

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Goodness and Mercy

July 17, 20 & 21, 2024

AS WE GATHER

In 1969, a pop song titled “Love (Can Make You Happy)” was recorded by a group of vocalists called Mercy. Although it rose toward the top of the national music charts, it became another in a long line of “one hit wonders”—single hits by groups that were never heard from again after their initial successful number. Fame in the musical world can be fleeting. Reading through the Psalms, we are reminded that our gracious God is with us for the distance of our life and beyond, attending to us with His great goodness and limitless mercy. Two of those reassuring verses are these: “For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever” (Psalm 100:5) and “As for You, O LORD, You will not restrain Your mercy from me; Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness will ever preserve me!” (Psalm 40:11). By His grace, we can sing of the mercy of our God forever!

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

VERSE Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32, ESV)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #819 “Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good”

Sing Praise to God, the highest good, The author of creation,
The God of love who understood Our need for His salvation.

With healing balm our souls He fills And ev'ry faithless murmur stills:
To God all praise and glory!

1 continued

What God's almighty pow'r made, In mercy He is keeping.
By morning glow or evening shade His eye is never sleeping.
Within the kingdom of His might All things are just and good and right:
To God all praise and glory!

We sought the Lord in our distress; O God, in mercy hear us.
Our Savior saw our helplessness And came with peace to cheer us.
For this we thank and praise the Lord, Who is by one and all adored:
To God all praise and glory!

He never shall forsake His flock, His chosen generation;
He is their refuge and their rock, Their peace and their salvation.
As with a mother's tender hand, He leads His own, His chosen band:
To God all praise and glory!

All who confess Christ's holy name, Give God the praise and glory.
Let all who know His pow'r proclaim Aloud the wondrous story.
Cast ev'ry idol from its throne, For God is God, and He alone:
To God all praise and glory!

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

People: Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

Pastor: Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable.

People: One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

Pastor: As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain your mercy from me; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve me!

People: But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, “Great is the LORD!”

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

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

People: We humbly 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 not always been thoughtful caretakers of His creation and have not shared His bounty with others at all times. We have been heedless in word and deed and have not always kept our thoughts, words, and deeds pure and honorable. We strayed from His paths of righteousness and have sinned in ways we know and in ways we do not even recognize. 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. *Refrain*

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, though we do not deserve your goodness, still you provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge your gifts, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; 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 23:1–6* (The remnant of God’s flock will be gathered.) “Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD.² Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: “You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the LORD.³ Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply.⁴ I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD.⁵ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 2:11–22* (Together we are fellow citizens with God’s people.)¹¹ Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—¹² remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of

hostility¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 6:30–44* (Jesus miraculously feeds thousands of people.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁰The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught.

³¹And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.³² And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves.³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them.³⁴ When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.³⁵ And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late.³⁶ Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”³⁷ But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?”³⁸ And he said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.”³⁹ Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass.⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties.⁴¹ And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up

to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all.⁴² And they all ate and were satisfied.⁴³ And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish.⁴⁴ And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“Count Your Blessings”

1, 2, 3

1, 2 and 3, 4 *Repeat 4 times*

When upon life’s billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,

Count your many blessings,
Name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the
Lord has done.

Count your blessings,
Name them one by one;
Count your blessings,
See what God has done;
Count your blessings,
Name them one by one;
Count your many blessings,
See what God has done.

1, 2, 3

1, 2 and 3, 4 *Repeat 4 times*

SERMON HYMN #852 “O God of Mercy, God of Might”

O God of mercy, God of might, In love and pity infinite,
Teach us, as ever in Thy sight, To live our lives in Thee.

And Thou, who cam’st on earth to die That our lost world might live thereby
O hear us; for to Thee we cry, In hope, O Lord, to Thee.

Teach us the lesson Thou hast taught: To feel for those Thy blood hath bought,
That ev'ry word and deed and thought May work a work for Thee.

All are redeemed, both far and wide, Since Thou, O Lord, for all hast died.
Grant us the will and grace provide to love them all in Thee!

In sickness, sorrow, want, or care, May we each other's burdens share;
May we, where help is needed, there Give help as unto Thee!

