

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 2025

10:30 am Contemporary

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 SONG

Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)

Praise is rising
Eyes are turning to You
We turn to You
Hope is stirring
Hearts are yearning for You
We long for You

'Cause when we see You
We find strength to face the day
In Your presence
All our fears are washed away
(Washed away)

Hosanna hosanna
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here Lord Jesus

Hear the sound of
Hearts returning to You
We turn to You

In Your Kingdom
Broken lives are made new
You make us new

'Cause when we see You
We find strength to face the day
In Your presence
All our fears are washed away
(Washed away)

Hosanna hosanna
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here Lord Jesus

Instrumental

'Cause when we see You
We find strength to face the day
In Your presence
All our fears are washed away
(Washed away)

'Cause when we see You
We find strength to face the day
In Your presence
All our fears are washed away
(Washed away)

'Cause when we see You
We find strength to face the day
In Your presence
All our fears are washed away
(Washed away)

Hosanna hosanna
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here Lord Jesus

Hosanna hosanna

CCLI Song # 4662491

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

SONG

Shoulders

When confusion's my companion
And despair holds me for ransom
I will feel no fear I know that You are near
When I'm caught deep in the valley
With chaos for my company
I'll find my comfort here
'Cause I know that You are near

My help comes from You
You're right here pulling me through
You carry my weakness my sickness my
brokenness
All on Your shoulders, Your shoulders
My help comes from You
You are my rest my rescue
I don't have to see to believe
That You're lifting me
Up on Your shoulders, Your shoulders

You mend what once was shattered
And You turn my tears to laughter
Your forgiveness is my fortress
Oh Your mercy is relentless

My help comes from You
You're right here pulling me through
You carry my weakness my sickness my
brokenness

All on Your shoulders, Your shoulders
My help comes from You
You are my rest my rescue
I don't have to see to believe
That You're lifting me
Up on Your shoulders, Your shoulders

My help is from You
My help is from You
My help is from You
My help is from You
My help comes from You
You're right here pulling me through
You carry my weakness my sickness my
brokenness
All on Your shoulders, Your shoulders
My help comes from You
You are my rest my rescue
I don't have to see to believe
That You're lifting me
Up on Your shoulders, Your shoulders

My help is from You
My help is from You
My help is from You
My help is from You

CCLI Song #7028523

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 SONG

Because He Lives

God sent His son, they called Him
Jesus;
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my
Savior lives!

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,
And feel the pride and joy he gives;
But greater still the calm assurance:
This child can face uncertain days
because He lives!

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,

And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!

And then one day, I'll cross the river,
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
And then, as death gives way to vict'ry,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He
lives!

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!

CCLI Song #16880

SERMON

"Which Door?"
Luke 13:22-30

Deacon Mike Sander

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Remembrance

I take the bread of life
Broken for all my sin
Your body crucified
To make me whole again

I will recall the cup
Poured out in sacrifice
To trade this sinner's end
For Your new covenant

Hallelujah
I'll live my life in remembrance
Hallelujah
Your promise I won't forget

I'll walk salvation's road
With fear and trembling
Your way borne as my own
As Christ is formed in me

Hallelujah
I'll live my life in remembrance
Hallelujah
Your promise I won't forget

If ever I should lose my way
If ever I deny Your grace
Remind me of the price You paid
Hallelujah
I'll live in remembrance

You've been so so good to me
You've been so so good to me
Oh to think where I would be
If not for You
If not for You (repeat)

As far as heights reach from the depths
As far as east is from the west
So far Your grace has carried me
Until I see You face to face
Until at last I've won my race
Remind me You're not finished yet

Hallelujah
Hallelujah
Hallelujah I'll live in remembrance

CCLI Song # 7102398

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 SONG

Praise

Let everything that has breath

Praise the Lord

Praise the Lord

I'll praise in the valley

Praise on the mountain

I'll praise when I'm sure

Praise when I'm doubting

I'll praise when outnumbered

Praise when surrounded

'Cause praise is the water

My enemies drown in

As long as I'm breathing

I've got a reason to

Praise the Lord oh my soul

Praise the Lord oh my soul

I'll praise when I feel it

And I'll praise when I don't

I'll praise 'cause I know

You're still in control

'Cause my praise is a weapon

It's more than a sound

My praise is the shout

That brings Jericho down

Praise the Lord oh my soul

Praise the Lord oh my soul

I won't be quiet

My God is alive

How could I keep it inside

Praise the Lord oh my soul

I'll praise 'cause You're sovereign

Praise 'cause You reign

Praise 'cause You rose and defeated the grave

I'll praise 'cause You're faithful

Praise 'cause You're true

Praise 'cause there's nobody greater than You

I'll praise 'cause You're sovereign

Praise 'cause You reign

Praise 'cause You rose and defeated the grave

I'll praise 'cause You're faithful

Praise 'cause You're true

Praise 'cause there's nobody greater than You

Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul

I won't be quiet
My God is alive
How could I keep it inside
I won't be quiet
My God is alive

How could I keep it inside
I won't be quiet
My God is alive
How could I keep it inside
Praise the Lord oh my soul

Let everything that has breath
Praise the Lord
Praise the Lord

CCLI Song #7213077

DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace, serve the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 3.
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