

Sunday, September 24, 2023, 11:15am
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Stand Up/Stand Firm



When Paul wrote to Timothy that he was bound with chains as a criminal, he knew the situation he was in.

Acts 16 relates the time that he was thrown in jail in Philippi without benefit of a trial. He was later jailed in Jerusalem and then Caesarea and finally at Rome, where he was under a type of house arrest for two years.

The final chapter of Acts finds Paul as a captive one more time, accepting this imprisonment as a prelude to his death.

In the centuries since Paul gave his prison witness, countless Christian men and women have been imprisoned for their Gospel witness.

Fight the good fight of the faith...Paul's words from prison are good instruction for every situation!

Opening Praise Song

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Let the peoples praise You, O God, let all the peoples praise You!

C: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

P: Let the peoples praise You, O God, let all the peoples praise You!

C: God shall bless us, let all the ends of the earth fear Him!

P: It is good and right that we should make confession of our sins and hear the words of absolution that assure us of God's forgiveness. Martin Luther instructs us,

C: Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the Pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

P: Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and pray His forgiveness.

C: O Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and sorry sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your present and eternal punishment. By nature I am sinful. By thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite child of God. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.

P: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

C: Amen.

P: As a called and ordained servant of Jesus, 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.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Together, we pray,

C: Jesus, our strength and support in all situations, grant us the power and presence of Your Holy Spirit that we may be strong and steadfast in all

situations, joyfully witnessing to the power of Your love and continually learning of You in every season; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and rules with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.

Children's Time

Isaiah 55:6–9

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30 [Sermon Text]

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

(Matthew 20:1-16)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Praise Song

The Sermon ***Stand Up/Stand Firm***

Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying (826)

The Gathering of our Gifts and Tithes

The Prayers of His Children

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

P: ...who taught us all to pray,

C: LORD'S PRAYER

God's Benediction

Sending Praise Song

Ministry Announcements