

THE 16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



September 12, 2021



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Theme of Today's Readings: Christ Jesus delivers us from sin, death and the devil.

Silent Prayer Before Worship: Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Welcome

Opening Hymn, LSB 820

"My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker"



1 My soul, now praise your Mak - er! Let all with - in me
4 His grace re - mains for - ev - er, And chil - dren's chil - dren



bless His name Who makes you full par - tak - er Of
yet shall prove That God for - sakes them nev - er Who



mer - cies more than you dare claim. For - get Him not whose
in true fear shall seek His love. In heav'n is fixed His



mee - ness Still bears with all your sin, Who heals your ev - 'ry
dwell - ing, His rule is o - ver all; O hosts with might ex -



weak - ness, Re - news your life with - in; Whose grace and
cel - ling, With praise be - fore Him fall. Praise Him for -



care are end - less And saved you through the past; Who
ev - er reign - ing, All you who hear His Word— Our



leaves no suf - f'rer friend - less But rights the wronged at last.
life and all sus - tain - ing. My soul, O praise the Lord!

Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation/Call to Worship

P We have come together this morning for a reason:

C **We are here to worship our God.**

P We worship in His holy name.

C **We worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Confession and Forgiveness

C **As much as we don't like to admit it or think about it, we are sinners. Our words betray us, as do our actions. Even our thoughts are far from pure. We come, Lord, as Your humble children, asking – even begging – that You forgive us, even though we are far less than deserving.**

P Our God is just, and He is merciful. In His powerful grace, He listens to us when we bring Him our concerns, especially when we admit our sin-full-ness. In the name of Jesus, and for His sake, He forgives us all, of all our sins. Live in this confidence, then, that you are forgiven, and can begin again, cleansed by His grace-filled love.

C **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray:

C **O LORD of Life, we come into Your very special presence this morning to ask You to renew Your gift of blessed Life to us. May Your holy gift sustain us through the difficult times and give our joyful times even more joy and happiness. In Your blessed name, Jesus, we pray. Amen and amen!**

The First Reading, Isaiah 50:4-10 (NIV)

The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears; I have not been rebellious, I have not turned away.

I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.

Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame.

He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up.

Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the word of His servant? Let the one who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on their God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading, Psalm 116:1-9 (NIV)

I love the Lord, for He heard my voice; He heard my cry for mercy.

Because He turned His ear to me, I will call on Him as long as I live.

The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came over me; I was overcome by distress and sorrow.

Then I called on the name of the Lord: "Lord, save me!"

The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

The Lord protects the unwary; when I was brought low, He saved me.

Return to your rest, my soul, for the Lord has been good to you.

For You, Lord, have delivered me from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choir, "Oh, Love, How Deep"

Gospel Reading, Mark 9:14-29 (NIV)

P The Gospel reading is introduced:

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

When [Jesus, Peter, James, and John] came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet Him.

"What are you arguing with them about?" He asked.

A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked Your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not."

"You unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to Me." So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?"

"From childhood," he answered. "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us."

"If You can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes."

Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, He rebuked the impure spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," He said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

After Jesus had gone indoors, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."

P This is the blessed Gospel of the Lord.

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

A Statement of Faith

We believe in God the Father,
Creator of the heavens and the earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our LORD.
He was born on Christmas, lived a short life of ministry,
healed, served, and forgave sins of those near and far.
He realized His goal to call us together as His family –
around the table the night before He was crucified,
and around the cross where He gave His life for ours.
He conquered the power of death – for Himself and for us.
In His forever-life, He reigns as King with His Father in Glory.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
Who brings all these truths to us,
Guiding us to gather as the Christian Church,
Serving us as He comforts us with the forgiveness of our
sins,
And leading us in our service to our neighbors all around.
Amen!

