



## SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### The Best is Yet to Come

*Jesus Behind Every Door*

September 14 & 15, 2013

#### AS WE GATHER

At the end of Matthew's gospel, Jesus said, "I am with you always to the very end of the age." Do we *believe* this promise of our Lord Jesus? When Jesus is with us, His grace is with us: undeserved love and forgiveness of all our sins. What if we all could grow in our faith and understanding that Jesus and His grace is truly behind every door of true life? To grow in God's grace, we all need to leave self-righteousness behind, live a life of repentance, and grow to have a greater understanding that Jesus is there . . . and His amazing grace never fails!

**10:30 PRESERVICE MUSIC** *"Joy and Elation"* and *"Trust and Obey"* Bell Choir

#### WELCOME

***"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord. "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11***

#### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

+ PREPARATION +

#### OPENING HYMN #804

**"O Worship the King"**

O worship the King, all glorious above.

O gratefully sing His His pow'r and His love;

Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,

Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,

Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;

His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,

And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

This earth, with its store of wonders untold,

Almighty, thy pow'r hath founded of old,

Established it fast by a changeless decree,

And round it *hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.*

*Continued*

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,  
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust and feeble as frail,  
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail.  
Thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,  
Our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend!

O measureless Might, ineffable Love,  
Wile angels delight to hymn Thee above,  
Thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays,  
with true adoration shall sing to Thy praise.

(Rise)

#### INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

#### CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Most holy and merciful Father,

People: **like sheep, O Lord, we have strayed and wandered from you. We have sinned against you and each other. We have done the evil you forbid and we have not done the good you desire. There is no health in us. Come to us, Good Shepherd, claim us as your own, cover us with your grace, forgive us of our many sins, and restore us according to your mercy, that we may love you above all things and serve you with all our gifts. Amen.**

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. His peace be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE****“Gloria in Excelsis”**

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To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;  
 Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus’ birth!  
 We praise and bless you, Father; Your holy name, we sing –  
 Our thanks for your great glory, Lord God, our Heav’nly King.

To You, O sole-begotten, The Father’s Son, we pray;  
 O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.  
 Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,  
 Where You in pow’r are seated At God’s right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.  
 Forever and forever, Be worshipped and adored;  
 You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High.  
 In God the Father’s glory. “Amen!” our glad reply.

**SALUTATION and COLLECT**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure. Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever but follow you, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

**+ WORD +**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Ezekiel 34:11-24 (*The Lord promises to rescue His sheep and to set up a shepherd who will lead them to eternal life.*) “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 our 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** Philippians 3:4b – 16 If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

**5:00 ANTHEM**

*“Rejoice! I Found the Lost”*

*Jr. Choir*

**10:30 ANTHEM**

*“God’s Peace”*

*Choir*

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 15:1-10 (*Jesus tells the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin.*)

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 #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.

### SERMON "The Secret Behind Spiritual Growth" Philippians 3:4b-16

(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.

### 10:30 BELL ANTHEM "Holy, Holy, Holy" Bell Choir

(Rise)

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

*After each petition:*

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

*At the conclusion of the prayers:*

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: 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 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.

### 10:30 BELL ANTHEM "Hymn of Promise" Bell Choir

#### HYMN #611 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,  
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die  
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.

Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heavens above,  
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity!  
Love that found me wondrous thought!  
Found me when I sought Him not.

*Continued*

Only Jesus can impart Balm to heal the wounded heart,  
Peace that flows from sin forgiven, Joy that lifts the soul to heaven,  
Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.

Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;  
All my wants to Him are known, All my sorrows are His own.  
He sustains the hidden life Safe with Him from earthly strife.

O my Savior, help afford By Your Spirit and Your word!  
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way;  
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.

### **HYMN #709 "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"**

The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am His And He is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, My ransomed soul He leadeth  
And, where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me  
And on His shoulder gently laid And home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight; Thine unction grace bestoweth;  
And, oh, what transport of delight From Thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise Within Thy house forever!

### **HYMN #571 "God Loved the World So That He Gave"**

God loved the world so that He gave His only Son the lost to save,  
That all who would in Him believe Should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death;  
All then who trust in Him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die; His Son with saving grace is nigh;  
His Spirit in the Word declares How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

*Continued*

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son Forgives all sins which you have done;  
And, justified by Jesus' blood, Your Baptism grants the highest good.

If you are sick, if death is near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; That is the firmest ground of faith.

Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To You, O blessed Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

### **COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: O blessed Lord and Good Shepherd, you daily and richly bless us, you  
provide us all things for this body and life, and you defend us from our  
enemies. Your forgiveness has restored us from our lost condition that  
we may be your own and live under you. Send us forth renewed in body  
and spirit to serve you joyfully in the pursuit of all that is good and holy  
and as witnesses to your mercy; through whom you live and reign with  
the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

**People: Amen.**

### **CLOSING HYMN #921 "On What Has Now Been Sown"**

On what has now been sown Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;  
The pow'r is Thine alone To make it sprout and grow.  
Do Thou in grace the harvest raise, And Thou alone shalt have the praise!

To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;  
Accept what is Thine own And pardon what is ours.  
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive, And to Thy Word a blessing give.

O grant that each of us, Now met before Thee here,  
May meet together thus When Thou and Thine appear  
And follow Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!

Preacher  
Liturgist  
Lectors  
Acolytes  
Organist  
Jr. Choir Director  
Bell Choir Director  
Choir Director  
Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender  
Pastor Gregg Stanton  
Manley Hurst, Laurel Privatt, Grant Gundersen  
Ryan Murphy, Thomas Quigley, Brian Schaber  
Roger Gottschalk  
Shannon Wiegert  
Jan Schneider  
Nancy Hoelke  
Kim Woller