

# The Second Sunday after Pentecost

## FATHER'S DAY

### June 19, 2022

#### PRAYER FOR FATHER'S DAY

Almighty Father, You entrusted Your Son to the protection of Joseph, His earthly father. We thank You for the gift of our fathers. Help them to provide for both the physical and spiritual needs of their families so that in all things they may be examples of Your fatherly love. Amen.

#### Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

Lutheran Service Book 650, Lutheran Worship 164, The Lutheran Hymnal n/a

1 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er dwell - ing In the ho - liest  
2 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er liv - ing As the Church's  
3 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er work - ing Through the Church's

realms of light; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er brood - ing  
ver - y life; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er striv - ing  
min - is - try; Quick - 'ning, strength - 'ning, and ab - solv - ing,

O'er a world of gloom and night; Ho - ly Spir - it,  
Through us in a cease - less strife; Ho - ly Spir - it,  
Set - ting cap - tive sin - ners free; Ho - ly Spir - it,

ev - er rais - ing Those of earth to thrones on high; Liv - ing,  
ev - er form - ing In the Church the mind of Christ: You we  
ev - er bind - ing Age to age and soul to soul In com -

life - im - part - ing Spir - it, You we praise and mag - ni - fy.  
praise with end - less wor - ship For Your gifts and fruits un - priced.  
mu - nion nev - er end - ing, You we wor - ship and ex - tol.

**L** In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**L** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth. (*Psalm 124:8*)

**L** Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

**C** Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. (*Psalm 19:12, 13*)

**L** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. (*Psalm 130:3–4*)

**L** Let us, confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and as His people let us take refuge in His infinite mercy seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, saying:

**C** God, be merciful to me, a sinner, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

(*Luke 18:13*)

**L** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Your holy Church, You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

### Introit Psalm 71:20–24; antiphon Psalm 71:3

**L** Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come;  
you have given the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

**C** You who have made me see many troubles and calamities will revive me again;  
from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again.

**L** You will increase my greatness  
and comfort me again.

**C** I will also praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, O my God;  
I will sing praises to you with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel.

**L** My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you;  
my soul also, which you have redeemed.

**C** And my tongue will talk of your righteous help all the day long,  
for they have been put to shame and disappointed who sought to do me hurt.

**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.

**L** Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come;  
you have given the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

### Kyrie

**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

### Gloria in Excelsis ~ Glory to God in the Highest

**L** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

**C** Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, and we praise You for Your glory.

**L** Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, You are Lord and God, You are the Lamb of God:

- C** Lord Jesus Christ, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
- L** Lord Jesus Christ, You are seated at the right hand of the Father; and we ask you to graciously receive our prayer.
- C** For You alone are the Holy One,  
You alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### Collect of the Day

- L** Let us pray: O God, You have prepared for those who love You such good things as surpass our understanding. Cast out all sins and evil desires from us, and pour into our hearts Your Holy Spirit to guide us into all blessedness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

### Isaiah 65:1–9

<sup>1</sup>I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me;  
I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me.  
I said, “Here am I, here am I,”  
to a nation that was not called by my name.

<sup>2</sup>I spread out my hands all the day  
to a rebellious people,  
who walk in a way that is not good,  
following their own devices;  
<sup>3</sup>a people who provoke me  
to my face continually,  
sacrificing in gardens  
and making offerings on bricks;

<sup>4</sup>who sit in tombs,  
and spend the night in secret places;  
who eat pig’s flesh,  
and broth of tainted meat is in their vessels;

<sup>5</sup>who say, “Keep to yourself,  
do not come near me, for I am too holy for you.”  
These are a smoke in my nostrils,  
a fire that burns all the day.

<sup>6</sup>Behold, it is written before me:  
“I will not keep silent, but I will repay;  
I will indeed repay into their bosom  
<sup>7</sup>both your iniquities and your fathers’ iniquities together,  
says the LORD;  
because they made offerings on the mountains  
and insulted me on the hills,  
I will measure into their bosom  
payment for their former deeds.”

