

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 19

September 12, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

AS WE GATHER

In today's Readings, Jesus encounters another person possessed by an unclean spirit. The young man's father is distraught and desperate. The father utters these words: "I believe; help my unbelief!" Jesus does help the man's unbelief by healing his son. Jesus helps our unbelief as well in all that He does. In His miracles and teaching, suffering and death, resurrection and ascension, Jesus calls us to faith. And He calls us to be His witnesses.

PRELUDE "Things We Leave Behind"

HYMN "Lord of All Hopefulness" *LSB* 738

1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

3 Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: I called on the name of the LORD:

People: O LORD, I believe. Help my unbelief!

Pastor: The LORD has dealt bountifully with us.

People: The LORD has opened our ears.

Pastor: The LORD has delivered us from death.

People: He wipes away tears from all faces.

Pastor: He rescues our feet from stumbling

People: and restores our tongues to proclaim His good news.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Despite all of God's actions on our behalf, we still struggle with sin in our lives. Our tongues still curse. Our feet still stumble. Our ears still listen to lies and vicious gossip. But our heavenly Father invites us to come to Him for restoration, renewal, and forgiveness for these and every sin. Heavenly Father,

People: we have sinned against You and our neighbors in what we have done and what we have left undone. We have neglected opportunities to love and serve our neighbors. We have stumbled and fallen again and again. We ask that You restore us, renew us, and forgive us on account of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, in His boundless love sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise for our forgiveness and eternal life. Because of Jesus, we are restored, body and soul. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, 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.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE "To God Be the Glory" TOSB 241 Public domain

1. To God be the glory, great things He hath done,
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son.
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord. Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done.

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives. *Refrain*

3. Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. *Refrain*

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defense in every need, continue to preserve Your Church in safety, govern her by Your goodness, and bless her with Your peace; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 50:4–10* (God sustains and vindicates His people.) The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. But the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. Behold, the Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty? Behold, all

of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up. Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the voice of his servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 116:1–9*

I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. Then I called on the name of the Lord: “O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!” Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful. The Lord preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me. Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you. For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling; I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

EPISTLE *James 3:1–12* (The tongue is small but powerful in speaking both good and evil.) Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For we all stumble in many ways, and if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 9:14–29* (Jesus heals a demon-possessed boy.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to [Jesus] and greeted him. And he asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” And he answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.” And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was

like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” *LSB* 739

1 Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand;
 I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light.
 Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

2 When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
 When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call;
Hold my hand lest I fall.
 Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

3 When the darkness appears
And the night draws near
 And the day is almost gone,
At the river I stand;
Guide my feet, hold my hand,
 Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

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SERMON “I Believe, Help My Unbelief”

Human eyes are very unique, and expressive. They can tell you a variety of things without ever saying a word. They can convey emotions and what is important. A tearful eye conveys that it was sad to hear that news, or that those words were painful that you said. Beaming eyes can display joy or an unquenchable contentment. Wide eyes, or open ones, can denote shock or disbelief at what has just happened. The rolling of the eyes can convey what they really think about you, or your idea. You can tell a person’s emotions, responses, or thoughts by their eyes.

You can also tell what is important from them, too. A doctor’s eyes often scan the most critical part or information. A sports analyst’s glance can find the real reason for your favorite team’s bad play. An accountant’s eyes fall on the critical numbers on a finance sheet, and a child’s eyes can become fixed on that toy that they can’t live without at the store. Even when we have basic conversations with people, their eyes often reveal what is on their mind. Are they giving you eye contact? Are they glancing behind you? Are they checking their watch? Their eyes can often betray them, or show you just how much they care. Eyes reveal a lot of things. Emotions. Thoughts. Values. Focus. The eyes that we encounter in our Gospel text tell us these very things! They also reveal what our eyes tell us, too.

The disciples of Jesus are the first people that our eyes fall on in our text. What does their gaze reveal? What are they looking at? We’ll find out. A great crowd of people is gathered around them while Jesus is up on a mountain with Peter, James, and John. While they are gone, the disciples are interacting with the crowd and an argument takes place. It isn’t between the crowd and the disciples, it is with the scribes. The scribes look at Jesus with unbelief and skepticism. They disbelieve Jesus’ claims about being the Messiah and Son of God. They question His teachings and interpretations. They see Him as a heretic, renegade, and rebel.

