

## SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Lost and Found  
September 10 & 11, 2016  
5:00pm & 8:00am

### AS WE GATHER

A strange and wonderful irony emerges in all three of today's Readings. The lost are found, whereas those who think they have found God, yet continue to mistreat others, are revealed to be the ones who are actually lost. There is a warning in this for us, who are tempted at times to think that we know God entirely, that we are the righteous and by our good behavior deserve God's love. Like the fat and strong sheep in Ezekiel, like Saul the smugly self-righteous persecutor, and like the grumbling scribes and Pharisees in Luke, we are tempted to mistreat those we see as lost, strayed, and weak. We are reminded that God Himself comes into the world to seek and to find the lost, the strayed, the weak, and that God rejoices with great joy when a lost sheep is found. The Church is to be a place where sinners are welcome and where lives are transformed by the relentless love of Jesus, who is always seeking the lost.

### WELCOME

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.  
I will meditate on your wonderful works, and I will proclaim your great deeds.  
Psalm 145-3, 5b, 6

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

#### OPENING HYMN #576 "My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less"

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

#### *Refrain:*

***On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.***

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In ev'ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

His oath, His covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;  
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,  
Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne! *Refrain*

(Rise)

### INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Thus says the Lord GOD: I will seek the lost.

**People: We thank you, O Lord!**

Pastor: I will bring back the strayed.

**People: We adore you, O Lord!**

Pastor: I will bind up the injured.

**People: We praise you, O Lord!**

Pastor: I will strengthen the weak.

**People: We worship you, O Lord!**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

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

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

Pastor: When we have treated the lost not with compassion but with condemnation,

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

Pastor: When our joy has been in our purity, our possessions, our reputations, and our uprightness,

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

Pastor: When we have neglected to care for the poor, the strayed, the weak, and have instead mocked them,

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

Pastor: When we have swerved from love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith,

**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, I will rescue My sheep from all the places where they have been scattered, and I Myself will be their shepherd. 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, O Lord, tirelessly seek the lost and the strayed.

**People: We praise you for finding us, welcoming us, and redeeming us.**

Pastor: Help us never to take your mercy for granted,

**People: and guide us to join you in welcoming those who are lost or straying;**

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** *Ezekiel 34:11–24* (The Lord promises personally to seek and find the lost.) "'For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with

them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice. "'As for you, my flock, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will judge between one sheep and another, and between rams and goats. Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture? Must you also trample the rest of your pasture with your feet? Is it not enough for you to drink clear water? Must you also muddy the rest with your feet? Must my flock feed on what you have trampled and drink what you have muddied with your feet? "'Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says to them: See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken.

**EPISTLE** *1 Timothy 1:5–17* (God was merciful to Paul.)

The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk. They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm. We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers-- and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me. I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners-- of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 15:1–10* (The lost sheep and coins)

Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

(Be seated)

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SERMON HYMN #711 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"**

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; Much we need Your tender care.  
In Your pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Your fold prepare.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.  
  
We are Yours; in love befriend us, Be the guardian of our way;  
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us, Seek us when we go astray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.  
  
You have promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be;  
You have mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to You.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to You.  
  
Early let us seek Your favor, Early let us do Your will;  
Blessed Lord and only Savior, With Your love our spirits fill.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.

**SERMON**

**"Following Jesus To Joy"**

Luke 15:1-10

(Rise)

**APOSTLES' 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:** Let us pray to the Lord, who in Christ will hear our prayers and, in His time, turn our mourning into dancing. Heavenly Father, heaven rejoices when a sinner repents. Guard us against self-righteousness that sees no need to hear of Christ and His redemption.

**People: Preserve us in your Word and grace, that as your people we might always be about the proclamation of repentance and the forgiveness of sins for the sake of Jesus.**

**Pastor:** Holy God, protect us from all disobedience, profanity, sexual immorality, deceit, false doctrine and all things that would make us unholy and defiled by sin. Sharpen our attention to your Law, that we might not make excuses for lawlessness nor indulge our sinful nature.

**People: Preserve us continually in repentance, and in your love grant to us a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith for the sake of your Son, who came into this world to save sinners.**

**Pastor:** Lord God, you promise to shepherd your sheep for the sake of Jesus. According to your Word, seek the lost, bring back the stray, bind up the sick and injured and strengthen the weak. Have mercy especially upon Arlene, Ruth, Dorothy, John, Irene, Cliff, David, Richard, Rosalie, Gavin, Marion, Roemelle, Arlene, Kathleen, Jean, Mae, Marion, Helen, Leonard, LuEva, Linda, Gladys, Russ, Jack, Shirley, Lois and Sarah. Bless all who look to you for deliverance.

**People: Hear their cries, answer their prayers, grant them healing and relief, and sustain their faith and trust in you.**

Pastor: Lord God, you seek out your sheep from all nations and gather them into your fold. Remember all refugees who have been displaced from their homes because of threats and violence.

