

## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

God's Goodness Displayed in Our Lives

September 5 & 6, 2015

### AS WE GATHER

For many people, the time of autumn leaves brings a sense of anxiety or dread as the cycle of the year and of life draws to a close. The prophet Isaiah used this image as he prophesied the demise of the nations and peoples opposed to God: "All their host shall fall, as leaves fall from the vine, like leaves falling from the fig tree" (Isaiah 34:4b). Strengthened by the promises of God fulfilled in Jesus, God's people have a special sense of His mercy. They rejoice in His power made evident in His works that display His goodness. They live out their days demonstrating faith that is truly alive and evident in good works.

### WELCOME

"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 #869 "With the Lord Begin Your Task"

With the Lord begin your task; Jesus will direct it.  
For His aid and counsel ask; Jesus will perfect it.  
Every morn with Jesus rise, And when day is ended,  
In His name then close your eyes; Be to Him commended.

Let each day begin with prayer, Praise, and adoration.  
On the Lord cast every care; He is your salvation.  
Morning, evening, and at night Jesus will be near you,  
Save you from the tempter's might, With His presence cheer you.

With your Savior at your side, Foes need not alarm you;  
In His promises confide, And no ill can harm you.  
All your trust and hope repose In the mighty Master,  
Who in wisdom truly knows How to stem disaster.

If your task be thus begun With the Savior's blessing,  
Safely then your course will run, Toward the promise pressing.  
Good will follow everywhere While you here must wander;  
You at last the joy will share In the mansions yonder.

Thus, Lord Jesus, every task Be to You commended;  
May Your will be done, I ask, Until life is ended.  
Jesus, in Your name begun Be the day's endeavor;  
Grant that it may well be done To Your praise forever.

(Rise)

### INVOCATION

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

**People: Amen.**

### OPENING SENTENCES *2 Samuel 22:2-3, 29, 31, 50*

Pastor: The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock,  
in whom I take refuge,

**People: my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge,  
my savior; you save me from violence.**

Pastor: For you are my lamp, O LORD, and my God lightens my darkness.

**People: This God—His way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true;**

Pastor: He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him.

**People: For this I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations, and sing praises to  
your name.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

**People: Gracious God, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We know that we  
are by nature sinful and unclean. We have daily done things we should  
not have done, and have not done that which we are to do as your  
faithful servants. We deserve your punishment in this life and for  
eternity. Trusting in your mercy, we come to you for forgiveness. Our  
trust is not in ourselves but in the merits of your Son, our Savior, Jesus  
Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us remission of all our sins, and  
lead us to renewed lives that reflect your goodness and love.**

Pastor: God is gracious and merciful and hears our supplications. Upon this your  
confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the

Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ 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 #526 “You Are the Way; through You Alone”** Stanzas 1 & 4

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

**SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord, let your merciful ears be open to the prayers of your humble servants, and grant that what they ask may be in accord with your gracious will; 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** *Isaiah 35:4–7a* (God comes powerfully among His people.)

Say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

**EPISTLE** *James 2:1–10, 14–18* (Faith that is alive is evidenced in good works.)

My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he

promised those who love him? But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong? If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Mark 7:31–37* (Jesus heals a man who is deaf.)

Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged him to place his hand on the man. After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "'Ephphatha!'" (which means, "Be opened!"). At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

(Be seated)

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SERMON HYMN #705 “The Man Is Ever Blessed”**

The man is ever blessed Who shuns the sinners' ways,  
Among their counsels never stands, Nor takes the scorner's place.

But makes the Law of God His study and delight  
Amid the labors of the day And watches of the night.

He like a tree shall thrive, With waters near the root;  
Fresh as the leaf his name shall live, His works are heav'n-ly fruit.

Not so the wicked race, They no such blessings find;  
Their hopes shall flee like empty chaff Before the driving wind.

How will they bear to stand Before the judgment seat  
Where all the saints at Christ's right hand In full assembly meet?

He knows and He approves The way the righteous go;  
But sinners and their works shall meet A dreadful overthrow.

**SERMON**                      ***"God's Gift of Faith and Deeds"***                      James 2:1-10, 14-18

(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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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.