<sup>8</sup>Thus says the LORD:  
“As the new wine is found in the cluster,  
and they say, ‘Do not destroy it,  
for there is a blessing in it,’

so I will do for my servants' sake,  
and not destroy them all.  
<sup>9</sup>I will bring forth offspring from Jacob,  
and from Judah possessors of my mountains;  
my chosen shall possess it,  
and my servants shall dwell there."

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Gradual Romans 10:8b, 10

**L** The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart,

**C** **the word of faith that we proclaim.**

**L** For with the heart one believes and is justified,

**C** **and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.**

### Psalm 3

**L** <sup>1</sup>O LORD, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me;

**C** **<sup>2</sup>many are saying of my soul, there is no salvation for him in God.**

**L** <sup>3</sup>But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.

**C** **<sup>4</sup>I cried aloud to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy hill.**

**L** <sup>5</sup>I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the LORD sustained me.

**C** **<sup>6</sup>I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.**

**L** <sup>7</sup>Arise, O LORD! Save me, O my God!

For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked.

**C** **<sup>8</sup>Salvation belongs to the LORD; your blessing be on your people!**

### Galatians 3:23—4:7

<sup>23</sup>Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup>So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.

<sup>25</sup>But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, <sup>26</sup>for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. <sup>27</sup>For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

<sup>4:1</sup>I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, <sup>2</sup>but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. <sup>3</sup>In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. <sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Verse of the Day: Luke 8:39a

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. Return to your home, Alleluia.  
**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. and declare how much God has done for you. Alleluia.

## Luke 8:26–39

- L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>26</sup>Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. <sup>27</sup>When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. <sup>28</sup>When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me.” <sup>29</sup>For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) <sup>30</sup>Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion,” for many demons had entered him. <sup>31</sup>And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. <sup>32</sup>Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. <sup>33</sup>Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

<sup>34</sup>When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. <sup>35</sup>Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. <sup>36</sup>And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. <sup>37</sup>Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. <sup>38</sup>The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup>“Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

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

**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.

## Oh, Blest the House

Lutheran Service Book 862, Lutheran Worship 467, The Lutheran Hymnal 625



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus  
2 Oh, blest that house where faith is found And all in  
3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their  
4 Oh, blest that house; it pros - pers well. In peace and  
5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol - ly  
hope and love a - bound; They trust their God and serve Him  
chil - dren's fore - most need And wea - ry not of care or  
joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives is  
prom - ise make and say: Though all the world for - sake His



His— How sad and poor and dark it is!  
still And do in all His ho - ly will!  
cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
shown How rich - ly God can bless His own.  
Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

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### Devotional thoughts:

From the earliest times, Christians have loved visiting the sites where Jesus lived in the Holy Land. It seems that about A.D. 120, the Roman Emperor Hadrian built a temple to Venus over the place of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection in order to deter Christians from visiting those locations. In the 380s, a Christian woman named Egeria traveled to the Holy Land from Western Europe and wrote about her pilgrimage in great detail.

There are wonderful things for Christians to see in Israel. You can visit Capernaum, Jesus' home base. There you can see Peter's house where Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law. You can ride a boat on the Sea of Galilee. You can travel to Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and the Jordan River. There is so much to see and do. But of all the people that I know who would like to go to the Holy Land, I haven't met one who said, "I want to see the country of the Gerasenes where Jesus' healed the demonic and cast the legion of demons into the pigs."

Luke 8:26 says, "They sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee." The western and northern shores of the Sea of Galilee are places where the Jews lived. The eastern shore is the pagan side of the lake. Our Gospel lesson for this week finds Jesus in Gentile Territory. This is underscored by the fact that people in this place are raising pigs!

In the Old Testament lesson from Isaiah 65, we read a catalog of rebellious activities practiced by God's people. Included on this list is that they "sit in tombs" and "eat pig's flesh!" Jesus has traveled into the heart of enemy territory!