Sermon Hymn, LSB 724 (different tune)

“If God Himself Be for Me”

- 1 If God Himself be for me, I may a host defy;
For when I pray, before me My foes, confounded, fly.
If Christ, my head and master, Befriend me from above,
What foe or what disaster Can drive me from His love?
- 2 I build on this foundation, That Jesus and His blood
Alone are my salvation, My true, eternal good. ►

Without Him all that pleases Is valueless on earth;
The gifts I have from Jesus Alone have priceless worth.

9 No angel and no gladness, No throne, no pomp, no show,
No love, no hate, no sadness, No pain, no depth of woe,
No scheming, no contrivance, No subtle thing or great
Shall draw me from Your guidance Nor from You separate.

10 My heart with joy is springing; I am no longer sad.
My soul is filled with singing; Your sunshine makes me glad.
The sun that cheers my spirit Is Jesus Christ, my King;
The heav'n I shall inherit Makes me rejoice and sing.

Text: Public domain

Sermon, "Why Be Good?"

*"You, LORD, have delivered me from death, my eyes from tears,
My feet from stumbling, that I may walk before [You] in the land
of the living." Psalm 116:9*

Communion

Choir, "Around You, O Lord Jesus"

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Benediction (NIV)

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord turn His face toward you and T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn, LSB 681

"Send, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit"



1 Send, O Lord, Your Ho - ly Spir - it On Your ser - vant
2 You, O Lord, Your - self have called him For Your pre - cious
3 Help, Lord Je - sus, help him nour - ish All our chil - dren



now, we pray; Let him prove a faith - ful shep - herd
lambs to care; But to pros - per in his call - ing,
with Your Word That in fer - vent love they serve You



That no lamb be led a - stray. Your pure teach - ing to pro -
He the Spir - it's gifts must share. Give him wis - dom from a -
Till in heav'n their song is heard. Bound - less bless - ings, Lord, be -



claim, To ex - tol Your ho - ly name, And to feed Your
bove, Fill his heart with ho - ly love; In his weak - ness,
stow On his faith - ful toil be - low Till by grace to



lambs, dear Sav - ior, Make his aim and sole en - deav - or.
Lord, be near him, In his prayers, Good Shep - herd, hear him.
him be giv - en His re - ward, the crown of heav - en.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

LCMS Q & A

Rev. Stefan Wismar, Executive Assistant to the District President, Minnesota South District of the LCMS will be here for a question-and-answer period after the service on Sunday, September 19. Please plan to be present that day.

Offering: *You can give by sending your envelope to HCLC. You can give online from the Holy Cross homepage (holycrossmpls.org). Click on the blue button or directly via the Holy Cross online donation form. You can give to the General Fund, Building Fund, We Care, Synod or Trinity First. Donations are processed through faith-based Vanco. Payments are deposited directly into the Holy Cross bank account.*

Celebrations this Week

Happy Birthday to Denitsa Woltman (9/14) and Lyle Horrmann (9/16).

Bible Study Postponed

Bible Study will not begin today as previously announced. Pastor Don has a final meeting with the confirmands following worship.

Next Sunday (9/19) will be our meeting with the LCMS representative. So Bible Study will begin on September 26.

Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation Sunday will be September 19 during the 9:30 AM worship service with communion. Confirming their faith will be Katherine McConley and Matthew McConley, the daughter and son of Steve and Linda McConley.

Thank You to Those Serving Today:

September Altar Guild: Mary Lange

September Deacon: Jim Likely

Counter for today: Lynn Oolman

Lector: Steve Blomberg

Organist: Julie Wright

Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Don Mulfinger

Recorder: James Blomberg

Ushers: Ed Copeland & Andy Tatham

Weed & Water: Jean Anderson (we need someone for next week)

*Thank
you!*

Last Sunday

The attendance on 9/5 was 43. The total offering was \$5,755 including \$1,525 to the Capital/Building Fund, \$125 to Trinity First, and \$100 to Synod.

The September Newsletter

The newsletter was emailed or mailed to all congregational members. Extra paper copies are available on the back table.

Portals of Prayer

The October-December Portals of Prayer is now available in the back of the church. There are two Large Print editions. If you want one mailed, please let the office know.