

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

We Are Always of Good Courage

June 12, 2024

AS WE GATHER

Once again, the Word of God in our ears this day speaks of the glorious and happy goal that God's salvation promises to all who believe in His saving mercy, grace, and love. From of old, the Lord has promised a secure future in His presence both now and especially in the eternity of life in the resurrection. Though we experience the weakness and maybe even dread of growing old, by faith we are like firm trees planted by the strength of God. That faith is the very creation of God the Holy Spirit, which grows and remains strong regardless of our circumstances. So even though we become discouraged at times, our confidence is always renewed by God as we remain steadfast in connection with His mighty Word.

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

You also were included in Christ
when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.
Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.
Ephesians 1:13 NIV

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN

"Blessed Be Your Name"

Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow, blessed be Your Name.

Blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place,
Though I walk through the wilderness, blessed be Your Name.

Chorus: Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say,
"Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name."
Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name."

Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining down on me,
When the world's "all as it should be," blessed be Your Name.

Blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering,
Though there's pain in the offering, blessed be Your Name.

Sing Chorus

Bridge: You give and take away, You give and take away,
My heart will choose to say, "Lord, blessed be Your name."
(Repeat)

Ending: "Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name."
Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name."

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: We know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we
have a building from God,

People: a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Pastor: Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, . . .

**People: but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates
day and night.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us prepare to receive God's strengthening of our faith this day as we
confess our weakness and sin.

People: Merciful God, we confess to you our discouragements; all our sins of thought, word, and deed; and the inward groaning of our souls. For the sake of your Son's own bitter suffering and death on behalf of all, grant us forgiveness and the strength of renewed faith that we may live today as joyful citizens of heaven.

Pastor: You are the planting and the harvest of the Lord. I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to 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 "O Lord My Rock and My Redeemer"

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer,
Greatest treasure of my longing soul,
My God, like You there is no other.
True delight is found in You alone.
Your grace, a well too deep to fathom,
Your love exceeds the heavens' reach;
Your truth, a fount of perfect wisdom,
My highest good, and my unending need.

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer,
Strong defender of my weary heart,
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver
And my shield against his hateful darts,
My song when enemies surround me,
My hope when tides of sorrow rise,
My joy when trials are abounding,
Your faithfulness, my refuge in the night.

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer,
Gracious Savior of my ruined life,
My guilt and cross laid on Your shoulders,
In my place You suffered, bled, and died.
You rose, the grave and death are conquered.
You broke my bonds of sin and shame.
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer,
May all my days bring glory to Your Name.

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SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Blessed Lord, since you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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 *Ezekiel 17:22–24* (A promise of the Messiah)

²²Thus says the Lord GOD: "I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. ²⁴And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *2 Corinthians 5:1–17* (Awaiting the new body and a new creation)

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³ if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. ⁶ So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. ¹¹ Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. ¹² We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. ¹³ For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. ¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 4:26–34* (The growing seed and the mustard seed)

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

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶ And he said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷ He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸ The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.” ³⁰ And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? ³¹ It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” ³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. ³⁴ He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“Father I Adore You” Terrye Coelho

Father, I adore You and I lay my life before You, How I love You!

Jesus, I adore You and I lay my life before You, How I love You!

Spirit, I adore You and I lay my life before You, How I love You!

Three-in-one, I adore You and I lay my life before You, How I love You!

SERMON HYMN

“Cornerstone”

My hope is built on nothing less,
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly trust in Jesus’ Name. (Repeat)

Chorus: Christ alone, Cornerstone Weak made strong in the Savior’s love.
Through the storm, He is Lord. Lord of all.

When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In ev’ry high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.
My anchor holds within the veil.

Pastor: Father, we are bold to ask for all things because you have given us your Spirit as a guarantee. Hear us as we intercede in Jesus' name for those in every need especially Helen, Fred, June, Audrey, Janice, David, Helga, Michael, Margie, Anna, Eugene, Charlene, Danielle, Marlene, Carole, RoseMarie, Dorothy, Marga, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Janet, Vern, Cathy, Shirley and Sarah.

