

SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Church Stands Forever



Christ Lutheran Church
North St. Paul & Hugo, Minnesota
September 06, 2020

About the season... The Season of Pentecost - these Sundays after Pentecost Sunday - celebrates the work of the Holy Spirit as he brings to completion the work begun in us. As believers travel along with Jesus and the disciples through the Palestinian countryside, we look for the inner-working of the Spirit, longing for the passing of the old and the fullness of the new. These weeks lead up to the Season of End Times, looking ahead to the fulfillment of all that our Lord has promised. Just as Jesus traveled with his disciples toward the Holy City, we travel with them through this life to the New Jerusalem.

About the day... The Church will stand forever. Nothing can keep our Redeemer from upholding his promised salvation. Neither false expectations nor the gates of hell, neither an Egyptian army nor a flowing river, not even the great tribulation of the end times will keep our God from preserving his Church.

God bless your worship!

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING HYMN

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation
CW #531:1,2



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, Come, O Lord

and cor - ner - stone, Cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
of hosts, and stay; Come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,

Bind - ing all the Church in one, Ho - ly Zi - on's
Hear your peo - ple as they pray, And your full - est

help for - ev - er And our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion Speak with - in these walls to - day.

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Joshua 4:1-7

Twelve stones told the story of God's power when Israel crossed the Jordan River into their new land. These stones speak to us how God is ever preserving and protecting his people, the Church as they journey to heaven.

¹ When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, ² “Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, ³ and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan from right where the priests stood and to carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight.” ⁴ So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, ⁵ and said to them, “Go over before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, ⁶ to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ ⁷ tell them that the flow of

the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.”

SECOND LESSON

Romans 11:33-36

Paul concludes this section of his letter by bursting out in a doxology, that is, a word or hymn of praise, after he reviewed God's complex ways in reaching out to Jews and Gentiles. The Church stands because of his grace!

³³Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! ³⁴"Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" ³⁵"Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" ³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

VERSE OF THE DAY

1 Timothy 1:10b

Alleluia. Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

St. Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus polls his followers about his identity. Peter responds with a rock-like confession about Jesus, one upon which Jesus would build his church—not upon Peter the person, but his marvelous words.

¹³When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Church's One Foundation
CWS #538:1,2,5



The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus
E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er
Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult



Christ, her Lord; She is his new cre - a - tion By
all the earth; Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One
of her war She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of



wa - ter and the Word. From heav'n he came and
Lord, one faith, one birth. One ho - ly name she
peace for - ev - er - more Till with the vi - sion



sought her To be his ho - ly bride; With his own
bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food, And to one
glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest And the great



blood he bought her, And for her life he died.
hope she press - es, With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.

MESSAGE Romans 11:33-36.

“To God Alone Be All Glory!”

1. For his unsearchable wisdom and ways
2. For being the source and end of all our gifts.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

The Offering will be received in back as you leave

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH Congregation: **Bold print**

O Lord, grant to Your people courage, that with boldness we may speak Your name in witness and warn sinners so that they may come to faith and repentance and so enjoy the forgiveness of their sins. Give Your Church wisdom and strength by Your Spirit, that she may be steadfast and unmovable in Your Word and truth. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, You have given the day for work and the night for rest. Bless all honest labor and industry, artists and artisans, and those in caring professions. Keep us in humility, and guard us against pride and arrogance. Give to us a spirit of generosity, that we may share with others the blessings that flow from our labors. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, teach us to forgive others as You have forgiven us and bless the fellowship of the forgiven, that we may be united in doctrine and life. Bless us as we commune today upon the body and blood of our Savior, and help us to keep in holy lives what we will receive upon our lips in this Holy Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear us, O Lord, who cry to You in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, whom with the Spirit, You are one God and one Lord, now and forevermore. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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,
 forever and ever. Amen.**

The Sacrament

We are a “sacramental” church. We believe that in Baptism and the Lord’s Supper God comes to us with forgiveness in very tangible means. Because the Bible has convinced us that Jesus’ body and blood are present in the sacrament and that receiving the sacrament together is a public statement of oneness in our beliefs and commitment, we ask our guests to speak with the pastor before communing. We don’t want to be presumptuous and put you in the position of stating your agreement with our convictions before we have had an opportunity to explain them. We do look forward to any opportunity to discuss with you the Christian faith. Personal preparation for Holy Communion is on p. 11.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.



HYMN DURING COMMUNION

Build on the Rock, The Church Shall Stand
CW #529



1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand E - ven when
2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made with hands God, the Most
3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built for his
4 Here stands the font be - fore our eyes, Tell - ing how
5 Grant then, O God, your will be done, That, when the



steeples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in
High, is not dwell - ing; High a - bove earth his
own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal
God did re - ceive us. Th' al - tar re - calls Christ's
church bells are ring - ing, Man - y in sav - ing



ev - 'ry land; Bells still are chim - ing and call -
tem - ple stands, All earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -
grace us owns Heirs of his won - drous sal - va -
sac - ri - fice And what the sac - ra - ment gives
faith may come Where Christ his mes - sage is bring -



ing, Call - ing the young and old to rest,
ling. Yet he who dwells in heav'n a - bove
tion. Were we but two his name to tell,
us. Here sound the Scrip - tures that pro - claim
ing: "I know my own; my own know me.



But a - bove all the soul dis - tressed,
Choo - es to live with us in love,
Yet he would deign with us to dwell
Christ yes - ter - day, to - day, the same,
You, not the world, my face shall see.



Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.
Mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
With all his grace and his fa - vor.
And ev - er - more, our Re - deem - er.
My peace I leave with you al - ways."

CLOSING PRAYER

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

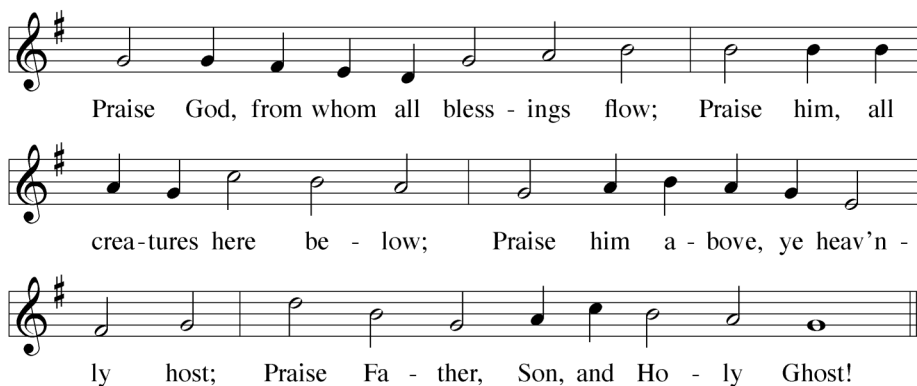
M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN

The Doxology
CW #334



The musical notation consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!"

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise him, all
crea-tures here be - low; Praise him a - bove, ye heav'n -
ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!

PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: *He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.*

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: *I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?*

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: *I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.*

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: *His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.*

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: *In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.*

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: *I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."*

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: *I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.*

Prayer

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

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