



“For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all....”

1 Timothy 2:5-6

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 18, 2022

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A VERY WARM WELCOME TO ALL!

It is our joy to have guests visit our congregation. We pray that God would bless you during your visit with us. We encourage you to sign your name and address in the red fellowship book that will be passed out during the offering so that we have a record of your visit with us.

May God's Word will fill you with peace and joy in worship today.

WHAT SHOULD YOU EXPECT TODAY AT ETERNAL HOPE?

You should expect to hear about Jesus here at Eternal Hope! The central message of the Scriptures is Jesus, for He is the source of salvation and eternal life. You will hear who Jesus is and what He did to save you. The Holy Spirit works through this Gospel to bring you to faith in His Son, and, by faith, we are saved.

AS WE GATHER

God's people are sometimes called "the people of the Book." The written Word is central to our lives of worship. As John concluded his Gospel account of the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, he states that he could have written much more extensively than he had done. But as he reflects on what he has shared in his Gospel, he says, "but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31). The writings of John the Evangelist and of all the other biblical writers are there for us to read and reread and savor and share both as part of our worship and in our individual lives of faith. The written Word of the Lord is an essential part of our great and blessed heritage!

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER

Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.

PREPARATION

OPENING HYMN "Christ, Our Human Likeness Sharing" LSB 847



1 Christ, our hu - man like - ness shar - ing, Heav - en's love on
2 Hear the word that Christ has spo - ken, Help the weak, the
3 Christ, in ev - 'ry con - gre - ga - tion Build Your tem - ple,
4 Come, O liv - ing Christ, re - new us, As of old in



earth por - trayed; Christ the Shep - herd, tend - ing, car - ing,
hun - gry feed; See the pow'rs of dark - ness bro - ken,
stone by stone, With Your word as firm foun - da - tion
wind and flame; With the Spir - it's pow'r en - due us,



In His death our ran - som paid: Christ the Sav - ior,
Sin - ners par - doned, cap - tives freed: Christ the Sav - ior,
For a faith ma - tured and grown: Christ the Sav - ior,
Ser - vants of Your sav - ing name: Christ the Sav - ior,



Christ the Ser - vant, Be Your life in us dis - played.
Christ the Ser - vant, Help us meet our neigh - bor's need.
Christ the Ser - vant, Make in us Your Gos - pel known.
Christ the Ser - vant, Christ whose king - dom we pro - claim.

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES *Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Proverbs 3:3-6*

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

WORD

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy. 🎵

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy. 🎵

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy. 🎵

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy. 🎵

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen. 🎵

SPECIAL MUSIC "My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less" Andy Dramstad & Molly Falnes

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you. 🎵

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, keep Your Church in Your perpetual mercy; and because without You we cannot but fall, preserve us from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen. 🎵

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Amos 8:4–7* (An exhortation to live justly)

⁴Hear this, you who trample on the needy
 and bring the poor of the land to an end,
⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over,
 that we may sell grain?
And the Sabbath,
 that we may offer wheat for sale,
that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great
 and deal deceitfully with false balances,
⁶that we may buy the poor for silver
 and the needy for a pair of sandals
 and sell the chaff of the wheat?"
⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
 "Surely I will never forget any of their deeds."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY *Psalms 113*

People: Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD!

Women: Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!

Men: From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!

People: The LORD is high above all nations, and His glory above the heavens! Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

Women: He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes, with the princes of His people.

Men: He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the LORD!

**People: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

EPISTLE *1 Timothy 2:1–15* (The Lord wants all people to be saved.)

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. ⁷For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

⁸I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarrel-
ing; ⁹likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-
control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, ¹⁰but with what is proper for women who
profess godliness—with good works. ¹¹Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹²I do not permit
a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³For Adam was
formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a trans-
gressor. ¹⁵Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with
self-control.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE *John 6:68*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 16:1–15* (Jesus calls His disciples to make serving Him the priority.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord. 

