

# SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 20

The Humbled Servant

September 19, 2021



## AS WE GATHER

Jesus' disciples did not understand the prophecy about His death and resurrection. They focused, instead, on their personal greatness. So, He inverted their viewpoint, using a child to explain that true greatness is in humble servanthood, in welcoming even children (then considered to be without status). But our inner passions rebel and war against such servanthood, as James explains in the Epistle. Fortunately, by the gracious gift of faith, in place of personal struggles, we can rely on God, as Jeremiah does in the Old Testament Reading and David in today's psalm. Our Lord is the humblest and therefore greatest Servant, and by His death and resurrection He has proclaimed that God's grace knows no bounds. Confidently, we can follow Him in humble servanthood each day.

## ✕ PREPARATION ✕

**HYMN** "Great Is the Lord"

## INVOCATION

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *James 3:18; 4:5–6, 8; Psalm 54:1–2, 4, 6*

**Pastor:** In today's Epistle, James urges, "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded." Let us go to God, echoing David's words in Psalm 54, appointed for today.

**Pastor:** O God, save me, by Your name,  
**People:** and vindicate me by Your might.

**Pastor:** O God, hear my prayer;  
**People:** give ear to the words of my mouth.

**Pastor:** James' words in today's Epistle guide our confession. Gracious God,  
**People:** we confess that as we have desired friendship with the world, we forget that it would mean enmity with God. We confess that our passions are at war within us. We have had bitter jealousy and selfish ambition inside us. In all humility, we come to You, holy Lord, seeking Your peace to calm the war within us.

Pastor: God has not given up on you! He yearns jealously over the spirit that He has made to dwell in us. Indeed, He gives more grace. James writes, "A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace," and in His death and resurrection, Jesus gave us His righteousness and established peace between us and God. 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.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Behold, God is my helper;

**People: the Lord is the upholder of my life.**

Pastor: With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to You;

**People: I will give thanks to Your name, O LORD, for it is good.**

✠ WORD ✠

## KYRIE

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: 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.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

#725

## SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, whose strength is made perfect in weakness,

**People:** grant us humility and childlike faith that we may please You in both will and deed;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Jeremiah 11:18–20*

(The prophet relies on God's protection as his opponents plot against him.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**GRADUAL** *Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.*

Pastor: Fear the LORD, you His saints,

**People:** for those who fear Him lack nothing!

Pastor: Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

**People:** but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

**EPISTLE** *James 3:13–4:10*

(The apostle proclaims God's peace even as we struggle with inner warfare.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**VERSE** *Mark 9:35b*

Pastor: Alleluia. If anyone would be first,

**People:** he must be last of all and servant of all. Alleluia.

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Mark 9:30–37*

(After prophesying His death and resurrection, Jesus teaches the disciples how to serve humbly.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.

**People:** Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** Praise to You, O Christ.

**HYMN OF THE DAY** "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us" #851 vs 1,3,4

## CREED

*Nicene Creed**found in back of hymnal***OFFERING & PRAYER**

(Members and Visitors: We would appreciate it if you would please take this time to fill out and pass the “Who’s In The Pew” folders, located at the center aisle end of each pew.)

Leader: Gracious God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, symbols of your gracious love.

People: **Receive them for the sake of Him who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ, our brother and Lord.**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Using the promptings of James in the Epistle, let us pray for the nations around the world, the Church wherever it is found, and for ourselves here in this place.

Wherever nations quarrel and plunge toward war, O God, open the ears of their leaders to hear the wisdom from above and pursue peace.

People: **Move them to find joy in humble service.**

Pastor: Wherever international alliances, national leaders, and groups within society follow the lead of their selfish ambitions at the expense of the downtrodden and forgotten people across borders and in their midst, O God, give both citizens and their leaders hearts that are open to reason, full of mercy, impartial and sincere.

People: **Grant that peace break out across borders and justice within them.**

Pastor: Whenever the Church is fraught with boasting, falsehoods, and schisms, O God, send Your Holy Spirit to use Word and Sacrament to bring clergy and lay leaders to repentance.

People: **Embolden them to announce with one voice the victory Your Son won for us all.**

Pastor: Wherever people respond to illness, accident, injustice, and discrimination, O God, strengthen them to rely on You for protection in all circumstances.

People: **Guide them to make decisions in wisdom and to sow righteousness in peace.**

Pastor: Wherever people call out to You in their distress, [*especially . . .*], O God, visit, relieve, heal, and console them according to Your gracious will.

People: **Use us as part of Your answers to their fervent prayers.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, hear us and all for whom we pray, as we rely on Your gracious plans for all we need;

People: **through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**PREFACE** *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**PROPER PREFACE**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**SANCTUS** *(p. 961 in hymnal)*

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: 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.”

### **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**    *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

**Pastor:**        As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

**People:**        **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Pastor:**        O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### **LORD’S PRAYER**    *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People:**        **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.**

### **PAX DOMINI**

**Pastor:**        The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:**        **Amen.**

### **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

“Holy, Holy, Holy”	#507
“Son of God, Eternal Savior”	#842
“The Lamb”	#547

### **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

**Pastor:**        O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament,

**People:** and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You;

**Pastor:** 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**     *Numbers 6:24–26*

**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.

**People:** Amen.

**HYMN**     “Go, Therefore”

**DISMISSAL**

**Pastor:** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God!

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*Holy Communion is shared on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month.*