

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 1, 2024

PRELUDE, BELLS, WELCOME

HYMN “Fight the Good Fight” LSB 664

- 1 Fight the good fight with all your might;
Christ is your strength, and Christ your right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Your joy and crown eternally.
- 2 Run the straight race through God’s good grace;
Lift up your eyes, and seek His face.
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.
- 3 Cast care aside, lean on your guide;
His boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and enduring faith shall prove
Christ is your life and Christ your love.
- 4 Faint not nor fear, His arms are near;
He changes not who holds you dear;
Only believe, and you will see
That Christ is all eternally.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–75, alt.

Tune: The Methodist Harmonist, New York, 1821; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Text and music: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

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.**

INTROIT

P Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

C **Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

P Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
C **Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

P Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.
C **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.**

P Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

KYRIE

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy on us, and help us know Your gracious forgiveness.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy on us, and open the hearts of those oppressed by sin.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy on us and on all who call out to You in faith.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy on us, and grant that Your peace permeate the lives of all who hear the
Gospel in this place.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C **Amen.**

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.
O God who has made us, saved us, and created us as Your own children,
C **renew us, feed us, and strengthen us that we may in all confidence proclaim Your eternal
goodness and grace;**

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–9

Hear now, O Israel, the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and
may go in and take possession of the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you.
Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the Lord your
God that I give you.

Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people."

What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him?

And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them. (NIV)

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Ephesians 6:10–20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. (NIV)

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 7:14–23

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this.

Nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean.' "

After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable.

"Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him 'unclean'? For it doesn't go into his heart but into his stomach, and then out of his body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods "clean.")

He went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.'

For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.

All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.' " (NIV)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

HYMN “Be Strong in the Lord” LSB 665

- 1 Be strong in the Lord
In armor of light,
With helmet and sword,
With shield for the fight;
On prayer be dependent,
Be belted and shod,
In breastplate resplendent:
The armor of God.

- 2 Integrity gird
You round to impart
The truth of His Word
As truth in your heart;
His righteousness wearing
As breastplate of mail,
His victory sharing,
Be strong to prevail.

- 3 With eagerness shod
 Stand firm in your place,
 Or go forth for God
 With news of His grace;
 No foe shall disarm you
 Nor force you to yield,
 No arrow can harm you
 With faith as your shield.
- 4 Though Satan presume
 To test you and try,
 In helmet and plume
 Your head shall be high;
 Beset by temptation
 Be true to your Lord,
 Your helmet salvation
 And Scripture your sword.
- 5 So wield well your blade,
 Rejoice in its pow'rs,
 Fight on undismayed
 For Jesus is ours!
 Then in Him victorious
 Your armor lay down,
 To praise, ever glorious,
 His cross and His crown.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926–2024 Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848-1918 Text: © 1984 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003888 Music: Public domain

SERMON *"The Full Armor of God - The Full Victory of God"*
 Guest Pastor Rev. Timothy Gierke

Text: Ephesians 6:10-18

OFFERING

HYMN **"Triune God, Be Thou Our Stay" LSB 505**

Triune God, be Thou our stay;
 O let us perish never!
 Cleanse us from our sins, we pray,
 And grant us life forever.
 Keep us from the evil one;
 Uphold our faith most holy,
 And let us trust Thee solely
 With humble hearts and lowly.
 Let us put God's armor on,
 With all true Christians running
 Our heav'nly race and shunning
 The devil's wiles and cunning.
 Amen, amen! This be done;
 So sing we, "Alleluia!"

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546, based on 15th-cent. German litany; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.
 Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed.; Johann Walter
 Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Deuteronomy 4:8–9; Ephesians 6:11, 17–18; Mark 7:20

P Let us go to our gracious God in prayer for ourselves, the church around the world, and all people in their various circumstances.

For the leaders of the nations, who are tempted to use their own faulty wisdom and understanding, that God would move them to call upon Him, who alone “has statutes and just decrees so righteous” as the Law He gave, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the families of the earth, wherever parents have forgotten to make God’s commandments known to their children and their children’s children, that God would open their hearts to His direction and guidance, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the leaders of the church around the world as it struggles to “stand against the schemes of the devil,” that God would strengthen them with “the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,” let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those people near and dear to us dealing with illness; mourning the loss of loved ones; needing adequate food, clothing, and shelter; and having other concerns, [*especially . . .*], that God would answer our prayers for them as we make “supplication for all the saints,” let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For ourselves and all who recognize that by ourselves in our fallen condition, “what comes out of a person is what defiles him,” that God would strengthen our faith to rely on His grace and mercy alone that He may use us and the gifts He has given us, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew right spirits within us. We pray this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER

**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.**

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have given us Your only-begotten Son. With joy we received the salvation accomplished for us by His cross-borne sacrifice on our behalf. By His death He paid for all our sins, and by His rising has assured us of a place with You for eternity. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood according to His own testament. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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 and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. Do this 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 covenant in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

LSB 180

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

HYMN "Onward, Christian Soldiers" LSB 662

- 1 Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before.
Christ, the royal master,
Leads against the foe;
Forward into battle
See His banners go! Refrain

ref Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before.