¹[Jesus] also said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were
brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. ²And he called him and said to him, ‘What is
this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’
³And the manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from
me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do, so that when I
am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.’ ⁵So, summoning his master’s
debtors one by one, he said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶He said, ‘A hundred
measures of oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ ⁷Then he said to an-
other, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your
bill, and write eighty.’ ⁸The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of
this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. ⁹And I tell you,
make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you in-
to the eternal dwellings.

¹⁰“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little
is also dishonest in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust
to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that

which is your own? ¹³No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

¹⁴The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. ¹⁵And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ. 🎵

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH

The 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.

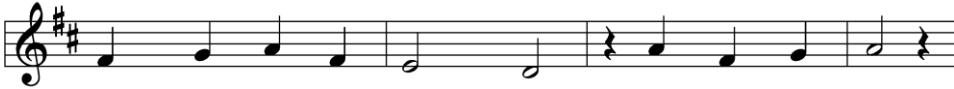
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Seek Where You May To Find A Way" LSB 557



1 Seek where you may To find a way That
2 Seek whom you may To be your stay, None
3 Seek Him a - lone Who did a - tone, Who
4 My heart's de - light, My crown most bright, O



leads to your sal - va - tion. My heart is stilled,
can re - deem his broth - er. All help - ers failed;
did your souls de - liv - er. O seek Him first,
Christ, my joy for - ev - er. Not wealth nor pride



On Christ I build, He is the one foun - da - tion.
This man pre - vailed, The God - man and none oth - er,
All you who thirst For grace that fails you nev - er.
Nor for - tune's tide Our bonds of love shall sev - er.



His Word is sure, His works en - dure; He o - ver - throws
Our Ser - vant - King Of whom we sing. We're jus - ti - fied
In ev - 'ry need Seek Him in - deed; To ev - 'ry heart
You are my Lord; Your pre - cious Word Shall guide my way



All e - vil foes; Through Him I more than con - quer.
Be - cause He died, The guilt - y be - ing guilt - less.
He will im - part His bless - ings with - out mea - sure.
And help me stay For - ev - er in Your pres - ence.

SERMON Rev. Alan Braun "SMOOTH OPERATOR" based on the Gospel Luke 16:1-13

Key Points:

1. What if the _____ had been _____?
2. _____ is a good _____.
3. Drastic _____ is needed to _____ God's _____.
4. _____ to God's greater _____ in Jesus.

OFFERING

Please sign the attendance book and pass it to your neighbor.

Luke 16:8b – “**For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light.**” The sons of this world know that they should use their wealth wisely to provide for their future. Shouldn't we, as “sons of light,” know that the wealth God has allowed us to manage should be managed for God's purposes in roles He has given us to play in Church, home, and society?

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH LSB, p. 215

Pastor: Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

Dear heavenly Father, You desire that all people are saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. Send out messengers and missionaries to every corner of the earth that people from every tribe, nation, and language would hear the saving mercy of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, send Your mercy to all who are struggling financially, the homeless, the poor, the unemployed, the underemployed, and those dealing with unexpected situations. Lead them through this challenging road and provide people and systems to help them. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, You invite us into holy conversation with You through prayer, but we often neglect this invitation. Help us to speak to You more frequently and more fervently. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, You sent Your Son to be the mediator between God and humanity. Grant us peace and reconciliation in our homes, our congregation, our community, our country, and throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, and especially those we now name before You in our hearts.... Have mercy upon them and heal them according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, we commend all of these things to Your infinite mercies, which are new every morning. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer. Amen.

SACRAMENT

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Eternal Hope in the belief and glad confidence that our Lord gives to us exactly what His Word tells us, not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another.

Our Lord invites to His table those who believe and trust in His Words, are truly sorry for and turn from their sins, and who forgive and love one another as He forgives and loves us. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their own great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor.

If this is your belief and confession, we invite you to partake of this special meal.

