



Let the children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. *Luke 18:16*

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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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?

There are many good things that happen at a church, but the central one is gathering together for worship. When you come to Eternal Hope, you can expect to be welcomed by our members. We are a friendly congregation. You will get a hearty handshake and guidance from our greeters and ushers on where to go and what our service is like. We want you to be comfortable and prepared to hear God's Word.

AS WE GATHER "How can you be so sure?" That is the question we may find ourselves asking when we read the confidence expressed by Paul in today's Epistle: "There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness" (2 Timothy 4:8); "The Lord stood by me and strengthened me. . . . I was rescued from the lion's mouth. . . . The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom" (2 Timothy 4:17-18a). "Paul, how can you be so sure?" Today's service will help us to see that Paul's certainty was not based upon his strength of faith or his works of ministry; no, it was based solely on God's faithfulness to him in Jesus Christ, the Crucified! Through His Word and Spirit, God provides such confidence and certainty to us also as we gather in His presence and are received by Him as members of His heavenly kingdom. "To Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen" (2 Timothy 4:18b).

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER Dear Heavenly Father, You know the multitude of sins I have committed in my life and even this past week. Help me hate my sin more and grow in grace as I contemplate what Christ has done to forgive me and free me from sin's death grip. Open the eyes of my heart to see the glorious hope we have in Christ, your love for all of the saints, and your power at work in us who believe (Ephesians 1:18-21). Cause my heart to burn within me as we celebrate the gospel in our hymns and the liturgy. Help me to learn and apply the Holy Gospel to my life through the preached Word You bring us this morning. In Jesus' precious name, Amen.

PREPARATION

OPENING 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.

INVOCATION

(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: Through faith in Jesus Christ, we are adopted as God's sons and daughters and drawn into His kingdom. By means of His Holy Word we gather to receive our Savior's mercy and then respond to Him in thanksgiving and praise. Because of our sins of thought, word, and action, we are unworthy of the grace we receive. Therefore, at our Lord's invitation, let us come before our heavenly Father in humility and faith, seeking His pardon for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Received into the certainty and security of His eternal kingdom, be assured that you belong to Him— He is your Father, and you are His children! 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 *p. 152 in hymnal*

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. 🎵

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *LSB 154*

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Hymn continued on next page...

You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.

For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,

You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you. 🎵

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You are always more ready to hear than we to pray and always ready to give more than we either desire or deserve. Strengthen us in the certainty of the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting in Your heavenly kingdom, that, as Your children, we may love and trust in You all our days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen. 🎵

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Genesis 4:1–15* (Cain & Abel bring their offerings to the Lord.)

¹Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD.” ²And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.”

⁸Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?” ¹⁰And the LORD said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood

is crying to me from the ground. ¹¹And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹²When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." ¹³Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. ¹⁴Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY *Psalms 5* ("Let them ever sing for joy.")

Pastor: Give ear to my words, O LORD; consider my groaning.

People: Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to You do I pray.

Pastor: O LORD, in the morning You hear my voice;

People: in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for You and watch.

Let all who take refuge in You rejoice; let them ever sing for joy!

Pastor: For You are not a God who delights in wickedness;

People: evil may not dwell with You.

Pastor: The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all evildoers.

People: You destroy those who speak lies; the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.

Pastor: But I, through the abundance of Your steadfast love, will enter Your house.

People: I will bow down toward Your holy temple in the fear of You.

Let all who take refuge in You rejoice; let them ever sing for joy!

Pastor: Lead me, O LORD, in Your righteousness because of my enemies;

People: make Your way straight before me.

Pastor: For there is no truth in their mouth; their inmost self is destruction;

People: their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongue.

Pastor: Make them bear their guilt, O God; let them fall by their own counsels;

People: because of the abundance of their transgressions cast them out, for they have rebelled against You.

Pastor: But let all who take refuge in You rejoice; let them ever sing for joy,

People: and spread Your protection over them, that those who love Your name may exult in You.

Pastor: For You bless the righteous, O LORD;

People: You cover him with favor as with a shield.

**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.**

Let all who take refuge in You rejoice; let them ever sing for joy!

EPISTLE 2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18 (The Lord will bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom.)

⁶For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. . . .