While He is there, Jesus doesn't meet just one demon but many! Nevertheless, they are no match for Him!

Jesus' authority and power as the Son of God are on display in a mighty way in Luke 8. Jesus calms the storm. He casts out the demons named "Legion." He heals a woman afflicted for twelve years. He raises Jairus' daughter from the dead! He did all of this in just the second half of the chapter!

But our lessons for this week present us with something even more compelling! Jesus has healed all the divisions between God and man. We all have sinned and gone astray (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6). But through His sacrifice on the cross, we have become part of God's family!

Jesus' traveled to the region of the Gerasenes because He is the savior of the pagan gentiles, too! Writing about the Gentile people, Peter said, "Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy" (1 Peter 2:10).

The Apostle Peter wrote to the Galatians, "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise."

We live in a time of great division. I have followed politics since the election of President Kennedy. I don't recall a time when there was as much hostility and enmity between political parties as we are experiencing now. There is an intolerance expressed toward people of faith and religion that is new to me. People who hold high moral standards are despised. All of this is evidence of sin in the world.

God did not intend for things to be this way. God meant for us to live in peace and harmony. But it wasn't to be. Ever since Cain killed his brother Abel, the viciousness of discord has filled humanity.

Jesus came to put everything back together. When He was born the angels announced, "Peace on earth." Jesus crossed every social boundary to restore unity to the human race. He ate with sinners and tax collectors. He went to pagan territories and cast out demons. He told the Canaanite Woman, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly (Matthew 15:28).

The first Christians were so captivated by this newfound unity that they started to call each other brother and sister. They held everything in common and gave to those who had a need.

But Christians are not immune to sin. Those early days of idealism soon gave way to reality. Nevertheless, in Christ, we are all one. On this Father's Day, we are reminded that all believers everywhere speak to God in prayer with the words, "Our Father, who art in heaven."

The one great salve that heals division is the forgiveness that Jesus won for us on the cross and that we share with others. From the cross, Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them." We pray, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

May this unity begin in our homes. If there is any division between fathers and children, let this Father's Day be a day for reconciliation and forgiveness.

May unity abound in our churches. May we all be one as Jesus prayed in His High Priestly Prayer (John 17:21).

May an end to division and strife continue into our communities as Christian people put into practice what they have received from Jesus. People all around us are tired of the divisions in our country. Now is the time for us to proclaim how much Jesus has done for us.

God's richest blessings to you in Christ.

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:4-7).

**L** Compassionate Father, from whom all fatherhood is named, we give You thanks for earthly fathers. Give them confidence in their calling and zeal for their task to care for their families faithfully. Make them examples to their children of godly life and love for Your Word. Bless their work of bringing up children in the fear and nurture of the Lord, and grant them the comfort of Your forgiveness for all their sins.

**C** Amen.

**L** Heavenly Father, thank You that You have made us all one in Christ. As we live in a world afflicted with divisions both great and small, let all find refuge in Your holy Church where we all may call You Father through Jesus Christ our Lord who brought us into Your family by His suffering and death on the cross.

**C** Amen.

**L** Almighty God, govern the kingdoms of this world according to Your holy and gracious will. Protect those in harm's way because of the war in Ukraine that continues to cause innocent men, women, and children to suffer. Curb what is evil and promote what is good among us wherever we live in this fallen world.

**C** Amen.

**L** Almighty God, send Your holy angels to watch over all of our loved ones, especially those who live in distant places. Strengthen all those who serve us in the medical field. Give Your comfort and peace to all who are suffering from illness. Be with those who mourn. Grant to them the hope and assurance of a blessed reunion in heaven.

**C** Amen.

**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.

**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.

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**L** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**C** Amen.