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you. ♪

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord. ♪

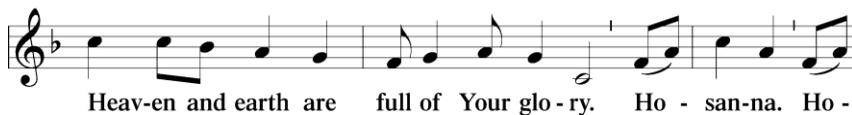
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. With thankful hearts and in the power of Your Spirit we gladly choose life in Him especially now by receiving His own body and blood once shed for us on the cross.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD’S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

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 *Matt. 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Cor. 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen. ♪

AGNUS DEI *(p. ___ in hymnal)*

♩ Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

(The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:)

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

(In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:)

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart + in peace.

People: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS *(As Needed)*

“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness” LSB 636



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, Leave the
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet Him, And with
3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther
4 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der O - ver



gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, Come in - to the day - light's
lov - ing rev - 'rence greet Him. For with words of life im -
cost nor pain will mea - sure; But the price - less gifts of
this sur - pass - ing won - der That the bread of life is



splen - dor, There with joy your prais - es ren - der.
mor - tal He is knock - ing at your por - tal.
heav - en God to us has free - ly giv - en.
bound - less Though the souls it feeds are count - less:



Bless the One whose grace un - bound - ed This a - maz - ing
O - pen wide the gates be - fore Him, Say - ing, as you
Though the wealth of earth were prof - fered, None could buy the
With the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to

Hymn continued on next page



ban - quet found - ed; He, though heav'n - ly, high, and
there a - dore Him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -
gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you -
us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious con - so -



ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
ceive You, That I nev - er - more will leave You.
riv - en, And His blood, for you once giv - en.
la - tion, Pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion!

- 5 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure, Truest friend, and dearest treasure,
Peace beyond all understanding, Joy into all life expanding:
Humbly now, I bow before You; Love incarnate, I adore You;
Worthily let me receive You And, so favored, never leave You.
- 6 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor, Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,
Jesus, joy of my desiring, Fount of life, my soul inspiring:
At Your feet I cry, my maker, Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessèd food from heaven, For our good, Your glory, given.
- 7 Lord, by love and mercy driven, You once left Your throne in heaven
On the cross for me to languish And to die in bitter anguish,
To forego all joy and gladness And to shed Your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living, Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.
- 8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You, Let me gladly here obey You.
By Your love I am invited, Be Your love with love requited;
By this Supper let me measure, Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace You give me As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

"Jesus, Thy Blood And Righteousness" LSB 563



1 Je - sus, Thy blood and righ - teous - ness My beau - ty
2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and re -
3 Lord, I be - lieve Thy pre - cious blood, Which at the
4 Lord, I be - lieve, were sin - ners more Than sands up -



are, my glo - rious dress; Midst flam - ing worlds, in
deemed, no debt to pay; Ful - ly ab - solved through
mer - cy seat of God Pleads for the cap - tives'
on the o - cean shore, Thou hast for all a



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
lib - er - ty, Was al - so shed in love for me.
ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.

- 5 When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea:
Jesus hath lived and died for me.
- 6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE "THANK THE LORD" *LSB 164*



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

Grant that Your Son's body and blood, O Lord, which You have given us to eat and to drink, may abide in us, and let no stain of sin remain in us, whom this pure and holy Sacrament has refreshed; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen. ♪

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

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 "The Lord, My God, Be Praised" LSB 794



1 The Lord, my God, be praised, My light, my life from heav - en;
2 The Lord, my God, be praised, My trust, my life from heav - en,
3 The Lord, my God, be praised, My hope, my life from heav - en,
△ 4 The Lord, my God, be praised, My God, the ev - er - liv - ing,



My mak - er, who to me Has soul and bod - y giv - en;
The Fa - ther's own dear Son, Whose life for me was giv - en,
The Spir - it, whom the Son In love to me has giv - en.
To whom the heav'n - ly host Their laud and praise are giv - ing.



My Fa - ther, who will shield And keep me day by day
Who for my sin a - toned With His most pre - cious blood
His grace re - vives my heart And gives my spir - it pow'r,
The Lord, my God, be praised, In whose great name I boast,



And make each mo - ment yield New bless - ings on my way.
And gives to me by faith The high - est heav'n - ly good.
Help, com - fort, and sup - port In sor - row's gloom - y hour.
God Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the Ho - ly Ghost.