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FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 18

Reflecting the Faithful Work of Jesus

September 5, 2021

AS WE GATHER

In today's Readings, James encourages us toward good works of service and love, and Jesus does the good work of healing by restoring a man's hearing and speech. Our faith in Jesus is marked by our reflection of His love and service. While we are not able to do all the things Jesus can do, we are called to reflect His faithful work as we serve in our vocations by loving our neighbors.



✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" #702 vs 1,2,4

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES *Based on Psalm 146*

Pastor: Praise the LORD, O my soul!
People: **I will praise the LORD as long as I live.**

Pastor: Blessed are those whose hope is in the LORD;
People: **the LORD sets the prisoners free.**

Pastor: The LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
People: **The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.**

Pastor: The LORD upholds the widow and the fatherless.
People: **The LORD will reign forever!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Yes, the Lord reigns over every nation, language, and people. Yet, we have not loved all people as Christ has loved us. The fruits of our faith are not always evident. But our Lord is gracious and merciful, and He offers His forgiveness to all.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: we have failed to love others as You love them. We have failed to reflect Your grace to the world in service and sacrifice. We have failed in our actions and in our unwillingness to act. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may follow You in joy. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy sent Jesus Christ into our world to serve and save all people, showing no partiality or favoritism. By His death, He forgives all our sins. By His resurrection, He destroys death forever and offers us eternal life. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. We are forgiven in Christ. We set free to love and serve our neighbors. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

#700 vs 1,2,4

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, let Your merciful ears be open to the prayers of Your humble servants and grant that what they ask may be in accord with Your gracious will; 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

Isaiah 35:4–7a

(God will come and restore all things.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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

Fear the LORD, you His saints,
for those who fear Him lack nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

EPISTLE *James 2:1–10, 14–18* (What good is a dead faith?)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Psalm 147:2–3*

Alleluia. The LORD builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the outcasts of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 7:(24–30) 31–37* (Jesus heals a deaf man in the Decapolis.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh 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 “He Is Faithful”

SERMON “The Promise of a Powerful Hope”

Pastor Schroeder

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: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Lord of all nations, grant us grace

People: to love all people in every place.

Pastor: For all the nations of the world, their leaders and residents, that peace may reign and that the Church would be a faithful witness of Jesus' love and service in every place.

Lord of all nations, grant us grace

People: to love all people in every place.

Pastor: For all those who work in the service of others, that their work might be blessed by God and appreciated by others. Lord of all nations, grant us grace

People: to love all people in every place.

Pastor: For all those who have abandoned the faith, Lord, that they would once again hear Your Word and receive Your good gifts. Lord of all nations, grant us grace

People: to love all people in every place.

Pastor: For all who are sick, injured, preparing for surgery, and recovering, [*especially* . . .], that God would grant them healing according to His good and gracious will. Lord of all nations, grant us grace,

People: to love all people in every place.

Pastor: Lord, into Your hands we place all these things, knowing that You hear us and remain faithful.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

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 beneficial 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 to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by His perfect, faithful work of death and resurrection.

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 Christ's 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 from every nation, language, and people 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

"I Am Jesus' Little Lamb" #740
"How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" #524
"In the Garden"

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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 "Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace" #937

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Holy Communion is shared on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of each month.