

## NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Faith Lutheran Church  
Goodness and Mercy  
July 21, 2024

**AS WE GATHER:** In 1969, a pop song titled “Love (Can Make You Happy)” was recorded by a group of vocalists called Mercy. Although it rose toward the top of the national music charts, it became another in a long line of “one hit wonders”—single hits by groups that were never heard from again after their initial successful number. Fame in the musical world can be fleeting. Reading through the Psalms, we are reminded that our gracious God is with us for the distance of our life and beyond, attending to us with His great goodness and limitless mercy. Two of those reassuring verses are these: “For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever” (Psalm 100:5) and “As for You, O LORD, You will not restrain Your mercy from me; Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness will ever preserve me!” (Psalm 40:11). By His grace, we can sing of the mercy of our God forever!



**Opening Hymn**    Send, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit    #681



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.

Text: Lieder-Perlen, 1905, St. Louis; tr. Frederick W. Herzberger, 1859–1930, alt. Tune: Johann Schop, c. 1590–1667. Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## Exhortation

LSB 151

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*kneel/Stand/Sit*

## Confession of Sins

LSB 151

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** 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

**P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** Amen.

## Opening Versicles

*LSB 260*

## Common

*LSB 260*

**L** This is the day which the Lord has made;

**C** let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**L** Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

**C** I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

**L** Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

**C** Teach me Your paths.

**L** Sanctify us in Your truth.

**C** Your Word is truth.

**L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**C** 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.

# Old Testament Canticle

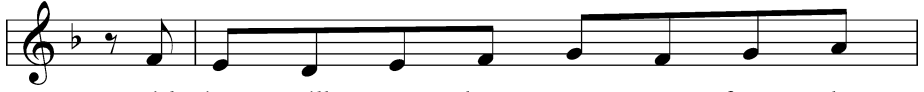
LSB 261



**☐** The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



With joy will you draw wa - ter from the



wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that



day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,



make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -



claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."



The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done



glo - rious-ly; let this be made known in all the  
earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -  
hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the  
Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.



*Refrain*  
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.  
Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son  
and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;  
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will  
be for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

*Sit*

## Readings From Holy Scripture

**Old Testament Reading** *Jeremiah 23:1–6* (The remnant of God’s flock will be gathered.)

<sup>1</sup>“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD. <sup>2</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: “You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the LORD. <sup>3</sup>Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. <sup>4</sup>I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD.

<sup>5</sup>“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

## Reading Response

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

**Epistle Reading**    *Ephesians 2:11–22*    (Together we are fellow citizens with God’s people.)

<sup>11</sup>Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— <sup>12</sup>remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup>by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, <sup>16</sup>and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. <sup>17</sup>And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup>For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup>So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup>built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup>in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup>In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

**Reading Response**

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Reading**    *Mark 6:30–44*    (Jesus miraculously feeds thousands of people.)

<sup>30</sup>The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup>And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. <sup>32</sup>And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. <sup>33</sup>Now many saw them



going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. <sup>34</sup>When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. <sup>35</sup>And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. <sup>36</sup>Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." <sup>37</sup>But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" <sup>38</sup>And he said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." <sup>39</sup>Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup>So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. <sup>41</sup>And taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. <sup>42</sup>And they all ate and were satisfied. <sup>43</sup>And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. <sup>44</sup>And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

### Gospel Response

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### Responsory

#### Common

*LSB 263*

- L** Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
- C** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.
- L** Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
- C** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

- L** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

*Stand*

### **Apostles' Creed**

- C** 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.

### **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.**

*Sit*

**Sermon Hymn** Christ Is Our Cornerstone #912



1 Christ is our cor - ner - stone, On Him a - lone we build;  
 2 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we im - plore,  
 △ 3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hal - lowed courts shall ring;



With His true saints a - lone The courts of heav'n are filled. On His  
 And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us ev - er - more Un - til  
 Our voic - es we will raise The Three in One to sing And thus



great love Our hopes we place Of pres - ent grace And joys a - bove.  
 that day When all the blest To end - less rest Are called a - way.  
 pro - claim In joy - ful song, Both loud and long, That glo - rious name.

Text: Latin, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt. Tune: John Darwall, 1731–89. Text and tune: Public domain

**Sermon** Do You Believe in Miracles? - Ephesians 2:14

**Offering**

*Stand*

## Prayer

**L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them [especially for: \_\_\_\_\_ ], let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** For . . . [additional bids for prayer may be inserted here] . . .  
let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**L** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us  
pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

### **Collect of the Day**

**L** Heavenly Father, though we do not deserve Your goodness,  
still You provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us  
Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your gifts, give  
thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing  
obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who  
lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now  
and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### **Collect for the Word**

**L** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be  
written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read,  
mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and  
comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold  
fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ,  
Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the  
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### **Morning Prayer**

**C** **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ,  
Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all  
harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this  
day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and  
life may please You. For into Your hands I commend**

myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

Amen.

### New Testament Canticle

LSB 266



**C** Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -



lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Christ our Pass - o - ver Lamb has been sac - ri - ficed.



Raised from the dead, He will nev - er die a - gain.



Death has no more do - min - ion o - ver Him.



Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -



lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Dy - ing, Christ dies to sin, once for all. Liv - ing, He

lives to God. Count your - selves as dead to  
 sin and a - live to God in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.  
*Refrain*  
 Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -  
 lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Blessing

### Benedicamus

LSB 267

- L** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

### Benediction

LSB 267

- L** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.
- C** Amen.

### Closing Hymn O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe #666

1 O lit - tle flock, fear not the foe Who mad - ly  
 2 Be of good cheer; your cause be - longs To Him who  
 3 As true as God's own Word is true, Not earth nor  
 4 A - men, Lord Je - sus, grant our prayer; Great Cap - tain,



seeks your o - ver - throw; Dread not his rage and pow'r.  
can a - venge your wrongs; Leave it to Him, our Lord.  
hell's sa - tan - ic crew A - gainst us shall pre - vail.  
now Thine arm make bare, Fight for us once a - gain!



And though your cour - age some-times faints, His seem - ing  
Though hid - den yet from mor - tal eyes, His Gid - eon  
Their might? A joke, a mere fa - cade! God is with  
So shall Thy saints and mar - tyrs raise A might - y



tri - umph o'er God's saints Lasts but a lit - tle hour.  
shall for you a - rise, Up - hold you and His Word.  
us and we with God— Our vic - t'ry can - not fail.  
cho - rus to Thy praise For - ev - er - more. A - men.

Text: Jacob Fabricius, 1593–1654; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: German, 1534, Nürnberg  
Text and tune: Public domain

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