

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Gift of Humility
September 22 & 23, 2018
5:00 PM & 8:00 AM

AS WE GATHER

All three Readings today ring out with the gift of humility. Jeremiah, deeply hurt by those who sought to destroy him, still humbly leaves vengeance to the Lord. James exhorts believers not to think of themselves as wiser than anyone else, especially when the evidence of their lives was full of bitter jealousy and selfish ambition. James urges the wise to repent and to exhibit the humility Christ demonstrated by being “peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.” When Jesus makes clear that He is on a path that leads to humiliation on the cross, the disciples haughtily argue about who among them is the greatest. By this they demonstrate that they did not understand what Jesus was saying. Jesus then teaches that the greatest thing in life is to be the servant of all. And to show them the simplicity of it, He picks up a child and exhorts them to receive him in humility. We live in a world still ruled much of the time by brashness, boasting, and exulting in lording over others. At times we are tempted to treat others who are not Christians in these sinful ways. Yet these Readings work together to show us another way to live—humbly trusting God.

WELCOME

“For the sake of Christ, then, I am content
with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities.
For when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:10, ESV)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #605 “Father Welcomes”

**Refrain: Father welcomes all His children To His fam’ly through His Son.
Father giving His salvation, Life forever has been won.**

Little children, come to Me, For My kingdom is of these.
Life and love I have to give, Mercy for your sin. *Refrain*

In the water, in the Word, In His promise, be assured;
Those who are baptized and believe Shall be born again. *Refrain*

Let us daily die to sin; Let us daily rise with Him.
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord, Live in the peace of God. *Refrain*

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Submit yourselves therefore to God.

People: Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Pastor: Draw near to God,

People: and He will draw near to you.

Pastor: Cleanse your hands and purify your hearts.

People: Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: God is our helper. The Lord is the upholder of our lives. Let us then, assured of God’s love, confess our sin before God and one another.
We confess to you that we are by nature sinful.

People: We have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We cannot free ourselves.

Pastor: We thought we were wise, when we were actually foolish.

People: We have acted out of jealousy or selfish ambition.

Pastor: We have relished and reveled in conflict both within and outside the Christian community.

People: We have failed to seek your help in resolving differences great and small.

Pastor: We have laughed when we should have mourned.

People: We have had joy when we should have sorrowed. Lead us to true repentance, Lord. Forgive our sins, both what we have done and left undone. Have mercy on us. Seek us, for you alone can find us and restore us.

Pastor: Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of our youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember us, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord! 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 #930 “All You Works of God, Bless the Lord”

All you works of God, bless the Lord! All you angels, now bless the Lord;
Come, you heavens and pow’rs that be, Praise the Lord and His majesty:

Refrain

Raise your voices high, praise and magnify, All you works of God, bless the Lord!
Raise your voices high, praise and magnify, All you works of God, bless the Lord!

Sing, you sun and you moon above, Stars of heaven, now sing His love;
Dew and showers, you winds that blow, Heat and fire, you ice and snow:

Refrain

Frost of winter with song so cold, Dews of summer, your song unfold;
Light and darkness, you day and night,
Clouds of thunder, you lightnings bright: *Refrain*

Hills and mountains, now sing His worth,
All you green things that grow on earth;
Seas and rivers, you springs and wells,
Beasts and cattle, you birds and whales: *Refrain*

Come, humanity, sing along, Sing, you people of God, a song:
Priests and servants, your Lord now bless, Join, you spirits and souls at rest:
Refrain

Bless the Lord, all you pure of heart; All you humble, His praise impart;
God the Father and Son adore, Bless the Spirit forevermore! *Refrain*

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Your Son, Jesus Christ, humbly suffered and died on the cross and was raised to new life.

People: Give us a spirit of humility as we seek to follow Jesus,

Pastor: so that our witness to Him in the world will be peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere;

People: through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Jeremiah 11:18–20* (Jeremiah entrusts his life to the Lord as enemies plot to kill him.) The LORD made it known to me and I knew; then you showed me their deeds. But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. I did not know it was against me they devised schemes, saying, “Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more.” But, O LORD of hosts, who judges righteously, who tests the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *James 3:13–4:10* (Christians are called to humbly submit to God and seek peace with one another.) Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, inspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?

Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: For our nation and especially our leaders: the members of Congress; Donald, our president; our justices; and all who make, administer and judge our laws, that God would protect them from the dangers of selfish ambition, make them true servants, and give them courage and integrity, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the homebound, the lonely, the depressed and anxious, those preparing for surgery and the ill, especially for all who desire our prayers: Bob, Herb, Larry, Marilyn, Cindy, Anita, Scott, LuEva, Dick, Nancy, Jan, Dolores, Shirley, Gladys, Russ, Arlene, Dorothy, John, Arlene, Jack, Shirley, Jonathan, Helen, Leonard and Sarah, that committing their cause to the Lord and submitting themselves to God, they may know His peace and receive whatever healing He wills, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For God's abundant goodness toward us, especially for Jerry and Audrey, celebrating their 62nd anniversary and Vince and Le Ann, celebrating not only their 23rd anniversary, but also Logan's 13th birthday, that we might treasure the people God places in our lives and count our blessings each day, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all those facing the devastation of hurricane Florence, that God would bless them with provision of the necessities of life, comfort them in this trial, and move disaster response teams to be His blessed instruments of help, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all who commune today, that drawing near to Him who in His Eucharist draws near to us, they may receive the body and blood of Christ with repentance, faith and hope, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the faithful departed who now rest from their labors and rejoice in the presence of God and the Lamb, let us offer thanks and praise, and that He may give us our portion, too, with the saints in light, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

tune: St. George's Windsor

Jesus, Lamb of God, we pray, show your mercy here this day.

Jesus, Lamb of God, do Thou, Shower mercy on us now.

Gather Thou Thy people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin;

Come with all Thine angels, come, Raise us to Thy glorious home.

(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 #626

"Come, Let Us Eat"

Sung with Leader

Leader: Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,

People: Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

Leader: Our Lord's body let us take together,

People: Our Lord's body let us take together.

Leader: Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,

People: Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.

Leader: Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,

People: Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.

Leader: In His presence now we meet and rest,

People: In His presence now we meet and rest.

Leader: In the presence of our Lord we gather,

People: In the presence of our Lord we gather.

Leader: Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty Word.
People: Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty Word.
Leader: Jesus risen will bring in the Kingdom.
People: Jesus risen will bring in the Kingdom.

HYMN #633 "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King.
Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from His pierced side. Alleluia!

Praise we Him, whose love divine Gives His sacred blood for wine,
Gives His body for the feast-Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!

Where the paschal blood is poured, Death's dread angel sheathes the sword:
Israel's hosts triumphant go Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas'chal victim, paschal bread; with
sincerity and love Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!

Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!

Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!

Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days; Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!

HYMN #623 "Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray"

Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray That we may feast on You today;
Beneath these forms of bread and wine Enrich us with Your grace divine.

Give us, who share this wondrous food, Your body broken and Your blood,
The grateful peace of sins forgiv'n, The certain joys of heirs of heav'n.

By faith Your Word has made us bold To seize the gift of love retold;
All that You are we here receive, And all we are to You we give.

One bread, one cup, one body, we, Rejoicing in our unity,
Proclaim Your love until You come To bring Your scattered loved ones home.

Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray: O keep us steadfast till that day
When each will be Your welcomed guest In heaven's high and holy feast.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. God of steadfast love, we thank you that you have filled
us with encouragement, comfort, and joy. Send us out into our daily
lives renewed and ready humbly to look to the needs of others;
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 wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open
to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. 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 #848 "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service"

Lord, whose love through humble service Bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken, Offered mercy's perfect deed,
We, your servants, bring the worship Not of voice alone, but heart,
Consecrating to your purpose Ev'ry gift that you impart.

Still your children wander homeless; Still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom; Still in grief we mourn the dead.
As, O Lord, your deep compassion Healed the sick and freed the soul,
Use the love your Spirit kindles Still to save and make us whole.

As we worship, grant us vision, Till your love's revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness, Dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to tireless striving, your abundant life to share.

Called by worship to your service, Forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged, Love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom May your mercy know and live.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Children's Message
Organist, 4-5 Grades & Bell Choir Director
Choir Director

Pastor Noah Kegley
Pastor Harold Bender
Nik Mueller, Dan Vaclav
Laurel Privatt
Michelle Prince
Nancy Hoelke