- 2 Like a mighty army
Moves the Church of God;
Brothers, we are treading
Where the saints have trod.
We are not divided,
All one body we,
One in hope and doctrine,
One in charity. Refrain

3 Crowns and thrones may perish,
Kingdoms rise and wane,
But the Church of Jesus
Constant will remain.
Gates of hell can never
'Gainst that Church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise,
And that cannot fail. Refrain

4 Onward, then, ye faithful,
Join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices
In the triumph song:
Glory, laud, and honor
Unto Christ, the king;
This through countless ages
Men and angels sing. Refrain

Text: Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.

Tune: Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842-1900; setting: Service Book and Hymnal, 1958

Text and music: Public domain

HYMN “Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won” LSB 490

1 Jesus lives! The vict’ry’s won!
Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death’s reign is done!
From the grave will Christ recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence;
This shall be my confidence.

2 Jesus lives! To Him the throne
High above all things is given.
I shall go where He is gone,
Live and reign with Him in heaven.
God is faithful; doubtings, hence!
This shall be my confidence.

3 Jesus lives! For me He died,
Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide,
Praise to Him and glory giving.
All I need God will dispense;
This shall be my confidence.

4 Jesus lives! I know full well
Nothing me from Him shall sever.
Neither death nor pow’rs of hell
Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be my sure defense;
This shall be my confidence.

- 5 Jesus lives! And now is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath
When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:
Jesus is my confidence!

Text: Christian Fürchtegott Gellert, 1715–69; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, alt.

Tune: Johann Cruger, 1598-1662; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Text and music: Public domain

HYMN “God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It” LSB 594

(sung to the tune of LSB 420 - Christ, the Life of All the Living)

- 1 God’s own child, I gladly say it:
I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it,
Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth’s treasures many?
I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free
Lasting to eternity!
- 2 Sin, disturb my soul no longer:
I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger:
Jesus’ cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me
Since my Baptism did release me
In a dear forgiving flood,
Sprinkling me with Jesus’ blood?
- 3 Satan, hear this proclamation:
I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation,
I am not so soon enticed.
Now that to the font I’ve traveled,
All your might has come unraveled,
And, against your tyranny,
God, my Lord, unites with me!
- 4 Death, you cannot end my gladness:
I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness
To inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes
Faith’s assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine
To make life immortal mine.

5 There is nothing worth comparing
To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring:
Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising,
Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ;
I'm a child of paradise!

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756; tr. Robert E. Voelker, 1957

Tune: Das grosse Cantional, Darnstadt, 1687; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

We give thanks, gracious Lord, that You have not only instilled in us a sense of what pleases You but also have given us Your very self to nourish us as we leave this place. Keep us faithful in all we do so that all praise may be brought to You, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P 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.

C **Amen.**

HYMN “Come, We That Love the Lord” LSB 669

1 Come, we that love the Lord,
And let our joys be known;
Join in a song with sweet accord,
Join in a song with sweet accord
And thus surround the throne,
And thus surround the throne. Refrain

ref We're marching to Zion,
Beautiful, beautiful Zion;
We're marching upward to Zion,
The beautiful city of God.

2 Let those refuse to sing
Who never knew our God;
But children of the heav'nly King,
But children of the heav'nly King
May speak their joys abroad,
May speak their joys abroad. Refrain

- 3 The hill of Zion yields
A thousand sacred sweets
Before we reach the heav'nly fields,
Before we reach the heav'nly fields,
Or walk the golden streets,
Or walk the golden streets. Refrain
- 4 Then let our songs abound,
And ev'ry tear be dry;
We're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
We're marching through Emmanuel's ground
To fairer worlds on high,
To fairer worlds on high. Refrain

Text (sts. 1–4): Isaac Watts, 1674–1748; (ref): Robert Lowry, 1826–99

Music: Robert Lowry, 1826–99

Text and music: Public domain

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 4.

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