### Abide, O Dearest Jesus

Lutheran Service Book 919, Lutheran Worship 287, The Lutheran Hymnal 53



1 A - bid - e, O dear - est Je - sus, A - mong us with Your grace  
2 A - bid - e, O dear Re - deem - er, A - mong us with Your Word,  
3 A - bid - e with heav'n - ly bright - ness A - mong us, pre - cious Light;  
4 A - bid - e with rich - est bless - ings A - mong us, boun - teous Lord;



That Sa - tan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.  
And thus now and here - af - ter True peace and joy af - ford.  
Your truth di - rect and keep us From er - ror's gloom - y night.  
Let us in grace and wis - dom Grow dai - ly through Your Word.



5 Abide with Your protection  
Among us, Lord, our strength,  
Lest world and Satan fell us  
And overcome at length.

6 Abide, O faithful Savior,  
Among us with Your love;  
Grant steadfastness and help us  
To reach our home above.

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**Service Notes:**

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.

Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

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# Enhancing Your Worship

## Meditating on God's Word and Works

I will meditate on your wondrous works. Psalm 119:27  
My eyes are awake through the night watches,  
That I may meditate on Your word. Psalm 119:148 NKJV

### The Second Sunday after Pentecost

#### June 20 – June 25, 2022

#### Introduction

Most modern forms of mediation turn a person inward. Biblical meditation turns a person outward toward what God has said and done especially what He has said and done through Jesus for our salvation.

Each Sunday has its own special theme directing us to meditate on God's word and actions. This theme is found in the Propers of the Day (the parts of the service that change week to week). From Advent through the Easter season these themes focus our attention on the life of Jesus from His birth to His death and resurrection. There is always much more in the propers than can be covered in any Sunday service. God willing, I will use the propers for Sunday to provide you with a devotion each day to help you meditate on what God has done for you.

#### Monday

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

#### Introit Psalm 71:20–24; antiphon Psalm 71:3

- L** Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come;  
you have given the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.
- C** **You who have made me see many troubles and calamities will revive me again;  
from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again.**
- L** You will increase my greatness  
and comfort me again.
- C** **I will also praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, O my God;  
I will sing praises to you with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel.**
- L** My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you;  
my soul also, which you have redeemed.
- C** **And my tongue will talk of your righteous help all the day long,  
for they have been put to shame and disappointed who sought to do me hurt.**
- 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.**
- L** Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come;  
you have given the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

#### Verse of the Day: Luke 8:39a

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. Return to your home, Alleluia.
- C** Alleluia, Alleluia. and declare how much God has done for you. Alleluia.

## Kyrie

- |          |           |          |                          |
|----------|-----------|----------|--------------------------|
| <b>L</b> | O Lord,   | <b>C</b> | <b>Have Mercy on us.</b> |
| <b>L</b> | O Christ, | <b>C</b> | <b>Have Mercy on us.</b> |
| <b>L</b> | O Lord,   | <b>C</b> | <b>Have Mercy on us.</b> |

Our introit begins with a prayer to God that every Christian can echo: “Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come.” Life presents us with many challenges. They come one after another and each time we pray to the Lord, “Be to me a rock of refuge.” And He always is!

Life is like that. Troubles and calamities abound. Our hearts are burdened by fear and anxiety. Yet, again and again, God rescues us and brings us comfort.

Our introit is only six of the twenty-four verses that make up Psalm 71. It speaks to every one of us. But there is one intriguing detail about this Psalm that you will discover by reading the other eighteen verses. It was written by a person of “old age and gray hairs” (verse 18)!

This person has been a believer his entire life! Through thick and thin, God has always been there for him. Now he writes, “O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.”

Some believe that David wrote this psalm. It doesn’t have a title. But it does fit his story. From childhood on David trusted God and God rescued him. God gave him victory over the massive Philistine giant, Goliath. He protected him from the fury of Saul’s jealous attacks. He defended David from the treachery of his rebellious son, Absalom.

Life presents us with challenges each day. No one is untouched by calamities. We are surrounded by sinfulness. Some of it is our own doing. But God never forsakes us. He is always there as our rock.

Gas prices are up. Interest rates are rising. We are all affected by inflation. Some of us are tempted to let anxiety about the economy overwhelm us.