And initially, they seemed justified in doing so. The nine disciples are unable to heal a demon-possessed boy. That very fact seems to justify the scribes' claims about Jesus. He isn't Who He says He is since they can't cast it out. Back in Mark 6, the disciples were given authority by Jesus to cast out unclean spirits. But, here, what they were doing wasn't working. That demon won't get out! What is the problem? After Jesus later casts out the demon, the disciples ask, "**Why could we not cast it out?**" He answers, "**This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.**" What does Jesus mean by that? He reveals where the disciples were looking.

Prayer is a conversation with God. Prayer forces us to take our eyes off of ourselves and to turn them to Jesus. Jesus' answer reveals where their eyes fell: it wasn't on Him, but on themselves, with their power and abilities. The disciples likely depended on their past experiences and success of casting out demons, especially since they were all together. There were nine experienced exorcists versus one demon; shouldn't be a problem at all! However, when they failed, they did not cry, as the boy's father will, in faith for the help of God. The disciples' failure was not due to their outward preparation or procedure. It came because of their inner self-confidence and focus. They didn't even pray! Where were they looking? At themselves.

Our gaze can fall there, too, can't it? When confronted with the daily challenges and problems of life, we can lean on our own strength, talents, abilities, reason, wisdom, or understanding. That might work in the short-term, and it might work more often than not, but that can have a spiritual danger. When our eyes are focused on us, it relegates God to plan B, the back-up, contingency plan, the bench, or last resort. It thrusts us into the spotlight. It reminds me of what an ethnic pastor once told me. He said that in his unbelieving culture, that when doctors are no longer able to do anything more for a patient, people would ask, "Is there anything else you can do?" He said that doctors would often respond, "You could try being a Christian. Sometimes that does something." When Jesus answers the disciples, He encourages and reminds them and us to look to Him in all troubles and times of need. He encourages us to look to Him for all good and strength. The disciples were looking on themselves.

The next person we see in the text is the one Who answers Jesus' question when He approaches the crowd. He asked, "What are you arguing about with them?" A father answers and speaks. He tells Jesus that his son is demon-possessed and tortured by it. Since his son was little, the demon has robbed the boy of his voice, and the gift of speech and music. This demon often overpowers his son, throwing him into a seizure where he rolls arounds, foaming and grinding his teeth. When he is done, the poor boy's body is stiff and rigid. Worse yet, though, is that the demon actively tries to kill his son by throwing him into fire to burn him, or by throwing him into water to drown him. Some have often wondered, who suffered more? The boy's parents, or him? The boy certainly suffered, but it is never easy to see a loved one suffer, is it? It is a deeper pain and anguish when it is your own child.

Jesus then calls for the child to release him from this servant of Satan, and asks, "**How long has this been happening to him?**" To Jesus, this boy is not an object to be healed or discussed, but a person Whom He is deeply concerned about. The father tells Jesus that he has had this since he was little, and finishes by saying, "**But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.**" His words strike Jesus. "If you can?" Jesus wants the father to hear his doubt. He brings the father face-to-face with his faith, which is failing, so he can stand face-to-face before His Savior, the only One Who can help. Jesus wants to change where the father is looking, for his response gives it away.

The Dad says, "**I believe, help my unbelief!**" He has one eye on Jesus, and one eye on the problem. He believes, but struggles to. He sees the power and identity of Jesus before him, but he also sees the pain of his son, the direness of his situation, the helplessness and hopelessness of his plight, the years of unanswered prayers, and the failed attempts at healing. You can't blame him for his split vision. He believes, but yet doesn't believe. He tries, but he has given up trying. He holds on, but he lets go. "**I believe, help my unbelief!**"

Isn't that the cry of our faith, too? With those words, this father brings all our weakness and stumbling, all of our doubting and grumbling, all of our running and pain, and brings it before Jesus. We know, and we believe in God's promises, but can still struggle with trusting them. We know that God will walk alongside us, but we can struggle proceeding forward in that. We know that God has power and control over all things, but when chaos seems to reign supreme, nothing is going right, and God seems absent, it seems like a lie. We know that God loves and cares for us, but we can have our heart torn and doubt that when sickness, troubles,

disappointment and the like strike. We know that God forgives, but when our conscience is unrelenting, and Satan is persuasive with his lies, forgiveness can seem like a pipe dream. The Bible says that God works all things for our good, but when we are destroyed by trials, riddled with pain, buried by temptations, the idea that God is good can seem like a stretch. We can have one eye on the trouble, and one eye on Jesus.