And may Thy Holy Spirit move All those who live to live in love
Till Thou shalt greet in heav'n above All those who live in Thee.

SERMON

(Rise)

OFFERTORY

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Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.
(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** 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 folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see 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.

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, for your compassion shown in Christ Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep and the righteous Son of David. Keep us trusting at all times in your right hand, in whom true satisfaction is found. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God of Israel, you promise to set caring shepherds over the sheep of your pasture. Drive away deceitful shepherds who scatter your flock, and gather your sheep into your heavenly kingdom by the hands of pious and faithful men whom you send in your name. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, in Jesus' compassion for the crowd, He provided bread and fish until all had eaten their fill and were satisfied. Give us our daily bread, according to your will. Help us to use the gifts that you have given us to care for those who are hungry and in need. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly King, you provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us good government and faithful rulers, while reminding us always that all provision comes from you. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, for your constant care and all we need to support this body and life. Attend to those in need among us especially Cheryl, Wendy, June, Audrey, Janice, David, Helga, Ruth, Karen, Dick, Michael, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Danielle, Marlene, RoseMarie, Dorothy, Marga, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Janet, Vern, Cathy, Shirley and Sarah. Free them from dismay and fear by the certainty that Christ is their righteousness. Be with Roland and Debbie Stefanic as they lovingly remember Nancy on her birthday. Grant them peace knowing she is in heaven with you. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, your Son once set a feast in a desolate place, miraculously multiplying loaves and fish to feed a multitude. Through the miracle of the Holy Supper, He continues to bless and give us a heavenly feast: His very body and blood for our forgiveness. Give us faith as we meet Him at His table, that we may greet Him always as the Lord, our righteousness. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We give thanks to you, O Lord, that you have made us fellow citizens with the saints in light. Keep us in the true faith for as long as you preserve us in this world, that we would hopefully and eagerly await the day when we stand in your presence with them; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Lord our God. You are the creator of all things and great is the majesty of your glory. You did so love the world that you sent your only Son to be our Redeemer. By His sacrificial life, our Great Shepherd of the sheep has brought us salvation and has shown us the path to life eternal. Pour upon us now the gift of the Holy Spirit that we may receive the body and blood of our Lord with true devotion in this sacred fellowship of your devoted people. Grant us a foretaste of the feast to come, heavenly Father, that we may with increased faith joyfully await a blessed eternity in your glorious presence.

People: Amen.

SANCTUS

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Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, '
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

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 HYMNS

HYMN #628

“Your Table I Approach”

Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.

Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;

A contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,

Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.

Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;

God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.

O grant, most blessed Lord, That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

HYMN #535 “How Wide the Love of Christ”

How wide the love of Christ! It knows not class or race
But holds our one humanity Within its broad embrace.

How long the love of Christ! Its patience will not cease
Until this broken world is bound In everlasting peace.

How high the love of Christ! Beyond all thought it soars,
And yet upon our passing lives Unmeasured mercy pours.

How deep the love of Christ, Descending to a cross!
He bears within His wounded hands All human pain and loss.

All praise to You, O Christ, For love whose depth and height,
Whose length and breadth fill time and space With endless life and light!

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, Paschal 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!

COMMON DISMISSAL

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for having fed us
with the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ, assuring us thereby
that we are truly members of His Body, the church. And we ask you to help
us by your Holy Spirit that we may continue in this fellowship and do the
good works you desire us to do; through 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 #687 “Thine Forever, God of Love”

Thine forever, God of love! Hear us from Thy throne above;
Thine forever may we be Here and in eternity!

Thine forever! Oh, how blest They who find in Thee their rest!
Savior, guardian, heav’nly friend, O defend us to the end!

Thine forever, Lord of Life! Shield us through our earthly strife.
Thou, the life, the truth, the way, Guide us to the realms of day.

Thine forever! Shepherd, keep These Thy frail and trembling sheep;
Safe alone beneath Thy care, Let us all Thy goodness share.

Thine forever! Thou our guide, All our wants by Thee supplied,
All our sins by Thee forgiv’n; Lead us, Lord, from earth to heav’n.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Michael Schumacher
Pastor Joshua Grotelueschen
Debbie Nier, Russell Hurst, Grant Gundersen
Deaconess Carole King

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