When that happens, I like to remember these words of Jesus from the King James Version of the Bible. “Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.” I guess that is just showing my “old age and gray hair.” For you young folk, here it is in the ESV. “Do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

God takes care of us day by day. He will continue to do this until He calls us to be with Him for all eternity. Until then He is our Rock of Refuge. He has promised to never leave us or forsake us.

- L** Let us pray. Lord thank You for being our Rock and Refuge. Ease our worry and anxiety as daily trials press in on us. In Your mercy, revive us again in the midst of troubles and calamities. Grant that we would continue to sing praises to You for Your fatherly protection through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** **Amen**

## Tuesday

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

## Verse of the Day: Luke 8:39a

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. Return to your home, Alleluia.
- C** **Alleluia, Alleluia. and declare how much God has done for you. Alleluia.**

## Kyrie

**L** O Lord,           **C** Have Mercy on us.  
**L** O Christ,       **C** Have Mercy on us.  
**L** O Lord,           **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** Let us pray: O God, You have prepared for those who love You such good things as surpass our understanding. Cast out all sins and evil desires from us, and pour into our hearts Your Holy Spirit to guide us into all blessedness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

Our collect for this week has an interesting phrase. It says that God has prepared for us good things that “surpass our understanding.” The idea that some things “surpass our understanding” is hard for many people to accept.

Yet, many things in the physical world surpass our understanding. Physicists, Chemists, and many other experts in the hard sciences are fully aware of the dilemmas we face in trying to understand and describe the working of nature.

While it is common in our culture to “believe” the Big Bang Theory, it is fraught with problems that contradict our current understanding of the laws of nature. Yet, it is still assumed to be true.

When God reveals to us the extent of His grace and mercy, it certainly surpasses our understanding. But thanks be to God that by the gift of the Holy Spirit we know it to be true!

When God reveals His truth to us, we are not required to understand it. We are only asked to believe it.

Here is the greatest example of a truth that surpasses our understanding:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

Let us pray: O God, You have prepared for those who love You such good things as surpass our understanding. Cast out all sins and evil desires from us, and pour into our hearts Your Holy Spirit to guide us into all blessedness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Wednesday

**L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Verse of the Day: Luke 8:39a

**L** Alleluia, Alleluia. Return to your home, Alleluia.  
**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. and declare how much God has done for you. Alleluia.

## Psalms 3

**L** <sup>1</sup>O LORD, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me;  
**C** <sup>2</sup>many are saying of my soul, there is no salvation for him in God.  
**L** <sup>3</sup>But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.  
**C** <sup>4</sup>I cried aloud to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy hill.  
**L** <sup>5</sup>I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the LORD sustained me.  
**C** <sup>6</sup>I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.  
**L** <sup>7</sup>Arise, O LORD! Save me, O my God!

For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked.

**C** <sup>8</sup>Salvation belongs to the LORD; your blessing be on your people!

## Kyrie

<b>L</b> O Lord,	<b>C</b> Have Mercy on us.
<b>L</b> O Christ,	<b>C</b> Have Mercy on us.
<b>L</b> O Lord,	<b>C</b> Have Mercy on us.

When I read Psalm 3 without the title, I missed the irony of using this psalm for our Father's Day service. The title of Psalm 3 says, "A Psalm of David, when he fled from Absalom his son." On one hand, this is not a pleasant thought for Father's Day. On the other, it is an important reminder that families can become very broken.

Father's Day is a day to celebrate the gift of fathers. Yet not everyone is so blessed. There are many fathers who do not take their responsibility seriously. Several years ago, a famous professional athlete was in the headlines for neglecting to take an interest in his seriously injured son. However, even after this appalling attitude, the athlete continued to be celebrated by the sports media. It is sad when the ideals of fatherhood are not honored.

Still, even the best fathers can suffer from rebellious children. David loved Absalom but David stood in the way of Absalom's ambition. Such is the power of sin.

