

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 2025

10:30 am Contemporary

AS WE GATHER

Entering the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the traditional site of the birth of Jesus, is one of the most memorable experiences for any Christian pilgrim visiting the Holy Land. First constructed at the commission of Roman Emperor Constantine the Great in AD 326, the church is on the oldest site continually used for worship by Christians anywhere in the world. Although the basilica initially had a grand arched entrance in its first thousand years, it came into a period of disuse and neglect after the conquest of the Holy Land by the Islamic rulers of the Ottoman Empire in AD 1516. In an effort to prevent people from entering the church with horses and cattle, the Christians caring for the building at that time walled up the main entrance, leaving only a very small door. This opening has ever since been known as the "Door of Humility." It makes a most fitting way for those who come to worship at the site of the manger of the Christ Child to enter that sacred space. Where we worship here and now is also a sacred space. Although we may not have needed to bow down to enter the front door today, bringing an attitude of humility to our worship of our gracious Lord is truly fitting for us.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING SONG

God With Us

Who are we
That You would be mindful of us
What do You see
That's worth looking our way

We are free
In ways that we never should be
Sweet release
From the grip of these chains

Like hinges straining from the weight
My heart no longer can keep from singing

All that is within me cries
For You alone be glorified
Emmanuel
God with us
My heart sings a brand new song
The debt is paid these chains are gone
Emmanuel
God with us

Lord You know
Our hearts don't deserve Your glory
Still You show
A love we cannot afford

Like hinges straining from the weight
My heart no longer can keep from singing

All that is within me cries
For You alone be glorified
Emmanuel
God with us
My heart sings a brand new song
The debt is paid these chains are gone
Emmanuel
God with us

Such a tiny offering compared to Calvary
Nevertheless we lay it at Your feet

Such a tiny offering compared to Calvary
Nevertheless we lay it at Your feet

All that is within me cries
For You alone be glorified
Emmanuel

God with us
My heart sings a brand new song
The debt is paid these chains are gone
Emmanuel
God with us

CCLI Song # 5152735

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

SONG

Goodness Of God

I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night
You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God
I will sing of the goodness of God
I will sing of the goodness of God

CCLI Song # 7117726

SALUTATION

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us pray.

O Lord of grace and mercy, teach us by Your Holy Spirit to follow the example of Your Son in true humility, that we may withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

READINGS

FIRST READING

Proverbs 25:2–10

It is the glory of God to conceal things,
but the glory of kings is to search things out.
As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth,
so the heart of kings is unsearchable.
Take away the dross from the silver,
and the smith has material for a vessel;
take away the wicked from the presence of the king,
and his throne will be established in righteousness.
Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,
for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.
What your eyes have seen
do not hastily bring into court,
for what will you do in the end,
when your neighbor puts you to shame?
Argue your case with your neighbor himself,
and do not reveal another's secret,
lest he who hears you bring shame upon you,
and your ill repute have no end.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 13:1–17

Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not fear;
what can man do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 14:1-14

One Sabbath, when [Jesus] went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. And he said to them, "Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?" And they could not reply to these things.

Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON SONG

Not Just Stories

Heard about the water You turned into
wine

How You interrupted funerals
To bring the dead to life
And the time You helped a blind man
See a better day
I've heard how You fed thousands
With only fish and bread
How You weren't ashamed to talk
To the woman at the well
All the demons You sent running
And the sins that You forgave

Your word is crystal clear no doubt
about it
And even when my doubting tries to
cloud it

You are just as good
You are just as kind
You are just as glorious
And just as divine
As You've always been

You're not changing
And if the skies turn grey
And the lights grow dim
It doesn't mean Your faithfulness
Is wearing thin
It's not wavering You're not changing
Anytime soon

I heard about the garden
And the tears of blood You cried
How You healed the high priest's servant
On Your way to die
And how You even pled for mercy
For those who made Your cross
I've heard that it is finished
I've heard that it is done
I've heard that after three days
Breath rushed back into Your lungs
And I know they're not just stories
This is the truth I'm standing on

You are just as good
You are just as kind

You are just as glorious
And just as divine
As You've always been
You're not changing
And if the skies turn grey
And the lights grow dim
It doesn't mean Your faithfulness
Is wearing thin
It's not wavering You're not changing
Anytime soon

For all You've done
For all You'll do
Lord we thank You
We just thank You
And all the praise to Your name
Lord we love You
We just love You

For all You've done
For all You'll do
Lord we thank You
We just thank You
And all the praise to Your name
Lord we love You
We just love You

For all You've done
For all You'll do
Lord we thank You
We just thank You
And all the praise to Your name
Lord we love You
We just love You

CCLI Song #7166921

SERMON

"Dinner Parties"
Luke 14:1-14

Pastor Eric Clausen

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

Change My Heart Oh God Medley

Change my heart oh God
Make it ever true
Change my heart oh God
May I be like you

Change my heart oh God
Make it ever true
Change my heart oh God
May I be like you

You are the Potter
I am the clay
Mold me and make me
This is what I pray

Change my heart oh God
Make it ever true
Change my heart oh God
May I be like you

Blessed assurance Jesus is mine
O what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation purchase of God
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood

This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long

Holy, Holy, Holy
Lord God almighty
Early in the morning
My song shall rise to Thee

Holy, Holy, Holy
Merciful and mighty
God in three persons
Blessed Trinity

Holy, holy, holy
All the saints adore Thee
Casting down their golden crowns
Around the glassy sea
Cherubim and seraphim
Falling down before Thee
Who was and is and
Evermore shall be

This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long

Change my heart oh God
Make it ever true
Change my heart oh God
May I be like you

CCLI 1565, 22324, 7118356

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

Remind Me Who I Am

When I lose my way

And I forget my name

Remind me who I am

In the mirror all I see

Is who I don't want to be

Remind me who I am

In the loneliest places

When I can't remember what grace is

Tell me once again

Who I am to You who I am to You

Tell me lest I forget

Who I am to You that I belong to You

To You

When my heart is like a stone

And I'm running far from home

Remind me who I am

When I can't receive Your love

Afraid I'll never be enough

Remind me who I am

If I'm Your beloved

Can You help me believe it

Tell me once again

Who I am to You who I am to You

Tell me lest I forget

Who I am to You that I belong to You

To You

I'm the one You love

I'm the one You love

That will be enough

I'm the one You love

Tell me once again

Who I am to You who I am to You

Tell me lest I forget

Who I am to You that I belong to You

To You

To You

CCLI Song # 5998298

DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 3.
Copyright © 2025 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



When
you give a feast,
invite the poor, the crippled,
the lame, the blind,
and you will be blessed.
Luke 14:13-14, ESV