

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 21

Abundant Grace

September 26, 2021



AS WE GATHER

God's grace is always abundant; it goes beyond the limits we might set. When seventy elders are supposed to report to Moses to help him, two remain in the camp. But the Spirit rests on them! In the Gospel, the disciples following Jesus on the way to Jerusalem complain. A non-disciple is able to cast out demons in His name! And Jesus tells them not to stop him. His grace even includes us despite our inability to do His will. Confident of our Lord's return, the Epistle urges us to serve one another, healing, praying, cheering up, confessing, and forgiving. Jesus says we are as valuable as salt for one another, preserving our relationship to Him. "Have salt in yourselves," He says, "and be at peace with one another."

✠ PREPARATION ✠

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 104:33–34*

Pastor: I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
People: **I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**

Pastor: May my meditation be pleasing to Him,
People: **for I rejoice in the LORD.**

HYMN "In Moments Like These"

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *James 5:7, 9, 12, 14, 16; Mark 9:50; Psalm 104:31, 35b*

Pastor: We enjoy singing praises to God, but we truly need Him to look down on us in mercy. So often we fail to follow the directives for Christian living, which we will read about in today's Epistle. So James urges, "Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed." Let us ask God for grace and mercy.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: James writes, "Be patient . . . until the coming of the Lord. . . . Do not grumble against one another, brothers. . . . Let your 'yes' be yes and your 'no' be no. . . . Is anyone among you sick? . . . Pray over him."

People: We confess our impatience, our lack of love for our brothers and sisters in Christ, and our words that do not always reflect the love You have for us. We have sinned in thought, word, and deed. Heavenly Father, our only hope is in Your grace and mercy. Forgive us for Jesus' sake.

Pastor: God has cured our sickness of sin by sending His Son to die in our place. He values us and calms our fears, saying, "Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace." As a called and ordained servant of Christ, 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: May the glory of the LORD endure forever;

**People: may the LORD rejoice in His works.
Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!**

☩ **WORD** ☩

KYRIE

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For peace from God and peace among our brothers and sisters in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For peace among all who seek to serve Christ and support His Church, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who gather here to be strengthened in faith and encouraged in service, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart"

#806

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Everlasting Father, source of every blessing, mercifully direct and govern us by Your Holy Spirit

People: that we may complete the works You have prepared for us to do;

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 *Numbers 11:4–6, 10–16, 24–29*

(The Holy Spirit even comes upon two men in the camp.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL *Psalm 91:11; 103:1*

Pastor: He will command His angels concerning you

People: to guard you in all your ways.

Pastor: Bless the LORD, O my soul,

People: and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

EPISTLE *James 5:(1–12) 13–20*

(James outlines what Christians ought to do for one another.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Mark 9:50b*

Pastor: Alleluia. Have salt in yourselves,

People: and be at peace with one another. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 9:38–50*

(Jesus teaches how much God values all who have a relationship with His Son.)

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 “We Come Today”

SERMON “Football for Jesus: The Referee” Pastor Dave

CREED *Apostles’ Creed* *as 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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER *Psalm 104:24, 27–30, 35b*

Pastor: O LORD, how manifold are Your works!

**People: In wisdom have You made them all;
the earth is full of Your creatures.**

Pastor: These all look to You,
to give them their food in due season.

**People: When You give it to them, they gather it up;
when You open Your hand, they are filled with good things.**

Pastor: When You hide your face, they are dismayed;

People: when You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

Pastor: When You send forth Your Spirit, they are created,

People: and You renew the face of the ground.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

Praise the LORD!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Christian Church and for all people in their various needs.

For the Church here and around the world, witnessing to the good news in Christ, that we see the worth within one another, the value our heavenly Father places on us, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy, and grant that nothing separate us from You and Your love for us in Christ.

Pastor: For those who do not know Christ but support the work of the Church to meet people’s physical, social, and spiritual needs, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy, and bless them according to Your abundant grace.

Pastor: For people who serve in positions of governmental authority among the nations, for those who raise crops and tend herds, and for all who connect resources with the needs of their fellow citizens, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy, and give them joy in serving.

Pastor: For all who struggle to put bread on the table and a roof over their families, those who face injustice and discrimination, and all who are denied human rights, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy, and give us hearts to help those in need.

Pastor: For all near and dear to us who call out to God in their distress, [*including . . .*], let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy, and bring about healing, comfort, and relief as fits Your gracious plans for them.

Pastor: For ourselves, that we recognize the gifts God has placed among us by which we may care for one another and our community, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy, and give us guidance and strength to serve in Your name.

Pastor: Grant us, heavenly Father, that what we ask for in faith we may obtain through Your unfailing mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Pastor: We sing our Lord's Prayer:

"Lord's Prayer"

HFG 440

**Our Father, which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
For Thine is the Kingdom,
and the Power and the Glory forever. Amen.**

PAX DOMINI

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

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 "Just A Prayer Away"

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 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of each month.