

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 20

Unbounded Generosity Restored by Grace

September 20 & 21, 2014

AS WE GATHER Israel was a troubled nation. God compares His wayward people to an adulteress, seeking alliances with pagan nations and pursuing false gods. God instructed the prophet Hosea to marry a prostitute to demonstrate to Israel what they were doing. It was a marriage *troubled from the start*. Yet there is the promise of forgiveness and restoration, a word of encouragement to us as we find ourselves in our own troubled relationships, especially that of family...*troubled from the start*.

WELCOME

MINISTRY MOMENT

Groundwork Guatemala

*Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.
(Ephesians 2:19-20)*

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

Pastor: The LORD is my light and my salvation;

People: whom shall I fear?

Pastor: The LORD is the stronghold of my life;

People: of whom shall I be afraid?

Pastor: Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;

People: be gracious to me and answer me!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Almighty God,

People: We confess to you that our ways and thoughts are corrupted by the sinfulness that pervades our whole being. I am by nature sinful and unclean. We hear in the Gospel that you are kind, full of love, and always forgiving. Your ways and thoughts are beyond our comprehension, but not beyond our faith in your promises made sure through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus our Lord. Have mercy on us, O God, forgive our sins, and fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we may gladly follow where Jesus leads.

Pastor: Almighty God, who is filled with compassion, hears your humble confession and speaks to you words of abundant pardon. 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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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.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, our attention is arrested by the suffering and pain in which we live. Our first thought is, "God does not care." Open our eyes to see that you have already done more than we can ask or think to make right all that we have broken in your good creation. Hasten the day when our faith will become sight and we experience the consummation of your promised redemption; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 55:6–9* Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

EPISTLE *Philippians 1:12–30* Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly. It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the

gospel. The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me. Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved--and that by God. For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

10:30 CHOIR ANTHEM

"You Are Mine"

Arr. by Mark Hayes

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 20:1–16* (Parable of the vineyard laborers) "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. "About the third hour he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. "He went out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour and did the same thing. About the eleventh hour he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?' " 'Because no one has hired us,' they answered. "He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.' "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.' "The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' "But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #606 "I Lay My Sins on Jesus"

I lay my sins on Jesus, The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us From accursed load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus To wash my crimson stains
Clean in His blood most precious Till not a spot remains.

I lay my wants on Jesus; All fullness dwells in Him;
He heals all my diseases; My soul He does redeem.
I lay my griefs on Jesus, My burdens and my cares;
He from them all releases; He all my sorrows shares.

I rest my soul on Jesus, This weary soul of mine;
His right hand me embraces; I on His breast recline.
I love the name of Jesus, Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;
Like fragrance on the breezes His name abroad is poured.

SERMON TROUBLED FROM THE START *Hosea 1:2-11, 3:1-5*

(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: In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

After each petition:

Pastor: . . . let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

At the conclusion to 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 #761 "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly: Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.

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!

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.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank you that for His sake you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We ask you not to forsake your children, but always to rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit, that we may be enabled constantly to serve 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 #526 "You Are the Way; through You Alone"

You are the way; through You alone Can we the Father find;
In You, O Christ, has God revealed His heart and will and mind.

You are the truth; Your Word alone True wisdom can impart;
You only can inform the mind And purify the heart.

You are the life; the empty tomb Proclaims Your conqu'ring arm,
And those who put their trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.

You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win Whose joys eternal flow.

Preacher	Pastor Gregg Stanton
Liturgist	Pastor Harold Bender
Lectors	Russell Hurst, Grant Gundersen, Jim Laux
Acolytes	Jeffrey Moravec, Jordan Koepke, Isaac Kallas
Organist	Roger Gottschalk
Music Coordinator	Kim Woller

YOU ARE INVITED

A TASTE OF GUATEMALA

Saturday, October 4, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

presented by

Evangelism Committee and your Groundwork Guatemala Team

Come enjoy a Guatemalan Supper, learn about our upcoming mission trip to Guatemala, preview our Faith Lesson, join in Songs of Praise

Fun and Fellowship for the entire Family!

tickets on sale after services 9/20-21 and 9/27-28

Adults \$10, kids 6-12 \$5, 5 and under free