

# Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 9, 2018

## Jesus Proclaims the Rally — Rally Day Worship

Sunday School Rally Day is a weekend where Christ's Church rededicates itself to proclaiming Christ, His Cross and emphasizes the teaching and learning of the Word. Such activities highlight the Sunday School in the congregation, encouraging involvement and support by all members. The order of service is based on the "Service of Prayer and Preaching" as found in *Lutheran Service Book* (p. 260).

### Opening Hymn **LSB 556 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice vs 1-4**



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re - joice, With ex - ul - ta - tion  
2 Fast bound in Sa-tan's chains I lay; Death brood-ed dark - ly  
3 My own good works all came to naught, No grace or mer - it  
4 But God had seen my wretch-ed state Be - fore the world's foun -



spring-ing, And with u - nit - ed heart and voice And ho - ly  
o'er me. Sin was my tor - ment night and day; In sin my  
gain - ing; Free will a - gainst God's judg - ment fought, Dead to all  
da - tion, And mind-ful of His mer - cies great, He planned for



rap - ture sing - ing, Pro-claim the won - ders God has done, How  
moth-er bore me. But dai - ly deep - er still I fell; My  
good re - main - ing. My fears in - creased till sheer de - spair Left  
my sal - va - tion. He turned to me a fa - ther's heart; He



His right arm the vic - t'ry won. What price our ran-som cost Him!  
life be - came a liv - ing hell, So firm - ly sin pos - sessed me.  
on - ly death to be my share; The pangs of hell I suf - fered.  
did not choose the eas - y part But gave His dear-est trea - sure.

## Opening Versicles

**P** This is the day which the Lord has made;

**C** **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

**P** Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

**C** **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

**P** Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

**C** **Teach me Your paths.**

**P** Sanctify us in Your truth.

**C** **Your Word is truth.**

**P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

**C** **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.**

## Introit:

*(Ps. 28:1–2, 6–7; antiphon: Ps. 28:8)*

Read responsively, congregation responding with the bold words.

The Lord is the strength of his | people;\*

**he is the saving refuge of his anointed.**

To you, O Lord, I call; my rock, be not | deaf to me,\*

**lest, if you be silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit.**

Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to | you for help,\*

**when I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary.**

Blessèd | be the Lord!\*

**for he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.**

The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and am helped;\*

**my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.**

**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.**

The Lord is the strength of his | people;\*

**he is the saving refuge of his anointed.**

## The Old Testament

Isaiah 35:4–7a

4 Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
“Be strong; fear not!  
Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you.”  
5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
6 then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.  
For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
7 the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual:

*(Ps. 34:9, 19, alt.)*

Fear the Lord, | you his saints,\*  
**for those who fear him lack nothing!**  
Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,\*  
**but the Lord delivers him out of them all.**

## The Epistle

James 2:1–10, 14–18

1 My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. 2 For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, 3 and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” 4 have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? 5 Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? 7 Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. 9 But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. . . .

14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to

them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? <sup>17</sup> So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

<sup>18</sup> But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## The Gospel

**Mark 7:31–37**

<sup>31</sup> [Jesus] returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup> And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup> And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup> And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” <sup>35</sup> And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup> And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup> And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Sermon Hymn *LSB 556 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice vs 5-8*

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|---|---|
| <p>5 God said to His beloved Son:<br/>    “It’s time to have compassion.<br/>Then go, bright jewel of My crown,<br/>    And bring to all salvation.<br/>From sin and sorrow set them free;<br/>Slay bitter death for them that they<br/>    May live with You forever.”</p> | <p>7 To me He said: “Stay close to Me,<br/>    I am your rock and castle.<br/>Your ransom I Myself will be;<br/>    For you I strive and wrestle.<br/>For I am yours, and you are Mine,<br/>And where I am you may remain;<br/>    The foe shall not divide us.</p>           |
| <p>6 The Son obeyed His Father’s will,<br/>    Was born of virgin mother;<br/>And God’s good pleasure to fulfill,<br/>    He came to be my brother.<br/>His royal pow’r disguised He bore;<br/>A servant’s form, like mine, He wore<br/>    To lead the devil captive.</p>  | <p>8 “Though he will shed My precious blood,<br/>    Me of My life bereaving,<br/>All this I suffer for your good;<br/>    Be steadfast and believing.<br/>Life will from death the vict’ry win;<br/>My innocence shall bear your sin,<br/>    And you are blest forever.</p> |