People: Grant healing, help and hope through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor: God of all mercy, through the abundance of your steadfast love you gather us into your house and provide us Christ's Supper.

People: Give all who commune this day a holy fear of your wrath and strong faith in your promises, that they would receive Christ's body and blood for forgiveness and peace.

Pastor: O God, we groan under many burdens in this life and long to be clothed with the eternal life, which will swallow up death forever. Give good courage to your people to walk by faith and not sight. We pray for the family and friends of President John Wille, who has been called home. Comfort them and be with the leaders of the South Wisconsin District. Bless Marilyn who remembers Jack and for all those who mourn, fill them with the hope of the resurrection.

People: For all of us who live by faith and not sight, make it our aim to please you while here in the body, until at last we are at home with Christ.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, from whom all fatherhood is named, we give you thanks for earthly fathers. Give them confidence in their station and zeal for their task to care for their families faithfully. Make them examples to their children of godly life and love of your Word.

People: Bless their work of bringing up children in the fear and instruction of the Lord, and give them the comfort of your absolution over all their shortcomings.

Pastor: Father of all, gather us together with all our fathers and loved ones, ultimately joining your eternal household; 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, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB p. 208

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

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

LSB p. 210

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.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**HYMN #726****“Evening and Morning”**

Evening and morning, sunset and dawning,
 Wealth, peace, and gladness, Comfort in sadness:
 These are Thy works; all the glory be Thine!
 Times without number, Awake or in slumber,
 Thine eye observes us, From danger preserves us,
 Causing Thy mercy upon us to shine.

Father, O hear me, Pardon and spare me;
 Calm all my terrors, Blot out my errors
 That by Thine eyes they may no more be scanned.
 Order my goings, Direct all my doings;
 As it may please Thee, Retain or release me;
 All I commit to Thy fatherly hand.

Ills that still grieve me Soon are to leave me;
 Though billows tower, And winds gain power,
 After the storm the fair sun shows its face.
 Joys e'er increasing And peace never ceasing:
 These shall I treasure And share in full measure
 When in His mansions God grants me a place.

To God in heaven All praise be given!
 Come, let us offer And gladly proffer
 To the Creator the gifts He doth prize.
 He well receiveth A heart that believeth;
 Hymns that adore Him Are precious before Him
 And to His throne like sweet incense arise.

“Shout to the North”

Men of faith, rise up and sing of the great and glorious King.
 You are strong when you feel weak, in your brokenness complete.

Chorus: Shout to the north and the south; Sing to the east and west.
 Jesus is Savior to all, Lord of heaven and earth.

Rise up, women of the truth, stand and sing to broken hearts
 who can know the healing pow'r of our awesome King of love.

Chorus

We've been through fire, we've been through rain;
 We've been refined by the pow'r of His name.
 We've fallen deeper in love with You. You've burned the truth on our lips.

Chorus

Rise up, church with broken wings, fill this place with songs again
 of our God who reigns on high. By His grace again we'll fly.

Chorus sung twice

Ending: Lord of heaven and earth. Lord of heaven and earth,
 Lord of heaven and earth.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord, by your holy communion with us, grant us good
 courage to walk by faith with the joyful prospect of reaching the goal of
 our heavenly home, where you live and reign with the Father 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

“Mighty to Save”

Ev'ryone needs compassion,
Love that's never failing.
Let mercy fall on me.
Ev'ryone needs forgiveness,
The kindness of a Saviour.
The hope of nations.

Chorus Saviour, He can move the mountains.
My God is mighty to save.
He is mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation.
He rose and conquered the grave.
Jesus conquered the grave.

So take me as You find me,
All my fears and failures.
Fill my life again.
I give my life to follow,
Ev'rything I believe in.
Now I surrender.

Chorus

Bridge Shine your light, and let the whole world see.
We're singing For the glory of the risen King.
Jesus.
Shine your light, and let the whole world see.
We're singing For the glory of the risen King.

Chorus Twice

Bridge

Preacher & Liturgist
Lector
Special Music

Pastor Harold Bender
Debbie Nier
Praise Band

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