

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

We Are Always of Good Courage

June 15 & 16, 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 #868 "Awake, My Soul, and With the Sun"

Awake, my soul, and with the sun Thy daily stage of duty run;
Shake off dull sloth and joyful rise To pay thy morning sacrifice.

In conversation be sincere, Thy conscience as the noonday clear;
Think how the allseeing God thy ways And all thy secret thoughts surveys.

All praise to Thee, who safe hast kept And hast refreshed me while I slept;
Grant, Lord, when I from death shall wake, I may of endless light partake.

Lord, I my vows to Thee renew; Disperse my sins as morning dew;
Guard my first springs of thought and will And with Thyself my spirit fill.

Direct, control, suggest this day All I design or do or say
That all my pow'rs with all their might In Thy sole glory may unite.

(Rise)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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

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To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless you, Father; Your holy name, we sing –
Our thanks for your great glory, Lord God, our Heav'nly King.

To You, O solebegotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshipped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High.
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

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. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴For 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. ⁵He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. ⁶So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For 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. ¹¹Therefore, 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. ¹²We 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. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵and 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. ¹⁶From 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. ¹⁷Therefore, 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.

9:00 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SINGERS

(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 #722 “Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life’s way:

Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day.

Without Your grace and favor I go astray;

So take my hand , O Savior, And lead the way.

5 continued

Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,

For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.

Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,

For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go.

Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,

I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home.

Then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend;

So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.

SERMON “Courageous and Confident in Christ” 2 Corinthians 5:1–17

(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.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. 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.

Silence for time of personal petitions.

Pastor: O Most High, we give thanks to you that you have planted your Holy Word among us. As we face many challenges and difficulties in this life, bless us by your Spirit to be courageous and confident in Christ.

People: Fill our souls with your Word of Truth, that we may boldly bear witness to Christ and His salvation day by day! Bless us also to bear the fruits of love and peace, and singing praises to your name.

Pastor: Lord of Life, we rejoice in your gift of life, especially for Candice Krauss and family celebrating the birthdays of Rosie and Maddie. We also rejoice with Pam Akey who is thankful for the baptism of Brad's third child, Jonathan Thomas.

People: Give us joy in celebrating all of the loved ones you have placed in our lives.

Pastor: Lord God, your Holy Spirit causes your Word to sprout and grow as it pleases you. Bless the preaching and teaching of your Word, that your kingdom may be extended, and we may be blessed with thankful hearts.

People: Send faithful laborers into your fields to scatter the seed of your Word, that a harvest may be reaped for your glory. Strengthen and support all mission work around the world, especially our Together in Mission partners, Pastor Chuck Ferry and family.

Pastor: O Lord, you are the great I AM, and what you have spoken you will surely do. Bless and defend our homes, making them places of faith, peace, and harmony.

People: Inspire parents to faithfully teach their children your Holy Word, and preserve them by saving faith in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

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

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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

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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.

(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.

HYMN #742 “For Me to Live Is Jesus”

For me to live is Jesus, To die is gain for me;
So when my Savior pleases, I meet death willingly.

For Christ, my Lord, my brother, I leave this world so dim
And gladly seek another, Where I shall be with Him.

My Woes are nearly over, Though long and dark the road;
My sin His merits cover, and I have peace with God.

Lord, when my pow’rs are failing, My breath comes heavily,
And words are unavailing, O hear my sighs to Thee.

In my last hour, O grant me A slumber soft and still,
No doubts to vex or haunt me, Safe anchored in Thy will;

And so to Thee still cleaving When death shall come to me,
I fall asleep believing And wake in heav’n with Thee!

HYMN #577 “Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”

Almighty God, your Word is cast Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav’n descend And righteous fruits abound.

Let not the sly satanic foe This holy seed remove,
But give it root in ev’ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world’s deceitful cares The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold The fruits of peace and joy.

So when the precious seed is sown, Life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive Its saving pow’r may know.

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 #918 “Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer”

Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer, Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy pow’rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more:
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv’rer, strong deliv’rer, Be Thou still my strength and shield;
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell’s destruction, Land me safe on Canaan’s side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Josh Grotelueschen
Gary Knight, Grant Gundersen
Deaconess Carole King