5 (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 #842 "Son of God, Eternal Savior"**

Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us Hallows all our human race,  
You our Head, who, throned in glory, For Your own will ever plead;  
Fill us with Your love and pity, Heal our wrongs and help our need.

As You, Lord, have lived for others, So may we for others love.  
Freely have Your gifts been granted; Freely may Your servants give.  
Yours the gold and Yours the silver, Yours the wealth of land and sea;  
We but stewards of Our bounty Held in solemn trust will be.

Come, O Christ, and reign among us, King of love and Prince of Peace;  
Hush the storm of strife and passion, Bid its cruel discords cease.  
By Your patient years of toiling, By Your silent hours of pain,  
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure, Stem our selfish greed of gain.

Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us Hallows all our human race;  
By Your praying, by Your willing That Your people should be one,  
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition: Here on earth Your will be done.

**HYMN #832 "Jesus Shall Reign"**

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun Does its successive journeys run:  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Him shall endless prayer be made, And endless praises crown His head;  
His name like sweet perfume shall rise With ev'ry morning sacrifice.

People and realms of ev'ry tongue Dwell on His love with sweetest song; And  
infant voices shall proclaim Their early blessings on His name.

Blessings abound where'er He reigns: The pris'ners leap, unloose their chains,  
The weary find eternal rest, And all who suffer want are blest.

Let ev'ry creature rise and bring Honors peculiar to our King;  
Angels descend with songs again, And earth repeat the loud amen.

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### HYMN #829 “Christ the Eternal Lord”

Christ the eternal Lord, Whose promise here we claim,  
Whose gifts of grace are freely poured On all who name Your name;  
With thankfulness and praise We stand before Your throne,  
Intent to serve You all our days And make Your glory known.

Christ the unchanging Word To ev’ry passing age,  
Whose timeless teachings still are heard Set forth on Scripture’s page;  
Transform our thought and mind, Enlighten all who read,  
Within Your Word by faith to find The bread of life indeed.

Christ the redeeming Son, Who shares our human birth,  
And by His death salvation won For ev’ry child of earth;  
Inspire our hearts, we pray, To tell Your love abroad,  
That all may honor Christ today And follow Him as Lord.

Christ the unfading Light Of everlasting day,  
Our Morning Star in splendor bright, The Life, the Truth, the Way;  
That light of truth You give To servants as to friends,  
Your way to walk, Your life to live, Till earth’s brief journey ends.

Christ the ascended King Exalted high above,  
Whose praise unending ages sing, Whom yet unseen we love;  
When mortal life is past Your voice from heaven’s throne  
Shall call Your children home at last To know as we are known.

### COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

### POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: We thank you, O Lord, that this Sacrament we have now received  
strengthens us in faith. As we have shared in the hospitality of your Table,  
give us strength to live each day as your people who are given to  
hospitality, charity, and service in the name of Jesus Christ, our  
Redeemer, 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.**

### HYMN

### “Now, the Hour of Worship O’er”

TLH 45

Now, the hour of worship o’er, Teaching, hearing, praying, singing,  
Let us gladly God adore, For His Word our praises bringing;  
For the rich repast He gave us Bless the Lord, who deigned to save us.

Now the blessing cheers our heart, By His grace to us extended.  
Let us joyfully depart; Be our souls to God commended.  
May His Spirit ever guide us And with all good gifts provide us!

Bless our going out, we pray, Bless our entrance in like measure;  
Bless our bread, O Lord, each day, Bless our toil, our rest, our pleasure;  
Bless us when we reach death’s portal, Bless us then with life immortal.

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Liturgist

Lectors

Acolytes

Organist

Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Dalen Heinzen, Jim Laux, Marty Osell

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Roger Gottschalk

Kim Woller

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Dear St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Members and St. Paul’s In-reach Committee,

We would like to thank you for your welcoming spirit and all the support shown to us for the short time we have been at St. Paul’s! Thank you for the wonderful gathering last Sunday. It was great opportunity for us to meet new people and have fellowship together. Thank you for the generous welcome gifts as well. We feel greatly blessed to be a part of the St. Paul’s community! Your kindness and encouragement has brought us much joy in continuing our ministry here. We’re looking forward to meeting more of you as the weeks go on.

God’s blessings to you all!

Bethany Dillon, Melissa Leon, and Rick Schneider