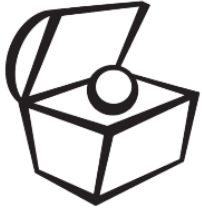


Ninth Sunday after Pentecost - July 30, 2023



When God makes a promise, he keeps it for all time. That is evidenced in the Scriptures for today's worship. His love, care, and protection mean that he will never abandon those he calls his own, those he ushers into the kingdom of heaven. Jesus teaches his disciples that this kingdom is often hidden from view, but it is like a priceless treasure that is to be cherished and valued above all else.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

- ◆ You are here by God's calling and we extend Christ's hospitality to you this day.
- ◆ In worship, we hear God's Word, partake in the Lord's Supper, and return our thanks in prayer and praise.
- ◆ If you receive the Lord's Supper in your home congregation, you are welcome to receive it here.
- ◆ Restrooms and a nursery are located in the backside hallway. Look for the horseshoe cross.
- ◆ Please fill out a visitor card so we can keep in touch. The Lord give you strength for daily living.

LBW - DIVINE SERVICE ONE

▼ = SIT ▲ = STAND

MUSICIAN: KAREN HALL

MUSICAL PRELUDE - KAREN HALL

▲ CONFESSION

All of us are born into this world with a deep need for baptism: we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear or faith in God. But while we were still sinners, Christ died for us! He exchanged His life for our sin. And in baptism He imparts His righteousness and births in us new life. Let us remember what baptism means for our daily life:

Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to life before, with, and in God.

So as baptized children we confess our sins:

Holy and gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart nor loved others as myself, the two things you commanded. I stand condemned. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins on the cross, rescuing me from this condemnation. So we humbly ask, God have mercy on me.

Hear the words of absolution: your sins are forgiven. Go now and sin no more. Amen

▼ BAPTISM

In Matthew (28:19) Jesus instructed us to baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In John (3:5) Jesus told us that the entry into God's Kingdom is being born again through water and the Spirit.

In Mark (10:13-16) Jesus blessed the children and held them up as a model for faith.

In Acts (2:38-39) this promise is explicitly stated to be for children as well as adults.

So, this morning, we come in obedience to the command of Christ and trust in the promise of God, that what we do here is of supreme importance.

By presenting James for Holy Baptism, you commit yourselves to providing for his growth in the knowledge and fear of the Lord. This includes placing in his hands the Holy Scriptures, teaching him the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer and the Creed. Is that your intention?

Yes, by the help of God.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil? **We renounce them.**

Do you renounce the devil? **We renounce him.**

Do you renounce all the devil's empty promises? **We renounce them.**

Let us profess together the faith in which we baptize as expressed in the Apostle's Creed:

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

James Martin Kanode, you are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. We thank you, O Lord, for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to new life through this holy sacrament. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon James, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence. Amen.

James, child of God, you are marked with the sign of the cross and sealed with God's Holy Spirit. Amen.

Receive this candle as a way to remember and celebrate this day and may it serve as a reminder that we are all called to let the light of Christ shine through us in a way that draws others to God and gives glory to our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

▲ ENTRANCE HYMN "WHEN THE ROLL IS CALLED UP YONDER" INSERT

▲ KYRIE (*Spoken*)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

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. **Lord, have mercy.**

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

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen**

▲ PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Spoken*)

Almighty God, through your Son's death and resurrection you draw all creation into your eternal reign.

Grant us the grace to recognize the signs of your reign that surround us every day and the faith to proclaim your coming kingdom to those who have yet to experience your mercy and grace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

▼ FIRST READING — DEUTERONOMY 7:6-9 (*Pew Bible, p. 179*)

▼ SECOND READING — ROMANS 8:28-39 (*Pew Bible, p. 1123*)

▼ BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS (*on back of bulletin*)

▼ CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

▲ GOSPEL VERSE (*Sung*)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

▲ GOSPEL READING & RESPONSES - Matthew 13:44-52 (*Spoken, Pew Bible, p. 974*)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

▼ MESSAGE - "TREASURED POSSESSIONS!"

▲ HYMN OF THE DAY "BLESSED ASSURANCE" INSERT

▲ PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (*Spoken*)

▲ THE PEACE (*Spoken*)

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

▲ OFFERING HYMN (*Sung*)

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

▲ OFFERING PRAYER (*Spoken*)

Let us pray. **Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

▲ THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

**Holy God, Almighty Father, All creation sings your praise.
Heav'n and earth reflect your glory, Light and life fill all our days.
Israel -- your chosen people, Formed and rescued by your power;
Abram's offspring-blessing nations, Prophets promised us this hour.**

**You have sent your son, as promised Now the time has been fulfilled.
At this end of all the ages, Here on earth as you have willed.
In His word you reign among us, By His deeds your kingdom's shown;
In obedience He has suffered Off'ring His life for our own.**

In the night before His passion, Our dear Savior, taking bread,
Broke it, gave it to His followers, "This, My Body," Jesus said.
"Eat this bread is given for you, Drink this cup, my blood now share;
Thus your sins shall be forgiven. Call to mind the cross I bear."

**As this loaf and cup are offered We proclaim His saving death.
Ours the task to tell the story 'Til we draw our final breath.
Christ has died and Christ is Risen Christ the Lord shall soon appear!
With this bread and cup now given, Death is conquered, Life is here.**

**Come, Lord Jesus, feed your people Come, Great Spirit, help us live
Give us hope of resurrection As our thanks to you we give.
Join the prayers of all your people With those of our great high priest,
'Til He comes again in glory, And we join the victory feast.**

**Through Him we are now God's children; With Him life has just begun.
In Him unity is given, Father, Holy Spirit, Son.
One with us, with all creation, One forever, everywhere.
Praise we now our God forever, 'Til His glory we all share.**

▼ DISTRIBUTION OF THE HOLY SACRAMENT

(Those who receive the Lord's Supper at their home congregation are welcome to join with us today.)

▲ POST-COMMUNION HYMN *(Sung)*

**Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

▲ POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *(Spoken)*

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

▲ BENEDICTION *(Spoken)*

Go out into the world in peace. Have courage, hold on to what is good, Return no one evil for evil.
Strengthen the fainthearted, Support the weak, honor everyone,
Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
And the friendship of the Holy Spirit be with you Both this day and forevermore. Amen

▲ CLOSING HYMN: "LEAD ON, O KING ETERNAL" LBW #495

▲ CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER

DISMISSAL *(Spoken)*

Grow in faith! **Impact the world!**

POSTLUDE