words of God."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #782 "Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings" *Rise last stanza*

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*

4 continued

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

(Rise) 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 "Are You Ready to RSVP?" Matthew 25:1-13

(Rise)
APOSTLES' 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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor: Lord of the Church,

People: as we see how you have blessed us, we are amazed and thankful. As we glimpse your plans for the future, we rely on your power and strength, for without you, nothing lasting and of value will happen. Bless the gifts we have brought before you today, and prepare us for the week to come, as we prepare intentionally to make a commitment of our resources – and our very lives – to your vision. In Jesus' name we pray it. Amen.

COMMISSIONING OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

(Rise)
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. God, our Father, your Son has taught us to pray with confidence. We believe; help our unbelief.

People: By your Holy Spirit, strengthen our faith in you and make us confident of your promises, fervent in prayer, and filled with trust in you for the future.

Pastor: Almighty God, you have given to each of us gifts and abilities to use for the benefit of our neighbors and the furtherance of Christ's kingdom. Bless our leadership team as we begin this journey of faith believing you are able to do immeasurably more than all we ask.

People: Grant us to hear your invitation to serve and pour out your blessings upon us as we are Renewed in Christ.

Pastor: Father in heaven, thank you for the governing authorities who fulfill your divine purposes, punishing evil and rewarding those who do right.

People: Prosper good government among us, teach us to honor those in authority, and encourage them in doing good.

Pastor: Almighty God and Father, your Son did not hide His face from disgrace but humbly carried out your will for the salvation of the world. In the resurrection, you vindicated Him. Make your people throughout the world grateful for your mercies and submissive to your wise guiding in our lives. Sustain in faith all who suffer mockery, abuse, persecution and death for the name of Christ.

People: Make us faithful unto death, confident that we will receive our own resurrection in Jesus.

Pastor: Gracious Father, your Son healed and had compassion for the sick. Help again your suffering people — the poor, the grieving, the anxious, the sick and the dying especially June, Sandy, Wendy, Larry, Russ, LuEva, Eleanor, Linda, Gladys, Russ, Kathleen, Jack, Marge, Sharon, Helen, Shirley, Marion, Gretchen, Lois and Sarah. Uphold them by your Spirit, and graciously give them all that they need for their well-being.

People: Give us ears to hear the cries of the distressed and a compassion that serves you by serving them.

Pastor: God of all creation, at the beginning of time you said that it was not good for the man to be alone and so you instituted holy marriage. Bless Giles and Darylann as well as Travis and Kelly who were united in marriage this past week. We rejoice also with Ralph and Judy and they celebrate the blessings of marriage, family, and friends.

People: Grant us all to rejoice in your good gifts and to live daily according to your good will.

Pastor: Almighty God, grant that all who come to our Lord's Table this day may do so in true repentance and confident faith in your Son.

People: Grant us to receive His body and blood in the peace and joy of sins forgiven.

Pastor: Father in heaven, we rejoice in the hope of the resurrection and the life of the world to come. Comfort and bless Delaney family as they mourn the passing of Jack and the Halstead family as they grieve the passing of Gretchen. Bless also Dolores as she remembers LeRoy and Denton as he remembers Linda.

People: Fill us all with hope in the promise of eternal life, that we may find joy even in the midst of grief.

Pastor: Father, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

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 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 # 618 "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table" Stanzas 1-3

I come, O Savior, to Thy table, For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able To satisfy and make me whole:

Refrain: Lord, May Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!

Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning That sinners may salvation see Who, Lord,
to Thee in faith are turning; So I, a sinner, come to Thee. *Refrain*

Unworthy though I am, O Savior, Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never, For Thou my faithful shepherd art: *Refrain*

HYMN #694 "Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower"

Thee will I love, my strength, my tower; Thee will I love, my hope, my joy.

Thee will I love with all my power, With ardor time shall ne'er destroy.

Thee will I love, O Light divine, So long as life is mine.

Thee will I love, my life, my Savior, Who art my best and truest friend.

Thee will I love and praise forever, For never shall Thy kindness end.

Thee will I love with all my heart Thou my Redeemer art!

I thank Thee, Jesus, Sun from heaven, Whose radiance hath brought light to me;

I thank Thee, who hast richly given All that could make me glad and free;

I thank Thee that my soul is healed By what Thy lips revealed.

O keep me watchful, then, and humble; Permit me never more to stray.

Uphold me when my feet would stumble, And keep me on the narrow way.

Fill all my nature with Thy light, O Radiance strong and bright!

Thee will I love, my crown of gladness; Thee will I love, my God and Lord,

amid the darkest depths of sadness, And not for hope of high reward,

For Thine own sake, O Light divine, So long as life is mine.

HYMN #643 “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Sent forth by God’s blessing, Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
The Supper is ended. O now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching, Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all. His grace did invite us,
His love shall unite us To work for God’s kingdom and answer His call.

With praise and thanksgiving To God ever living,
The tasks of our ev’ry day life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring,
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share. Then may all the living
With praise and thanksgiving Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

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 in Christ’s Holy Supper, 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 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

Celebrant

Children’s Ministry

Lectors

Acolytes

Organist

Music Coordinator

Rev. Dr. John Sproul

Pastor Harold Bender

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Laurel Privatt

Russell Hurst, Grant Gundersen

Abigail Fellenbaum, Zander Maxwell

Roger Gottschalk

Kim Woller

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