



July 30, 2023

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Ken Bersche

Janis Lapham, Organist  
Maggie Kent, Secretary

## Prelude

### Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“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.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 686-Text: Robert Robinson 1735-90*

*Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, Harrisburg 1813; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

*\*“Ebenezer” means “Thus far has the Lord helped us” and was the name given to the stone of remembrance. 1 Samuel 7:12*

## Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*Matthew 28:19b*

**Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

God’s ways are unsearchable; all things and we ourselves belong to Him.

**But we are not righteous, for we have done the evil He forbids. We are not upright in heart, for we have thought to save ourselves. We are not at peace, for we have led others astray in our thoughtless words. We cannot save ourselves. Forgive us and lead us in paths pleasing to You, gracious God.**

Although we have sinned, God still surrounds us with His protection, like the mountains around Jerusalem. He never rests in His seeking to guide our hands to do good. He has sent His Word to turn our thoughts back to His grace and mercy. His peace is made sure for us in the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. In His gracious love, God declares us to be His good and righteous children. He grants us forgiveness and the right to be called His children.

**Amen. Thanks be to God!**

## Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“Nearer, My God, to Thee”

- ♪ Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.  
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me, Still all my song shall be,  
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.
- ♪ Though like the wanderer, The sun gone down,  
Darkness be over me, My rest a stone, Yet in my dreams I'd be  
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.
- ♪ There let my way appear Steps unto heav'n;  
All that Thou sendest me In mercy giv'n; Angels to beckon me  
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.
- ♪ Then with my waking thoughts Bright with Thy praise,  
Out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise, So by my woes to be  
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God to Thee, Nearer to Thee.
- ♪ Or if on joyful wing, Cleaving the sky,  
Sun, moon, and stars forgot, Upward I fly, Still all my song shall be,  
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.

*The Lutheran Hymnal, Hymn 533 -Text: Sarah F. Adams 1805-48;  
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## The Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Hymn of Praise

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

- ♪ Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
- ♪ Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee, Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.
- ♪ Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,  
Only Thou are holy; there is none beside Thee, Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.
- ♪ Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 507-Text: Reginald Heber 1783-1826;  
Tune: John B. Dykes 1823-76; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## Psalmody

Psalm 125

Those who trust in the LORD

**Are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.**

As the mountains surround Jerusalem,

**So the LORD surrounds His people, from this time forth and forevermore.**

For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous,

**Lest the righteous stretch out their hands to do wrong.**

Do good, O LORD, to those who are good,

**And to those who are upright in their hearts!**

But those who turn aside to their crooked ways

**The LORD will lead away with evildoers!**

Peace be upon Israel!

**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.**

## Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 7:6–9

<sup>6</sup>“For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup>It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, <sup>8</sup>but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Epistle

Romans 8:28–39

<sup>28</sup>And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;  
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor

powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual Hymn

“A Mighty Fortress”

- ♪ A mighty fortress is our God, A sword and shield victorious;  
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod And wins salvation glorious.  
The old satanic foe Has sworn to work us woe. With craft and dreadful might  
He arms himself to fight. On earth he has no equal.
- ♪ No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight, Whom God Himself elected.  
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is He, Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,  
God's only Son, adored. He holds the field victorious.
- ♪ Though hordes of devils fill the land All threat'ning to devour us,  
We tremble not, unmoved we stand; They cannot overpower us.  
Let this world's tyrant rage; In battle we'll engage. His might is doomed to fail;  
God's judgment must prevail! One little word subdues him.
- ♪ God's Word forever shall abide, No thanks to foes, who fear it;  
For God Himself fights by our side With weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house, Goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
Though life be wrenched away, They cannot win the day. The Kingdom's ours forever!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 657-Text: Martin Luther 1483-1546, ©1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978; Used by permission.  
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## Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

Matthew 13:44–52

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>44</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, <sup>46</sup>who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. <sup>48</sup>When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup>“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Apostles' Creed

### Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

#### The Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

- ♪ Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.
- ♪ All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.
- ♪ Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Fountain-head of love divine:  
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 803 -Text: Henry Van Dyke 1852-1933; Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven 1770-1827;  
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#### Proclamation of the Word

“He's Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down in His Heart”

Matthew 13:44–52

#### Offering and Musical Offering

#### Prayer of the Church *Please Stand*

*Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

#### Lord's Prayer

#### Benediction

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

*2 Corinthians 13:14*

**Amen.**

#### Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name”

- ♪ All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all.  
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all.
- ♪ Crown Him, ye martyrs of our God, Who from His altar call;  
Extol the stem of Jesse's rod And crown Him Lord of all.  
Extol the stem of Jesse's rod And crown Him Lord of all.

♪ Ye seed of Israel's chosen race, Ye ransomed from the fall,  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.

♪ Hail Him, ye heirs of David's line, Whom David Lord did call,  
The God incarnate, man divine, And crown Him Lord of all.  
The God incarnate, man divine, And crown Him Lord of all.

♪ Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget The wormwood and the gall,  
Go, spread your trophies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.  
Go, spread your trophies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.

♪ Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe, On this terrestrial ball  
To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all.  
To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all.

♪ Oh, that with yonder sacred throng We at His feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all.  
We'll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all.

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name-Text: Edward Perronet 1726-92 sts. 1-5 Selection of Hymns, London 1787  
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## Postlude