**People: Provide for their needs in their time of displacement, and grant them the security of a home once more. Also, grant wisdom to nations for the welfare of both citizens and sojourners, and grant that your people might prove to be good neighbors for all who are far from home.**

Pastor: Almighty God, our world is filled with terrorism, evil people, and tragic death. As we remember the attacks of 15 years ago, we pray for those whose hearts still need healing, that they might find comfort and hope in Christ.

**People: Preserve peace in this and every nation, thwart the plans of all who desire violence and war, give to rulers wisdom and integrity, and grant us faith that Christ has overcome the world.**

Pastor: Father in heaven, we pray for those who mourn as well as others who miss loved ones that have passed on. Bless Denton as he remembers Linda, the Weil family as they remember Cindy, the Laurich family as they remember Ginger.

**People: Comfort all those who grieve and also those who remember in love those passed on. Fill them with faith and the hope of a grand reunion in the life of the world to come.**

Pastor: God of the ages, in the fullness of time your Son became flesh, and He received sinners and ate with them on His way to the cross. Bless all those whom He feeds today with His own holy body and blood.

**People: Guard us from impenitence and resistance to your promises, comfort us with forgiveness, and grant us joy in our new life and eternal salvation.**

Pastor: Father of the heavenly lights, every good and perfect gift comes from you. We rejoice in all your gifts, joining with Henry and Eleanor who give you thanks for the blessings of family, even as we give thanks with Dalen and Pam upon the first anniversary of Darylann and Giles.

**People: Make us mindful of all your goodness day by day, that we might live joyful and thankful lives.**

Pastor: Lord of the Church, we delight in heaven's joy over one who repents, and we give thanks for all the saints who have gone before us and now share in the rejoicing around your throne. Preserve us in that faith and hope until the day when you gather us to yourself in heaven, where we will experience with joy the glories of eternity secured by Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, Father and Holy Spirit, 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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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 #744 "Amazing Grace"

Amazing grace how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;

He will my shield and portion be, As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;

His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail  
And mortal life shall cease,  
Amazing grace shall then prevail  
In heaven's joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

**HYMN #528 "Oh, For A Thousand Tongues To Sing"**

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing  
My great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of His grace!

My gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad,  
The honors of Thy name.

Jesus! The name that charms our fears,  
That bids our sorrows cease;  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'Tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin;  
He sets the pris'ner free.  
His blood can make the foulest clean;  
His blood avails for me.

Look unto Him, ye nations; own  
Your God, ye fallen race.  
Look and be saved through faith alone,  
Be justified by grace.

See all your sins on Jesus laid;  
The Lamb of God was slain.  
His soul was once an off'ring made  
For ev'ry soul of man.

To God all glory, praise, and love  
Be now and ever giv'n  
By saints below and saints above,  
The Church in earth and heav'n.

**HYMN #629 "What Is This Bread"**

What is this bread? Christ's body risen from the dead:  
This bread we break, This life we take,  
Was crushed to pay for our release.  
O taste and see the Lord is peace.

What is this wine? The blood of Jesus shed for mine;  
The cup of grace Brings His embrace  
Of life and love until I sing!  
O taste and see the Lord is King.  
So who am I, That I should live and He should die  
Under the rod?  
My God, my God, Why have You not forsaken me?  
O taste and see the Lord is free.

Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,  
In mouth and soul He makes us whole  
Christ, truly present in this meal.  
O taste and see the Lord is real.

Is this for me? I am forgiven and set free!  
I do believe That I receive His very body and His blood.  
O taste and see the Lord is good.

**COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Lord of the feast, you have given us a taste of your reign in this Holy Communion by welcoming us to receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. Though we do not deserve your mercy, you lavish it upon us. As we go forth from this Table, send us out into the world to show the same degree of mercy to those we encounter who have lost their way. Use us to guide them home to you; 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 #735 "Have No Fear, Little Flock"**

Have no fear, little flock; Have no fear, little flock  
For the Father has chosen To give you the Kingdom; Have no fear little flock!

Have good cheer, little flock; Have good cheer, little flock,  
For the Father will keep you In His love forever; Have good cheer, little flock!

Praise the Lord high above; Praise the Lord high above,  
For He stoops down to heal you, Uplift and restore you; Praise the Lord high above!

Thankful hearts raise to God; Thankful hearts raise to God,  
For He stays close beside you, In all things works with you;

Thankful hearts raise to God!

Preacher  
Liturgist  
Lectors  
Acolytes  
Organist  
Children's Message

Pastor Gregg Stanton  
Pastor Harold Bender  
Carri Wolcyk, Jim Adams  
Aidyn Roska, Caden Gibbs  
Michelle Prince  
Laurel Privatt

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