

“Ninth Sunday after Pentecost”

Thurs. Aug. 7 - 6:30 p.m.; Sun. Aug. 10 - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

As We Gather

In His earthly life, Jesus chose to be a “peripatetic” teacher. Rather than staying in one place and having His learners come to Him, He went from place to place with disciples or followers who listened to the truths He taught as they went along. Walking with Jesus was the greatest of blessings! Whether we hear the Gospel teachings of our Lord in the same setting week by week and year by year or find ourselves in a variety of worship locations and settings, we, too, find blessing in hearing Him as did His first followers. The hymn writer Sigismund von Birken invites us simply: “Let us ever walk with Jesus” (*LSB* 685:1). May we be blessed in our walking and in our listening today!

Hymn “Amazing Grace”

LSB 744

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 34:1–4, 8, 22

- P** I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
C My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.
- P** Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!
C I sought the LORD, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears.
- P** Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!
C The LORD redeems the life of His servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

Confession and Absolution

- P** Let us humble ourselves before God, confess our sins to Him, and ask His gracious forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C We now confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and before one another, that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have given in to anxiety and have not always put our trust in God and His gracious provision for our lives. We have not always been good stewards of the many gifts that God graciously gives us and have focused on keeping things for ourselves rather than sharing them with others. We have missed opportunities to share the love of Christ with those around us and have not sought out the best for the people of our family circles, our neighborhoods, and our communities. We pray our God to have mercy on us, to forgive us all our sins, to lead us into lives of growing faith and increasing charity, and finally to bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

P God is faithful and keeps His promises of full pardon for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, granting mercy and forgiveness for those who repent and turn to Him. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

WORD

Summer Saint Celebration Sequence

Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr

P The list of Christians who are remembered by the church and commemorated by name includes faithful men and women from centuries past who witnessed to Jesus Christ in special ways in their lives. On August 10, the church commemorates Lawrence, who is known as a deacon and martyr. Born in Spain around AD 220, Lawrence found his way to Rome, where he served as a deacon, caring for the social and physical needs of people. His responsibilities included sending out financial contributions from God's people at Rome to congregations in need around the Empire. He used all the resources he was given to meet local needs in Rome as well. When the Roman prefect demanded that Lawrence bring him all the wealth of the church within three days, he knew that he had no silver or gold to turn over. After the three days, he brought before the prefect some of the people who had been helped by the church: destitute, sick, and blind people, as well as widows and many poor people. He said to the prefect: "The church is truly rich, far richer than your emperor." The prefect was outraged by Lawrence's response and decreed that he be put to death immediately, which he

was. The willing sacrifice of his own life in the service of God's people as a martyr was a compelling testament to the faith of Lawrence, who was about thirty-eight years old at the time of his execution. Martin Luther observed that Lawrence overcame death and all tortures and serves as a blessed example of Christian faithfulness.

- P** The term "The Church Militant" refers to the church on earth, where Christian people live out their faith day by day. Sometimes that calling to follow Christ leads to conflict and self-sacrifice, and sometimes even to death. In the hymn, "The Son of God Goes Forth to War," English clergyman Reginald Heber calls to mind some of those faithful followers who make up the army of Christ, including martyrs and valiant saints. The hymn ends with a simple prayer we all can share: "O God, to us may grace be giv'n to follow in their train!"

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.
Almighty and merciful God, it is by Your grace that we live as Your people who offer acceptable service. Grant that we may walk by faith, and not by sight, in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Hymn "The Son of God Goes Forth to War"

LSB 661

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 15:1–6

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." ⁴And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." ⁵And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to

number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ⁶And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Hebrews 11:1–16

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

⁴By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. ⁵By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. ⁶And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. ⁷By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. ¹¹By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

¹³These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

Luke 12:32

C Alleluia. Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 12:22–40

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²²[Jesus] said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁶If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? ²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! ²⁹And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. ³⁰For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

³²"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

³⁵"Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

(on the screens or in the back of the hymnal)

Hymn “I’m But a Stranger Here”

LSB 748

Sermon “Strangers and Exiles”

Text: Hebrews 11:1-16

Offering

Offertory “We Give Thee But Thine Own”

LSB 781 vv. 1-2, 6



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive
6 And we be - lieve Thy Word, Though dim our faith may be:



All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first-fruits give!
What - e'er for Thine we do, O Lord, We do it un - to Thee.

Prayer of the Church

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord of heaven and earth. We give thanks to You for having sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, to be our Redeemer, saving us from the power of sin, death, and the devil. Invited by Your grace and supported by Your love, we come to Your Table with thanksgiving and praise. Grant that we with true faith and trust in Your words of promise receive the bread and wine—that is, the very body and blood of Christ—as a guarantee of the salvation that He purchased for us through His innocent suffering and death on the cross. Receive our prayers and praises and grant us Your abiding peace. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

Lord's Prayer

(on the screens or in the back of the hymnal)

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Our Communion Practices

If these are your beliefs:

I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from all sin, Satan and death.

I believe that Christ is really present in the sacrament and that with the bread and wine I receive His true Body and Blood.

I resolve to dedicate my life to my Lord and Savior in His Body, the Church, by regular worship and devoted Christian service and living.....

please join us as we celebrate Holy Communion.

Distribution Hymns

“Have No Fear, Little Flock”

LSB 735

“Jesus, Priceless Treasure”

LSB 743

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P 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.

C Amen.

Benediction

Hymn Introduction

P There are just four hymns in *Lutheran Service Book* that include the word summer in their texts. It is fitting, as the summer season draws to its close, to sing through each of these memorable hymns. We shall be singing one of them each week for the remaining four weeks in August as we travel through the season of Pentecost. The earliest written of the four summer songs is "Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices" (*LSB* 811), which appeared in a German Lutheran hymnal in 1704. The hymn was originally written in fifteen stanzas by its poetic writer, Pastor Johann Mentzer, who lived from 1658 to 1734 and served Lutheran congregations in eastern Germany. Pastor Mentzer had a full perspective of God's creation and in this hymn exults, "You forest leaves so green and tender that dance for joy in summer air. . . . You live to show God's praise alone. Join me to make His glory known." Our hymn of praise may have just our own voice rather than a thousand, but its object of worship remains the same—our faithful God, who delights in our praises!

Hymn "Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices"

LSB 811

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