

## SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Servant of All

September 19 & 20, 2015

### AS WE GATHER

The Christian life is one of humble service. Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus spoke to the truth that His followers are called not to be served but to be servants. Although servanthood may objectively seem attractive to us, the reality of daily service is frequently far more challenging. Scripture points to the persecution of the prophets and the humiliation and betrayal of Jesus as examples of the cost of servanthood. The simple prayer "Make me a servant, Lord" is one for each Christian to repeat daily.

### WELCOME

### MINISTRY MOMENT – MISSIONS

### ACCREDITATION RECOGNITION (10:30)

"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 #913 "O Holy Spirit, Enter In"

O Holy Spirit, enter in, And in our hearts Your work begin,  
Your dwelling place now make us.  
Sun of the soul, O Light divine, Around and in us brightly shine,  
To joy and gladness wake us That we may be Truly living,  
To You giving Prayer unceasing And in love be still increasing.  
Give to Your Word impressive pow'r, That in our hearts from this good hour  
As fire it may be glowing,  
That in true Christian unity We faithful witnesses may be,  
Your glory ever showing. Hear us, cheer us By Your teaching;  
Let our preaching And our labor Praise You, Lord, and serve our neighbor.

O mighty Rock, O source of life, Let Your dear Word, in doubt and strife,  
In us be strongly burning That we be faithful unto death  
And live in love and holy faith, From You true wisdom learning.  
Your grace and peace On us shower; By Your power Christ confessing,  
Let us see our Savior's blessing.

(Rise)

### INVOCATION

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

**People: Amen.**

### OPENING SENTENCES *Matthew 20:26–28; 1 John 3:16, 18; 4:7, 8b*

Pastor: Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

**People: By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.**

Pastor: Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

**People: Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. God is love.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us humble ourselves before God, confess our sins to Him, and ask His gracious forgiveness.

**People: We now confess to God almighty, before the whole company of heaven and before one another, that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not always put God first. We have used His holy name in ways that do not honor Him. We have been careless in our devotion and have not always honored those set in authority over us. We have done violence to others in word and deed and have not always kept our thoughts, words, and deeds pure and honorable. We have taken what is not ours and have spoken that which is not helpful or true. We have wished for that which is not rightfully ours and have not put the best construction on all things and on all people. We pray God to have mercy on us, to forgive us all our sins, and to bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I 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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**Refrain** *This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.  
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

## **SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, whose strength is made perfect in weakness, grant us humility and childlike faith that we may please you in both will and deed; 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** *Jeremiah 11:18–20* (The prophet commits his cause to the Lord.) Because the LORD revealed their plot to me, I knew it, for at that time he showed me what they were doing. I had been like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter; I did not realize that they had plotted against me, saying, "Let us destroy the tree and its fruit;

let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more." But O LORD Almighty, you who judge righteously and test the heart and mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

**EPISTLE** *James 3:13–4:10* (Humble yourselves before the Lord.)

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness. What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

## **10:30 CHOIR ANTHEM**

*"Be Strong in the Lord"* Linda Lee Johnson & Tom Fettke

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Mark 9:30–37* (Jesus calls His disciples to serve all people.)

They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it. They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If

anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all." He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

(Be seated)

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SERMON HYMN #851 "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"

Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your lifeblood as the price,  
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice;  
And with that have freely given Blessings countless as the sand  
To the unthankful and the evil With Your own unsparing hand.

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Gladly, freely of Your own.  
With the sunshine of Your goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone  
Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by You, at length believe  
That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.

Wondrous honor You have given To our humblest charity  
In Your own mysterious sentence, "You have done it all to Me."  
Can it be , O gracious Master, That You deign for alms to sue,  
Saying by Your poor and needy, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?

Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your lifeblood as the price,  
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice.  
Give us faith to trust You boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on You;  
but, oh, best of all Your graces, With Your love our love renew.

**SERMON** "God's Gift of Wisdom and Humility" James 3:13-4:10

(Rise)

**NICENE 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.

(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.

After each petition:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Pastor: . . . 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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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.

(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 #609 “Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”**

Jesus sinners doth receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder  
Who in sin’s delusions live And from God and heaven wander!  
Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

We deserve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich grace revealing,  
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim; Here our ills have perfect healing.  
Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shepherd e’er forsaketh;  
Weary souls that lost their way Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh  
In His arms that they may live: Jesus sinners doth receive.

I, a sinner, come to Thee With a penitent confession.  
Savior, mercy show to me; Grant for all my sins remission.  
Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Oh, how blest it is to know: Were as scarlet my transgression.  
It shall be as white as snow By Thy blood and bitter passion:  
For these words I now believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Now my conscience is at peace; From the Law I stand acquitted.  
Christ hath purchased my release And my ev’ry sin remitted.  
Naught remains my soul to grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Jesus sinners doth receive; Also I have been forgiven:  
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.  
Dying, still to Him I cleave: Jesus sinners doth receive.

### **HYMN #722 “Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”**

Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life’s way:  
Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day.  
Without Your grace and favor I go astray;  
so take my hand , O Savior, And lead the way.

Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,  
For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.  
Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,  
For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go.

Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,  
I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home.  
Then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend;  
So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.

### **HYMN #839 “O Christ, Our True and Only Light”**

O Christ, our true and only light, Enlighten those who sit in night;  
Let those afar now hear your voice and in your fold with us rejoice.

Fill with the radiance of your grace The souls now lost in error’s maze;  
Enlighten those whose inmost minds Some dark delusion haunts and binds.

O gently call those gone astray That they may find the saving way!  
Let ev’ry conscience sore oppressed In you find peace and heav’nly rest.

Shine on the darkened and the cold; Recall the wand’rers to your fold.  
Unite all those who walk apart; Confirm the weak and doubting heart.

That they with us may evermore Such grace with wond’ring thanks adore  
And endless praise to you be giv’n By all your church in earth and heav’n.

### **COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

### **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Gracious Lord, we thank you for having fed us with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus. Grant that the bread of life and blood of Christ, which has been shared and received in this blessed Meal, may be for us the life-giving food, one that sustains us on our earthly journeys as we serve you in humility all our days; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**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 #917 “Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise”**

Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise  
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;  
Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease,  
Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.

Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;  
With Thee began, with Thee shall end, the day.  
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
That in this house have called upon Thy name.

Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;  
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light.  
From harm and danger keep Thy children free;  
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.  
Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,  
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;  
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,  
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

Preacher & Liturgist  
Lectors  
Acolytes  
Children’s Message  
Organist  
Choir Director  
Music Coordinator

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