I don't know what your family is like. I hope that you don't suffer the way David did. Nevertheless, David's words speak to us no matter what kind of family we have.

Verse 8 says, "Salvation belongs to the LORD." Whatever challenge you face, it is good to remember that salvation belongs to the Lord!

Sin corrupts all of humanity. It leads to problems in every part of life. Ultimately, sin leads to death.

God comes to us with salvation. On our own, it is beyond our reach. But God grants it to us freely for Christ's sake!

O Lord, thank You for the gift of families. Bring comfort and peace to those who live in broken families. Grant us the joy of knowing salvation belongs to You and that you grant it to us. Amen

## Thursday

<b>L</b> In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
<b>C</b> Amen.

## Verse of the Day: Luke 8:39a

<b>L</b> Alleluia, Alleluia. Return to your home, Alleluia.
<b>C</b> Alleluia, Alleluia. and declare how much God has done for you. Alleluia.

## Kyrie

<b>L</b> O Lord,	<b>C</b> Have Mercy on us.
<b>L</b> O Christ,	<b>C</b> Have Mercy on us.
<b>L</b> O Lord,	<b>C</b> Have Mercy on us.

## Isaiah 65:1–9

<sup>1</sup>I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me;  
I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me.  
I said, "Here am I, here am I,"

to a nation that was not called by my name.

<sup>2</sup>I spread out my hands all the day  
to a rebellious people,  
who walk in a way that is not good,  
following their own devices;

<sup>3</sup>a people who provoke me  
to my face continually,  
sacrificing in gardens  
and making offerings on bricks;

<sup>4</sup>who sit in tombs,  
and spend the night in secret places;  
who eat pig's flesh,  
and broth of tainted meat is in their vessels;

<sup>5</sup>who say, "Keep to yourself,  
do not come near me, for I am too holy for you."

These are a smoke in my nostrils,  
a fire that burns all the day.

<sup>6</sup>Behold, it is written before me:  
"I will not keep silent, but I will repay;

I will indeed repay into their bosom

<sup>7</sup>both your iniquities and your fathers' iniquities together,  
says the LORD;

because they made offerings on the mountains  
and insulted me on the hills,

I will measure into their bosom  
payment for their former deeds."

<sup>8</sup>Thus says the LORD:

"As the new wine is found in the cluster,  
and they say, 'Do not destroy it,  
for there is a blessing in it,'  
so I will do for my servants' sake,  
and not destroy them all.

<sup>9</sup>I will bring forth offspring from Jacob,  
and from Judah possessors of my mountains;  
my chosen shall possess it,  
and my servants shall dwell there."

Isaiah 65 shows the contrast between those who seek the Lord and are faithful to Him and those who are rebellious. These first verses selected for our Old Testament lesson this week focus on the rebellious people.

The chapter begins with God lamenting the fact that He has opened His arms for the people but they are a rebellious people. Instead of running to their loving God, they walk away from Him and follow a way that is not good. They shun God and follow their own devices!

This sounds a lot like the new morality which is nothing other than the old immorality. In Isaiah's day, the people didn't turn to God. They turned to false gods and took their sacrifices to them.

The most popular false god in the second decade of the second millennium is self-expression and personal choice. Many in our country worship at the altar of "No one can tell me what to do!" It's not much different from Isaiah's time.

People didn't want to listen to God. They insulted God with their personal choices. As a result, God's judgment was upon them.

Later in the chapter, we learn what God has in store for those who are faithful. He has a new heaven and a new earth planned for his people (verse 17). There the wolf and the lamb shall graze together (verse 25).

It is so sad when people reject the good things God has planned for His people. But we rejoice in everything that Jesus won for us on the cross. May we never reject God to pursue our own personal choices.