## Sermon Text

## Matthew 18:21-35

21 Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

23 "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. 24 When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27 And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' 29 So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' 30 He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. 31 When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. 32 Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' 34 And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. 35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

## Sermon

**Theme:** Peter asked, Jesus answered, and Matthew listened.

**Text:** Matthew 18:21-35

**Sermon by:** Pastor Christopher Navurskis

## Offering

### Installation of Sunday School Teachers, Confirmation Instructors, Kids 4 Christ Teachers and Preschool Teachers.

**P** Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, you are to be installed as teachers/instructors at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, a work in which our Father in heaven has great joy.

Hear the Word of the Lord:

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

Beloved in the Lord, You are to assist the ministry of the Word and sacraments by instructing God's children according to his holy Word. You are to prepare yourselves for this work by your individual and corporate study of the Word of God and the faith drawn from it as it has been delivered to us in the Creeds and Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

While holiness of life and work is the way of all who trust in Christ, it is especially important that you show yourselves, by word and example, to be patterns of good works and Christian devotion.

In the presence of God and of this congregation, I therefore ask you: Do you accept the position entrusted to you, and do you promise faithfully to carry out your duties, trusting in the him and conforming yourself to his Word in accordance with the faith of the Evangelical Lutheran? If so, then answer: I do.

**R** I do.

**P** Beloved in the Lord, you have heard the promises of faithfulness spoken by these men and women. Do you promise to support them in their work, to remember them in your prayers, and to work with them to the best of the abilities that God has given you, so that He may be glorified and His work be done in our midst? If so, then answer: We do.

**C** We do.

**P** Brothers and sisters in Christ, I therefore install you as teachers and instructors at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church—In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** The almighty and most merciful God enlighten and strengthen you in your service that you may be good and faithful I teachers/instructors to the glory of His name and the salvation of His people.

**C** Amen.

**The Confirmation families are invited forward for a blessing.**

## **Catechism Reading**

Pastor will read the question and the congregation will read the response.

**P** 2 Timothy 3:16 says: All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. Based on this, why do we call the Bible the “Holy Scripture”?

**C** **The Bible is the “Holy Scripture” because God the Holy Spirit gave to His chosen writers the thoughts that they expressed and the words that they wrote. Therefore, the Bible is God’s own Word and truth, without error.**

**P** In John 5:39 Jesus says: These are the scriptures that testify about me. Therefore, what is the key to the correct understanding of the Bible?

**C** **Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, is the heart and center of the Scripture and therefore the key to its true meaning.**

**P** Matthew 22:37 calls the Christian to, love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind. How then is human reason to be used in understanding Holy Scripture?

**C** **Holy Scripture is given in human language. To determine what it says we need to apply the rules of language, such as grammar and logic. It is right to use reason as a servant of the text, but the guidance of the Holy Spirit is essential for its proper understanding.**

## Pastoral Address and Blessing

Sixth Grade Confirmation Students will be given their study Bible with Catechism.

### Morning Prayer

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

The Confirmation families may return to their pews.

### Prayer of the Church

#### The Lord's Prayer

#### Benediction

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

**C** Amen.

### Closing Hymn *LSB 556 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice vs 9-10*

9 "Now to My Father I depart,  
From earth to heav'n ascending,  
And, heav'n'ly wisdom to impart,  
The Holy Spirit sending;  
In trouble He will comfort you  
And teach you always to be true  
And into truth shall guide you.

10 "What I on earth have done and taught  
Guide all your life and teaching;  
So shall the kingdom's work be wrought  
And honored in your preaching.  
But watch lest foes with base alloy  
The heav'nly treasure should destroy;  
This final word I leave you."