

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

We Do Not Lose Heart

June 5, 8 & 9, 2024

AS WE GATHER

In the face of a world seeming to be falling apart, and maybe even your personal “world,” God’s Word has great and convincing comfort and hope for you this day. That hope, however, begins with knowing the real cause of our troubles. It is our sin and alienation from God that is at the root of all anger, frustration, bitterness, and death. We easily “lose heart” when all seems hopeless for us. The center and substance of hope in God is Jesus Christ whose resurrection from all that is darkness and death to us is the means and strength of faith to endure and stand firm through all that troubles us. For “if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you” (Romans 8:11). Far from being merely a blind hope for future deliverance, believing in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come far outweighs everything and anything that can happen to us now. Living in this hope, we do not lose heart.

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 #905 “Come, Thou Almighty King”

Come, Thou Almighty King, Help us Thy name to sing; Help us to praise;
Father all-glorious, O’er all victorious,
Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come, Thou incarnate Word, Gird on Thy mighty sword; Our prayer attend.
Come and Thy people bless, And give Thy Word success,
And let Thy righteousness On us descend.

Come, holy Comforter, Thy sacred witness bear In this glad hour!
Thou, who almighty art, Now rule in ev’ry heart,
And ne’er from us depart, Spirit of pow’r.

(Rise) To Thee, great One in Three, Eternal praises be Hence evermore!
Thy sov’rign majesty May we in glory see,
And to eternity Love and adore.

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,

People: O Lord, who could stand?

Pastor: But with you there is forgiveness,

People: that you may be feared.

Pastor: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

People: and in His word I hope.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: From God’s own Word we understand it is our sin that causes our troubles, doubt, fears, and death. For this reason, God’s own Son became our Savior, taking the sin of the world upon Himself and paying our debt with His own death on the cross. All who have been baptized in His name have died with Him and live in the forgiveness of our sin. Let us therefore implore Him again and again for His forgiveness and life.

People: O God, I confess to you that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and deeds by my own fault. For the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, forgive me my sins and restore to me the hope of your eternal salvation.

Pastor: God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith. 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. Almighty God, you sent your own beloved Son into our flesh to free us from the guilt and death of our sin. As He is risen from death and lives and reigns in victory, so raise us anew this day and always to the certain hope of eternal life in His name; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

☩ WORD ☩

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Genesis 3:8–15* (The first promise of a Savior from sin) ⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1* (Therefore we do not lose heart.)

¹³Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, ¹⁴knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. ¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 3:20–35* (Jesus accused by His family and teachers of the Law)

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

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁰Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, “He is out of his mind.” ²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “by the prince of demons he casts out the demons.” ²³And he called them to him and said to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. ²⁷But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house. ²⁸“Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”— ³⁰for they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.” ³¹And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. ³²And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you.” ³³And he answered them, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” ³⁴And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”

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 #745 “In God, My Faithful God”

In God, my faithful God, I trust when dark my road;
Great woes may overtake me, Yet He will not forsake me.
My troubles He can alter; His hand lets nothing falter.

My sins fill me with care, Yet I will not despair.
I build on Christ, who loves me; From this rock nothing moves me.
To Him I will surrender, To Him, my soul's defender.

If death my portion be, It brings great gain to me;
It speeds my life's endeavor To live with Christ forever.
He gives me joy in sorrow, Come death now or tomorrow.

O Jesus Christ, my Lord, So meek in deed and word,
You suffered death to save us Because Your love would have us
Be heirs of heav'nly gladness When ends this life of sadness.

“So be it,” then, I say With all my heart each day.
Dear Lord, we all adore You, We sing for joy before You.
Guide us while here we wander Until we praise You yonder.

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.

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.