Prayer: O Lord, thank You that You have called us out of our rebellious nature and reconciled us to Yourself through Jesus' cross. Amen

## Friday

**L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Verse of the Day: Luke 8:39a

**L** Alleluia, Alleluia. Return to your home, Alleluia.

**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. and declare how much God has done for you. Alleluia.

## Kyrie

**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

## Galatians 3:23—4:7

<sup>23</sup>Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup>So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, <sup>26</sup>for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. <sup>27</sup>For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

<sup>4:1</sup>I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, <sup>2</sup>but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. <sup>3</sup>In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. <sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Galatians is a most interesting letter. It was Paul's custom to say something complimentary to the recipients of his epistles and be thankful to God for them. But this letter is different.

In the place where Paul says to the Colossians, "We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you," he writes to the Galatians, "I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel."

The Galatians had the same problem that some Christians continue to struggle with today. I recently spoke to a woman who left the Lutheran Church and now belongs to a local congregation that prefers their denomination would remain under wraps. To protect the innocent (guilty?), I won't mention its name. However, it is enough to know that only the "best Christians" are welcome there. Flawed, unspiritual, less-than-perfect Christians are welcome to worship in other congregations.

They sound a lot like the Galatians. They want only the best Christians who would observe all the Jewish ceremonial laws. Others were not welcome.

At the beginning of Galatians, Paul gives a long explanation of the Gospel. He makes it clear that we are saved by grace through faith for Christ's sake, not by works of the law!

Before God's throne, we are all sinners. We are not saved by works of the law but in Christ, we are saved by grace through faith. It is not because some of us are better than others. Rather, all who have put on Christ are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. In fact, there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28).

All repentant sinners are welcome into God's family. That makes us brothers and sisters in Christ.

Prayer: O Lord, thank You for making us one under Jesus' cross. Help us to celebrate our oneness and rejoice in the salvation Jesus won for us. Amen.

## Saturday

**L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Gradual Romans 10:8b, 10

**L** The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart,

**C** **the word of faith that we proclaim.**

**L** For with the heart one believes and is justified,

**C** **and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.**

## Verse of the Day: Luke 8:39a

**L** Alleluia, Alleluia. Return to your home, Alleluia.

**C** **Alleluia, Alleluia. and declare how much God has done for you. Alleluia.**

## Kyrie

**L** O Lord, **C** **Have Mercy on us.**

**L** O Christ, **C** **Have Mercy on us.**

**L** O Lord, **C** **Have Mercy on us.**

I recently read a silly statement that too many people believe. Here it is, "I don't go to church anymore because Christians try to force their morality on others."

Of course, nothing could be farther from the truth. Christians simply believe God's word and His promises in Scripture. No one can force anyone else to believe. Actually, no one can believe without the working of the Holy Spirit. Our natural human nature rejects God and His grace and mercy.

We teach God's word of truth knowing that through the word, the Holy Spirit will touch the hearts of sinners and bring them to repentance. He will then work faith in their hearts. They will believe that Jesus died for them and paid for their sins and grants them forgiveness, life, and salvation.

On the other hand, there is an agency that is charged with enforcing morality. It is not the Church. It is the government.

We are blessed to live in a democracy where Christians and non-Christians are allowed to vote their conscience. Whether believer or unbeliever, each of us votes for laws that we consider to be fair and just. So in a certain sense everyone who votes wants to force their morality on others. This is simply doing our civic duty.

We vote for officials who will punish murderers and thieves. There is a consensus among believers and unbelievers that it is wrong to prey on the vulnerable and harm the innocent. These are all moral decisions.

I pray that Christians will not be intimidated and bullied by people who believe that they have a right to their morality but we do not have a right to believe God and His word. It is not the function of the Church to force our beliefs on others but it is the duty of every Christian to participate in the democratic process.



Prayer: Almighty God, You have given us this good land as our heritage. Grant that we remember Your generosity and constantly do Your will. Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Grant that we, who came from many nations with many different languages, may become a united people. Support us in defending our liberties, and give those to whom we have entrusted the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there may be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, may our hearts be thankful, and in troubled times do not let our trust in You fail; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.. Amen.

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