



September 10, 2023

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“God Himself Is Present”

♪ God Himself is present: Let us now adore Him And with awe appear before Him.
God is in His temple; All within keep silence; Humbly kneel in deepest rev'ence.
He alone On His throne Is our God and Savior; Praise His name forever!

♪ God Himself is present: Hear the harps resounding; See the hosts the throne surrounding.
“Holy, holy, holy!” Hear the hymn ascending, Songs of saints and angels blending.
Bow Your ear To us here: Hear, O Christ, the praises That Your Church now raises.

♪ Fount of ev'ry blessing, Purify my spirit, Trusting only in Your merit.
Like the holy angels, Worshiping before You, May I ceaselessly adore You.
Let Your will Ever still Rule Your Church terrestrial As the hosts celestial.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 907-Text: Gerhard Tersteegen 1697-1769; tr. Frederick W. Foster 1760-1835 and John Miller 1756-90; Tune: Joachim Neander 1650-80;
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Invocation

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

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Praise is due to You, O God, in Zion,

And to You shall vows be performed.

O You who hears prayer, to You shall all flesh come.

When iniquities prevail against me, You atone for our transgressions.

Blessed is the one You choose and bring near, to dwell in Your courts!

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, the holiness of Your temple!

Psalm 65:1-4

Confession and Absolution

Beloved in the Lord, let us make confession to our merciful God, acknowledging that we are sinful from birth and need His gracious forgiveness.

To You, omniscient Lord of all, in grief and shame I humbly call. I see my sin against You, Lord; the sins of thought and deed and word. They press me sore; I cry to You: O God, be merciful to me!

Confessing that our thoughts and words and deeds are sinful and hurtful, let us turn to God, confident in the love that He has shown to us through His Son, Jesus our Lord, who died to pay the price of all our sins.

O Lord, my God, to You I pray: O cast me not in wrath away! Let Your good Spirit never depart, but let Him draw to You my heart. That truly penitent I be: O God, be merciful to me!

God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

O Jesus, let Your precious blood be to my soul a cleansing flood. Turn not, O Lord, Your guest away, but grant that justified I may go to my house at peace with You: O God, be merciful to me!

Be of good cheer and assured, for God has promised that your sins are indeed forgiven. May the Holy Spirit abide with you as you live at peace.

Amen.

The Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. 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.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated Music: "It Came Upon the" Hymn 366*

"O Guiding God"

♪ O guiding God, whose grace directs Your people on their way,
In mercy hear the praises brought Before Your throne this day.
We bless You for the caring love That keeps You by our side
With daily bread You strengthen us And for all needs provide.

♪ Lord, when we come to heav'n at last Our thanks with joy to bring,
May we with all the sacred throng. Eternal anthems sing.
O guiding God, whose grace directs Your people on their way,
In mercy hear the praises brought Before Your throne this day.

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Old Testament Reading

Exodus 33:7–9

⁷Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. ⁸Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise up, and each would stand at his tent door, and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. ⁹When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

Romans 13:1–10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a

terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

"How Great Thou Art"

- ♪ O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;
~Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
- ♪ When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; ~Then...
- ♪ But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin; ~Then...
- ♪ When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!" ~Then....

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Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

Matthew 18:1–20

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, "Truly, I say to

you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

¹⁰“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

- ♪ Children of the heav'nly Father Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven Such a refuge e'er was given.
- ♪ God His own doth tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them; In His mighty arms he bears them.
- ♪ Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.
- ♪ Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.

Proclamation of the Word

“What Does It Matter when You Think of Yourself So Highly?”

Matthew 18:1–20

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand*

Each petition concludes with the following:

Lord, in Your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

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 you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“The Old Rugged Cross”

- ♪ On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.
~So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown.
- ♪ O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary. ~So I'll cherish...
- ♪ In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me. ~So I'll cherish...
- ♪ To the old rugged cross I will ever be true, Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share. ~So I'll cherish....

*The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration, Hymn, 186 -Text & Tune: George Bennard 1873-1958; ©1913 George Bennard,
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Postlude