That brings us to our next person, Jesus. What is He looking at? Where is He looking? To figure that out, we need to go back a little bit. Remember that Jesus enters the text by returning from a mountain. Which mountain was that? What happened there? He comes from the mount of Transfiguration. There He revealed His divine glory and had His eyes fixed on the end goal: the cross. With His eyes focused on that, He comes down and heads towards that final destination. On His way, He shows His compassion and mercy to those in need. And when He gets there, where was His gaze? On you, the One He lived and died for! The beauty of the Gospel is that is universal, but yet particular. It is for all, and yet it is for you, singular. All are forgiven in Christ, and you, singular, are forgiven. His gaze was on *you*.

But risen from the dead and ascended on high, He looks on us in grace and compassion. He did that for the boy and his father as He forever sent that demon packing, and He looks on us in the same way. Jesus looks on us with grace when we struggle with faith and unbelief, never turning us away, but calling us closer with His outstretched arms. Jesus looks on us with compassion when He continues to faithfully walk alongside in this life, helping us with everything life can throw our way. He looks on us with compassion when He encourages us to see His hand over all things, and strengthens and sustains us in the face of sickness, trouble, and disappointment. He showers His grace and compassion on us by assuring us that we are His when Satan's lies assail us, our conscience scares us, and the world says, "no way." Jesus graciously strengthens our faith in Him through His work done by Word and Sacrament, and through these means, He reminds us of how tightly He holds us (it isn't about our grip, but His!). And with His amazing grace and compassion, He works to help shift our eyes ever firmer on Him.

The author of Hebrews perfectly sums up, applies our sermon, and encourages us when he writes: **"Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."**

APOSTLES' CREED

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 thence 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

Pastor: Gracious God, You are the source of every lasting security. We bless You for the continuance of stability in a time of great national trial and ask that our nation be spared from any such act of terrorism and destruction in times to come. We remember those innocent victims of terrorism whose earthly lives ended on September 11th, 2001. Grant that their memories among us remain and their lives not be forgotten. We also remember the rescue workers who gave their lives that day seeking to assist the victims of the tragedy. Grant that their examples of bravery and sacrificial concern for others serve to inspire each of us as we live out our lives in these times.

Almighty God, You have given us this good land as our heritage. Grant that we remember Your generosity and constantly do Your will. Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Grant that we, who came from many nations with many different languages, may become a united people. Support us in defending our liberties, and give those to whom we have entrusted the authority of government

the spirit of wisdom, that there may be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, may our hearts be thankful, and in troubled times do not let our trust in You fail; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

OFFERING

PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Holy holy holy Lord

God of power and might

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is he who comes

In the name of the Lord

Hosanna in the highest

Hosanna in the highest

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

WORDS OF OUR LORD Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

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.

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God you take away
All the sin of the world
Oh Lamb of God have mercy on us
And grant to us your peace

You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS "Rise, Shine, You People" *LSB 825*

1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
Our human story; God in Him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,
With grace unbounded.

2 See how He sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
He brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,
Now are forgiven.

3 Come, celebrate, your banners high unfurling,
Your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the story
Of Jesus' glory.

4 Tell how the Father sent His Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation
His new creation.

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“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” *LSB* 528

1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer’s praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

2 My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad,
The honors of Thy name.

3 Jesus! The name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
’Tis music in the sinner’s ears,
’Tis life and health and peace.

4 He breaks the pow’r of canceled sin;
He sets the pris’ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood avails for me.

5 Look unto Him, ye nations; own
Your God, ye fallen race.
Look and be saved through faith alone,
Be justified by grace.

6 See all your sins on Jesus laid;
The Lamb of God was slain.
His soul was once an off’ring made
For ev’ry soul of man.

7 To God all glory, praise, and love
Be now and ever giv’n
By saints below and saints above,
The Church in earth and heav’n.

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BLESSING

Pastor: May our Lord’s body and blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith to life everlasting. Depart in peace and with joy.

People: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” *LSB* 849

1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness

With a liberating light;

Praise the One who frees the pris’ners,

Turning blindness into sight.

Praise the One who preached the Gospel,

Healing ev’ry dread disease,

Calming storms, and feeding thousands

With the very Bread of peace.

2 Praise the One who blessed the children

With a strong, yet gentle, word;

Praise the One who drove out demons

With the piercing, two-edged sword.