Merciful God, you have sent the promised Offspring to crush Satan's head forever by the death of Christ, our Savior. As you gave comfort to Adam and Eve, receiving their meager confessions for the sake of your grace and promising deliverance from sin and its curse, so comfort us by the forgiveness of sins and give us hope in the promise of eternal life and your new creation. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, Christ has made us His brothers by His incarnation and suffering for our sake, fellow heirs of your undivided kingdom. Give boldness to those who preach, strength to those who work, generosity to those who give, and patience to those who suffer in your Church, that we may always do the will of God and so be true and faithful members of the household of God. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Give courage to your Church, O Lord, that as we believe, so we also would speak of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the confident hope we have in Him, that we, too, will be raised and brought into His presence. Embolden us by your Spirit to confess this Christian faith from a lively conscience, that for Christ's sake, grace may extend to more and more people and increase thanksgiving to your glory. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, no kingdom divided against itself can stand, and a house divided must fall. Graciously preserve our nation with its government. Frustrate the work of Satan and the seeds of destruction he would sow in every place were he not stayed by your gracious hand. Unite our leaders and our people for the common good, while leading us to hope in that eternal kingdom which is not of this world. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Eternal Lord God, hear our prayers for your servants who suffer in this earthly tent especially Helen, Fred, June, Audrey, Janice, David, Helga, Carole, Ruth, Karen, Dick, Wendy, Michael, Margie, Anna, Eugene, Charlene, Danielle, Marlene, RoseMarie, Dorothy, Marga, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Janet, Vern, Cathy, Shirley and Sarah. Do not let them lose heart, but fix their eyes beyond what is transient to the things unseen. By this slight momentary affliction, prepare them for an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, when at last you will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: As Satan once overcame our first parents through the eating of the tree's fruit, so overcome him now among us by the fruit of your Son's cross, His body and blood given and shed for us for the forgiveness of sins. Bless all who commune with repentance and faith, that in the comfort of the Gospel they may be cleansed and prepared for eternal life with you. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: What was lost in Paradise has been regained by the conquering wounds of your Son, crucified and raised again. In Him, we are restored as your children and made bold to ask for every need. Hear us for His sake and in His name, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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 #587 "I Know My Faith Is Founded"

I know my faith is founded On Jesus Christ, my God and Lord;
And this my faith confessing, Unmoved I stand on His sure Word.
Our reason cannot fathom The truth of God profound;
Who trusts in human wisdom Relies on shifting ground.
God's Word is all-sufficient, It makes divinely sure;
And trusting in its wisdom, My faith shall rest secure.

Increase my faith, dear Savior, For Satan seeks by night and day
To rob me of this treasure And take my hope of bliss away.
But, Lord, with You beside me, I shall be undismayed;
And led by Your good Spirit, I shall be unafraid.
Abide with me, O Savior, A firmer faith bestow;
Then I shall bid defiance To ev'ry evil foe.

In faith, Lord, let me serve You; Though persecution, grief and pain
Should seek to overwhelm me, Let me a steadfast trust retain;
And then at my departure, Lord, take me home to You,
Your riches to inherit As all You said holds true.
In life and death, Lord, keep me Until your heav'n I gain,
Where I by Your great mercy The end of faith attain.

HYMN #663 **“Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray”**

Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep awaken!
Be not by the evil day Unawares o’ertaken;
For the foe, Well we know,
Is a harvest reaping While the saints are sleeping.

Watch against the devil’s snares Lest asleep he find you;
For indeed no pains he spares To deceive and blind you.
Satan’s prey Oft are they
Who secure are sleeping And no watch are keeping.

Watch! Let not the wicked world With its lies defeat you
Lest with bold deceptions hurled It betray and cheat you.
Watch and see Lest there be
Faithless friends to charm you, Who but seek to harm you.

Watch against yourself, my soul, Lest with grace you trifle;
Let not self your thoughts control Nor God’s mercy stifle.
Pride and sin Lurk within,
All your hopes to shatter; Heed not when they flatter.

But while watching, also pray To the Lord unceasing.
God protects you day by day, Strength and faith increasing,
So that still Mind and will
Shall unite to serve Him And forever love him.

HYMN #711 **“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”**

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; Much we need Your tender care.
In Your pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.

We are Yours; in love befriend us, Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us, Seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.

You have promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow’r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to You.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to You.

Early let us seek Your favor, Early let us do Your will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, With Your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Merciful God our Father, in giving us the body and blood of your Son in this Holy Sacrament, you cause us already to live that eternal life in unity with all the company of heaven. All thanks and praise to you, our gracious God. Help us to live truly new lives as your true children all our days until by your call we enter into the fullness of the resurrection; through our risen Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you 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 #664 **“Fight the Good Fight”**

Fight the good fight with all your might;
Christ is your strength, and Christ your right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be Your joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God’s good grace;
Lift up your eyes, and seek His face. Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside, lean on your guide; His boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and enduring faith shall prove Christ is your life and Christ your love.
Faint not nor fear, His arms are near; He changes not who holds you dear;
Only believe, and you will see That Christ is all eternally.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Joshua Grotelueschen
Pastor Harold Bender
Katie Scepanski, Russell Hurst, Don Horn
Deaconess Carole King