¹⁶At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! ¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C' and contains the melody for the first line of the Alleluia. The second staff continues the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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 18:9–17 (The kingdom of God belongs to the children of God.)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord. 🎵

⁹[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

¹⁵Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. ¹⁶But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁷Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ. 🎵

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven & 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY "In God, My Faithful God" LSB 745



1 In God, my faith - ful God, I trust when dark my road;
2 My sins fill me with care, Yet I will not de - spair.
3 If death my por - tion be, It brings great gain to me;
4 O Je - sus Christ, my Lord, So meek in deed and word,
5 "So be it," then, I say With all my heart each day.



Great woes may o - ver - take me, Yet He will not for - sake me.
I build on Christ, who loves me; From this rock noth - ing moves me.
It speeds my life's en - deav - or To live with Christ for - ev - er.
You suf - fered death to save us Be - cause Your love would have us
Dear Lord, we all a - dore You, We sing for joy be - fore You.



My trou - bles He can al - ter; His hand lets noth - ing fal - ter.
To Him I will sur - ren - der, To Him, my soul's de - fend - er.
He gives me joy in sor - row, Come death now or to - mor - row.
Be heirs of heav'n - ly glad - ness When ends this life of sad - ness.
Guide us while here we wan - der Un - til we praise You yon - der.

SERMON

OFFERING

2 Timothy 4:6 – "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come." As St. Paul nears the end of his life, he continues to view it as something to be spent in sacrifice toward God – just as he had told the Romans (12:1) to be "living sacrifices." And why does St. Paul do this? Because he knows that His Lord has already won for him the crown of life. Jesus' sacrifice that purchased our salvation leads us to imitate His sacrifice in our living for Him.

OFFERTORY "Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart" LSB 806

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give thanks to the
Ho - ly One, Give thanks _____ be - cause He's giv - en___ Je - sus
Christ His Son. Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give
thanks to the Ho - ly One, Give thanks _____ be - cause He's giv - en___
Je - sus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say "I am
strong," Let the poor say "I am rich," _____ Be - cause of
what the Lord has done for us. And now let the
weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am
rich," _____ Be - cause of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks, _____ give thanks. _____

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for all the children of God, members of His heavenly kingdom, and also for all others whose needs are known to the Lord, that they may experience the certainty of His promises and blessings in their lives.

Gracious Father, we are richly blessed to come unto Jesus at His gracious invitation and to be assured of our identity as Your children and members of Your eternal kingdom. Inspire in us a dedication to the priorities of Your kingdom, O Lord, that we may dedicate ourselves to worshipping You and to making Your love known to all the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear Your children pray!

Pastor: Loving Savior, many things in this world distract us from Your Word and draw us away from spending time in Your presence. Renew us, dear Jesus, by the Word that we have heard this day. Remind us of Your forgiveness for our trespasses and restoration for our brokenness that, with hearts and hands lifted to You, we rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances, for this is Your will for Your children. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear Your children pray!

Pastor: Your Word instructs us, sovereign Lord, to lift before You our leaders and all those who serve in positions of authority among us. Grant Your blessing to all who make, administer, and judge our nation's laws. Protect those who lay down their lives for their fellow citizens. Uplift those who are weary and downtrodden in their daily lives that they may find joy in the roles they have in their families, communities, and congregations, knowing that their labor in the Lord is never in vain. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear Your children pray!

Pastor: Healing Savior, Your ministry on earth included bringing heaven's touch to many who were afflicted with pain and suffering. Each one of us has upon our hearts and minds people in need of healing mercies this day, and, for these and for all others who are sick, hurting, and undergoing procedures, we ask for Your special care and healing touch to be extended. And this morning we lift up especially to You.... Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear Your children pray!

Pastor: Into Your hands of mercy, faithful Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Him who invites us to experience the certainty of faith that belongs to members of His heavenly kingdom, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

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.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

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 "I Love Your Kingdom, Lord" *LSB 651*



1 I love Your king - dom, Lord, The place of Your a - bode,
2 Be - yond my high - est joy I prize its heav'n - ly ways,
3 I love Your Church, O God, Your saints in ev - 'ry land,
4 For them my tears shall fall; For them my prayers as - cend;
5 Sure as Your truth shall last, To Zi - on shall be giv'n



The Church our blest Re - deem - er saved With His own pre - cious blood.
Its sweet com - mu - nion, sol - emn vows, Its hymns of love and praise.
Dear as the ap - ple of Your eye And grav - en on Your hand.
For them my cares and toils be giv'n Till toils and cares shall end.
The bright - est glo - ries earth can yield And bright - er bliss of heav'n.

