



## 14<sup>TH</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

September 6, 2020

### Prelude

#### Hymn: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory  
Fills my heart with joy and love,  
Teach me ever to adore Thee;  
May I still Thy goodness prove.

Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
Hither by Thy help I've come;  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wand'ring from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be;  
Let that grace now like a fetter  
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;  
Prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Oh, that day when freed from sinning,  
I shall see Thy lovely face;  
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen,  
How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!  
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;  
Take my ransom'd soul away;  
Send Thine angels soon to carry  
Me to realms of endless day.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### INVOCATION

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

**C: Amen.**

### OFFERING OF CONFESSION

P: God of light and life,

**C: You set before us today the challenges of laying aside the works of darkness; of putting on the light of Christ; of being watchful and prepared for your coming in our midst in the person of Jesus Christ.**

**As the people of God in this place, we know that a crucial part of our witness is in revealing Christ to the world through the way we love and care for one another. Forgive us when people do not see any evidence in us of the One who is to come. So many people, young and old, grope helplessly in the gloom of despair and suffering, yearning for the light of hope to dawn in their lives. Remind us that the light of Christ shines through people like us.**

**Merciful God, cleanse our hearts and minds of all that hinders us from loving you and loving our neighbor, so that our lives radiate faith active in love, as we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once more in the person of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

#### GIFT OF ABSOLUTION

P 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.

**C: Amen.**

#### COLLECT

P: O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

#### SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

**C: And also with you!**

P: We greet one another in the peace of the Lord.

*You are welcome to greet each other as forgiven brothers and sisters in Jesus, in your homes and in our chat, or send a text to someone you know sharing the peace of Jesus is for them.*

#### READINGS

A Reading from Ezekiel 33:7-9

<sup>7</sup>“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>When I say to the wicked, ‘You wicked person, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for<sup>[a]</sup> their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. <sup>9</sup>But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## A Reading from Romans 13:1–10

13 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. <sup>2</sup> Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. <sup>3</sup> For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. <sup>4</sup> For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup> Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

<sup>6</sup> This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. <sup>7</sup> Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

<sup>8</sup> Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

A: The Holy Gospel according St. Matthew, the 18<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

18 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" <sup>2</sup> He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. <sup>3</sup> And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>5</sup> And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. <sup>6</sup> "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

<sup>7</sup> Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come! <sup>8</sup> If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. <sup>9</sup> And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.

<sup>10</sup> "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. <sup>12</sup> "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? <sup>13</sup> And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the

ninety-nine that did not wander off. <sup>14</sup> In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.

<sup>15</sup> "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. <sup>16</sup> But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' <sup>17</sup> If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

A: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### **Song: Beautiful Things**

All this pain  
I wonder if I'll ever find my way  
I wonder if my life could really change  
At all

All around  
Hope is springing up from this old ground  
Out of chaos life is being found  
In You

All this earth  
Could all that is lost ever be found  
Could a garden come up from this ground  
At all

You make me new You are making me new  
You make me new You are making me new  
(REPEAT)

You make beautiful things  
You make beautiful things out of the dust  
You make beautiful things  
You make beautiful things out of us

### SERMON

#### **Hymn: Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways**

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways  
To keep His statutes still!  
Oh, that my God would grant me grace  
To know and do His will!

Assist my soul, too apt to stray,  
A stricter watch to keep;  
And should I e'er forget Thy way,  
Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.

Order my footsteps by Thy Word  
And make my heart sincere;  
Let sin have no dominion, Lord,  
But keep my conscience clear.

Make me to walk in Thy commands—  
'Tis a delightful road—  
Nor let my head or heart or hands  
Offend against my God.

P: Let us confess our faith together using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and 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 there 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.**

## PRAYERS

A: Lord in Your mercy

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Rejoicing in God, we pray:

**ALL: 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 for ever and ever. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

### **Hymn: Reckless Love**

Before I spoke a word You were singing over me  
You have been so so good to me  
Before I took a breath You breathed Your life in me  
You have been so so kind to me

When I was Your foe still Your love fought for me  
You have been so so good to me  
When I felt no worth You paid it all for me  
You have been so so kind to me

(And) O the overwhelming never-ending reckless  
Love of God  
O it chases me down fights 'til I'm found  
Leaves the ninety-nine  
I couldn't earn it I don't deserve it  
Still You give Yourself away  
O the overwhelming never-ending reckless  
Love of God yeah

There's no shadow You won't light up  
Mountain You won't climb up  
Coming after me  
There's no wall You won't kick down  
Lie You won't tear down  
Coming after me

## SENDING

A: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Thompson

Children's Message: Megan Hoffman, DCE

Music: Gundermann Family, Bruce Anderson and John Schonebaum

Lector: Jay Schlechte

Sending: Bev Piepkorn

Production: Dan Savard

Music | Liturgy:

Hymns from *Lutheran Service Book*

Confession: Moira Laidlaw

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