

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost  
August 24, 2025  
8:00 am

AS WE GATHER

To be the “favorite child” in a family is often a source of competition and sometimes a source for comedy. Years ago, a pair of sibling entertainers, the Smothers Brothers, made their family relationship a staple of their onstage humor when Tom, the older brother, would remind Dickie, the younger, “Mom always did like you best.” As we gather with God’s people at worship week by week, we can be certain that our gracious God values all of us and is pleased to see us grow in grace year by year. The psalmist wrote that “the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor” (Psalm 84:11). In the same Psalm 84 is the verse where the psalmist exclaims to God, “For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere” (v. 10). There is nothing better than for God’s favorite people, which we are, to be gathered in a most favorite place—which this is! It doesn’t get any better than that!

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

905 Come, Thou Almighty King

1 Come, Thou almighty King,  
Help us Thy name to sing;  
Help us to praise;  
Father all-glorious,  
O'er all victorious,  
Come and reign over us,  
Ancient of Days.

2 Come, Thou incarnate Word,  
Gird on Thy mighty sword;  
Our prayer attend.  
Come and Thy people bless,  
And give Thy Word success,  
And let Thy righteousness  
On us descend.

3 Come, holy Comforter,  
Thy sacred witness bear  
In this glad hour!  
Thou, who almighty art,  
Now rule in ev'ry heart,  
And ne'er from us depart,  
Spirit of pow'r.

4 To Thee, great One in Three,  
Eternal praises be  
Hence evermore!  
Thy sov'reign majesty  
May we in glory see,  
And to eternity  
Love and adore.

Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
People: Amen.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**Leader:** God's Word tells us that if we say we have not sinned, we make God out to be a liar, and his Word is not in us. Knowing that one who keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it, let's take a few moments to call to mind those times during this past week where we have fallen short of God's standard in our thoughts, our words, and our deeds.

## TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

**Leader:** Let us confess our sins to God our Father

**People:** 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

**Leader:** 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.

**People:** Amen

## HYMN OF PRAISE

790 v. 2&3 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is  
wondrously reigning  
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting,  
sustaining.  
Have you not seen  
All that is needful has been  
Sent by His gracious ordaining?

3 Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully,  
wondrously, made you,  
Health has bestowed and, when  
heedlessly falling, has stayed you.  
What need or grief  
Ever has failed of relief?  
Wings of His mercy did shade you.

Text: Public domain

## SALUTATION

**Leader:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us pray.  
O Lord, You have called us to enter Your kingdom through the narrow door. Guide us by Your Word and Spirit and lead us now and always into the feast of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

## READINGS

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 66:18–23

“For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands afar off, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD. And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the LORD.

“For as the new heavens and the new earth  
that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD,  
so shall your offspring and your name remain.  
From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath,  
all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God.

### SECOND READING

Hebrews 12:4–24

In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”

It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. Strive for

peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

#### HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 13:22-30

[Jesus] went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. And someone said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!' In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

#### 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.

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## SERMON HYMN

### 537 Beautiful Savior

- 1 Beautiful Savior,  
King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love Thee,  
Truly I'd serve Thee,  
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
- 2 Fair are the meadows,  
Fair are the woodlands,  
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer,  
Jesus is purer,  
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

Text: Public domain

- 3 Fair is the sunshine,  
Fair is the moonlight,  
Bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines purer  
Than all the angels in the sky.
- 4 Beautiful Savior,  
Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor,  
Praise, adoration  
Now and forevermore be Thine!

SERMON

"Which Door?"  
Luke 13:22-30

Deacon Mike Sander

OFFERING

LORDS PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

HOLY COMMUNION

WORDS OF OUR LORD

Leader: 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."

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
People: And also with you.

AGNUS DEI

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

### 620 Jesus Comes Today with Healing

- 1 Jesus comes today with healing,  
Knocking at my door, appealing,  
Off'ring pardon, grace, and peace.  
He Himself makes preparation,  
And I hear His invitation:  
"Come and taste the blessed feast."
- 2 Christ Himself, the priest presiding,  
Yet in bread and wine abiding  
In this holy sacrament,  
Gives the bread of life, once broken,  
And the cup, the precious token  
Of His sacred covenant.
- 3 Under bread and wine, though lowly,  
I receive the Savior holy,  
Blood and body, giv'n for me,  
Very Lamb of God from heaven,  
Who to bitter death was given,  
Hung upon the cursed tree.
- 4 God descends with heav'nly power,  
Gives Himself to me this hour  
In this ordinary sign.  
On my tongue His pledge receiving,  
I accept His grace, believing  
That I taste His love divine.
- 5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,  
Whose own feast of love I savor,  
Bidden by His gracious call.  
Wedding garments He provides me,  
With a robe of white He hides me,  
Fits me for the royal hall.
- 6 Now have I found consolation,  
Comfort in my tribulation,  
Balm to heal the troubled soul.  
God, my shield from ev'ry terror,  
Cleanses me from sin and error,  
Makes my wounded spirit whole.

Text: © David W. Rogner. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000302

### 623 Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray  
That we may feast on You today;  
Beneath these forms of bread and wine  
Enrich us with Your grace divine.
- 2 Give us, who share this wondrous food,  
Your body broken and Your blood,  
The grateful peace of sins forgiv'n,  
The certain joys of heirs of heav'n.
- 3 By faith Your Word has made us bold  
To seize the gift of love retold;  
All that You are we here receive,  
And all we are to You we give.
- 4 One bread, one cup, one body, we,  
Rejoicing in our unity,  
Proclaim Your love until You come  
To bring Your scattered loved ones  
home.
- 5 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray:  
O keep us steadfast till that day  
When each will be Your welcomed  
guest  
In heaven's high and holy feast.

Text: Public domain

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Leader: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, we give thanks that we have again received the Body and blood of Christ, the bread from heaven. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage, that we speak the truth in love and build up the Body of Christ until that day we see You face-to-face; 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

Leader: 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

## CLOSING HYMN

### 918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

- 1 Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer,  
Pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;  
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
Feed me till I want no more;  
Feed me till I want no more.
- 2 Open now the crystal fountain  
Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through.

Text: Public domain

Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,  
Be Thou still my strength and shield;  
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

- 3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death and hell's destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to Thee;  
I will ever give to Thee.

## DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace, serve the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

## POSTLUDE



# DOOR