

Divine Service Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2020

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe...” (Heb. 12:28)

Opening Hymn: 904 ss. 1-4

1 Blessèd Jesus, at Your Word
We are gathered all to hear You.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred
Now to seek and love and fear You,
By Your teachings, sweet and holy,
Drawn from earth to love You solely.

2 All our knowledge, sense and sight
Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till Your Spirit breaks our night
With the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us;
You must work all good within us.

3 Glorious Savior, good and kind,
Light of Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind;
Help us by Your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry Your Church now raises;
Hear and bless our prayers and praises.

4 Father, Son, and Spirit, Lord,
Praise to You and adoration!
Grant that we may trust Your Word,
Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander,
Till we sing Your praises yonder.

Invocation

PASTOR: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CONG..... Amen.

Call to Confession

PASTOR: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

CONG..... But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Confession

PASTOR: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

CONG..... 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.

Absolution

PASTOR: 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.

CONG..... Amen.

The Introit of the Day

Ps. 37:4, 5-7

Delight yourself in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and he will act.
He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,
and your justice as the noonday.
Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him;
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,
over the man who carries out evil devices!
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.
Delight yourself in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

The Kyrie

PASTOR: In peace let us pray to the LORD.
CONG..... *LORD, have mercy.*
PASTOR: For the peace from above and for our salvation
let us pray to the LORD.
CONG..... *LORD, have mercy.*
PASTOR: 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.
CONG..... *LORD, have mercy.*
PASTOR: For this holy house and for all who offer here
their worship and praise let us pray to the LORD.
CONG..... *LORD, have mercy.*
PASTOR: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious
LORD.
CONG..... *Amen.*

Choir: "Salvation Unto Us Has Come" ss. 1-3,6,9,10

1. Salvation unto us has come
By God's free grace and favor;
Good works cannot avert our doom,
They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,
Who did for all the world atone;
He is our one Redeemer.

2. What God did in His Law demand
And none to Him could render
Caused wrath and woe on ev'ry hand
For man, the vile offender.
Our flesh has not those pure desires
The spirit of the Law requires,
And lost is our condition.

3. It was a false, misleading dream
That God His Law had given
That sinners should themselves redeem
And by their works gain heaven.
The Law is but a mirror bright
To bring the inbred sin to light
That lurks within our nature.

6. Since Christ hath full atonement made
And brought to us salvation,
Each Christian therefore may be glad
And build on this foundation.
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
Your death is now my life indeed,
For You have paid my ransom.

9. Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone
And rests in Him unceasing;
And by its fruits true faith is known,

With love and hope increasing.
For faith alone doth justify,
Works serve our neighbor and supply
The proof that faith is living.

10. All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God who saved us by His grace,
All glory to His merit!
O Triune God in heav'n above,
You have revealed Your saving love,
Your blessed name be hallowed.

PASTOR: Collect of the Day.

Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Old Testament Reading: ISAIAH 55:6-9

6 "Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
7 let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.
9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Gradual: PSALM 34:9, 19

9 Fear the Lord, you his saints,
for those who fear him lack nothing
19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

The Epistle: PHILIPPIANS 1:12-14, 19-30

12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel,
13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.
14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.
19 for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance,
20 as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.
21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.
22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell.
23 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.
24 But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.
25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith,
26 so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.
27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,
28 and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation,

and that from God.

29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,
30 engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Verse: MATTHEW 16:25

Alleluia. Whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel: ST. MATTHEW 20:1-16

1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.
2 After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard.
3 And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace,
4 and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.'
5 So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same.
6 And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?'
7 They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.'
8 And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.'
9 And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius.
10 Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius.
11 And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house,
12 saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have

made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.'

13 But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?

14 Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you.

15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?'

16 So the last will be first, and the first last."

The Sermon Hymn: 554 ss. 1-5

1. O Jesus, King most wonderful,
O Conqueror renowned,
O Source of peace ineffable,
In whom all joys are found!

2. When once You visit darkened hearts,
The truth begins to shine,
Then earthly vanities depart,
Then kindles love divine.

3. O Jesus, Light of all below,
Thou Fount of life and fire,
Surpassing all the joys we know,
All that we can desire--

4. May every heart confess Your name
Forever You adore
And, seeking You, itself inflame
To seek You more and more!

5. Oh, may our tongues forever bless,
May we love You alone,
And ever in our lives express
The image of Your own!

The Sermon: “SEEK THE LORD!” ISAIAH 55:6-9

The Post-Sermon Hymn: 537 ss. 1-4

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.

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!

The Apostles' Creed (We Confess Together)

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.

The Prayers and The LORD's Prayer

The Collect for the Word

PASTOR: Blessed Lord, who hast caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of Your holy Word we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

CONG: Amen.

The Benediction

PASTOR: 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.

CONG: Amen.

Liturgist: Pastor Bill Abbott

Preacher: Pastor Brock Abbott

Videographer: Lucas Abbott