Praise the One who brings cool water

To the desert’s burning sand;

From this Well comes living water,

Quenching thirst in ev’ry land.

3 Let us praise the Word Incarnate,

Christ, who suffered in our place.

Jesus died and rose victorious

That we may know God by grace.

Let us sing for joy and gladness,

Seeing what our God has done;

Let us praise the true Redeemer,

Praise the One who makes us one.

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POSTLUDE “Open My Eyes That I May See”

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: *Mark 9:24 – “Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, ‘I believe; help my unbelief!’ ”* Haven’t we often felt like this! And notice that Jesus does not throw the man out because of his weakness of faith. He still has pity, and He still blesses the man as His Lord. But neither does Jesus leave people in weakness of faith. He blesses us and calls us to a deeper faith – as He did to the disciples in the boat on the storm-tossed sea. How does our faith grow? By hearing the Word of God. What does our faith lead to as it grows? It leads to a godly life lived in thanksgiving to our Lord.

OPA! EMMAUS GENERATIONS will be in the Social Hall on Tuesday, September 28 at 11:30 a.m. Join us for fellowship and a meal! We will have a devotion at about 11:45 and a special Greek meal right around noon. After lunch we will assemble hospice kits for Global Health Ministries. Supplies for kit assembly will be provided by a Thrivent Action Grant and a donation from the Bismarck, ND, Zion Lutheran LWML. Feel free to attend any portion of the event as you are able. If you are able to join us for sure, please RSVP via email or call the church office. Please contact Magdalena B or Leyla B if you have any questions.

LOST & FOUND: Please check the table by the office for any items that might belong to you. There are mostly children’s items this time, but also some sunglasses, keys, earrings, etc. Anything not claimed by September 20 will be donated/discarded. Thank you!

\$1,068 REASONS TO SAY THANK YOU! That is the amount that the youth raised through the shoe collection fundraiser. We could not have done it without you. (That was 2,670 pounds of shoes.) **We are no longer accepting shoes.** If anyone approaches you when you are at church with a shoe donation, please encourage them to donate to a local charity. Thanks!

E-MAIL NEWSLETTER: Visitors, if you would like to receive the *Emmaus Footprints* (our monthly newsletter), please leave a note with your email address for Maria in the office. Members, please make sure we have your current email address.

PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY: Wednesdays we will have a prayer and Bible Study group. Please check with Pastor Kooi for the current start time. Each week, we will gather together to pray and study a text. We will be meeting in-person and virtually. For those that attend virtually, we will have you join us via Zoom (contact Pastor Kooi for the link). Please contact Pastor Kooi for more details.

THE EMMAUS CHOIR resumed rehearsals starting Thursday, September 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Rehearsals are Thursdays, September through December from 6:30-8 pm. The choir is open to all without audition. For this fall, the choir will be providing service music on three Sundays (including Reformation and the First Sunday in Advent) and Christmas Eve. We will work together to develop excellence in musicianship and a repertoire based on the historic liturgy and rich history of Lutheran hymnody. Questions? Contact Jim G at emmaus.lutheran.choir@gmail.com.

HEAR “THE LUTHERAN HOUR” on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week’s broadcast: “Scrapped Gifts” Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. God saves our scraps and regifts them with Easter possibility. (James 1)

KFUO Radio, a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on KFUE.org via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. You can find programs on demand at kfuo.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: @KFUORadio on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

CHRIST FOR YOU on KFUE.org: Study Ezekiel 5-9 on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), hear about Mental Health with Deaconess Heidi Goehmann on The Coffee Hour (9/20 at 9:30 a.m. CT), study Leviticus 5-10 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and dig into our Lutheran Confessions on Concord Matters (9/25 at 10:00 a.m. CT). Find these programs on demand at kfuo.org or the KFUE Radio app!

CONCORDIA ACADEMY ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS: Registration is still open for Concordia Academy's 7th-8th grade football team and 5th-8th grade Dance Team. These programs are open to students from any Twin Cities-area school and are designed to offer opportunities that will complement...not replace...the sports offerings at these students' current schools. In addition, our new Beacon Buddies program offers flag football, volleyball, soccer, and basketball camp options on Saturday mornings for students in 1st-4th grade. Information and registration can be found at www.concordiaacademy.com/beams.

CONCORDIA ACADEMY CRAFT FAIR: The Concordia Academy Craft Fair returns on November 13, and registration is now open for crafters and vendors. Go to www.concordiaacademy.com/craftfair for details!