

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 25, 2023



Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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THE SERVICE – SETTING ONE

THREAD: *The Holy ministry preaches Christ despite persecution.*

Hymn: I Know My Faith Is Founded

CW 797



1 I know my faith is found - ed on Je - sus Christ, my
2 In - crease my faith, dear Sav - ior, for Sa - tan seeks by
3 In faith, Lord, let me serve you; though per - se - cu - tion,



God and Lord; and this my faith con - fess - ing, un -
night and day to rob me of this trea - sure and
grief, and pain should seek to o - ver - whelm me, let



moved I stand up - on his Word. Our rea - son can - not
take my hope of bliss a - way. But, Lord, with you be -
me a stead - fast trust re - tain. And then at my de -



fath - om the truth of God pro - found; who trusts in world - ly
side me I shall be un - dis - mayed; and led by your good
par - ture, at home with you I'll be, and there will I in -



wis - dom re - lies on shift - ing ground. God's Word is
Spir - it, I shall be un - a - fraid. A - bide with
her - it all you have prom - ised me. In life and



all - suf - fi - cient, it makes di - vine - ly sure, and,
me, O Sav - ior, a firm - er faith be - stow; then
death, Lord, keep me un - til your heav'n I gain, where



trust - ing in its wis - dom, my faith shall rest se - cure.
I shall bid de - fi - ance to ev - 'ry e - vil foe.
I by your great mer - cy the end of faith at - tain.

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, 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;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called 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.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

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.

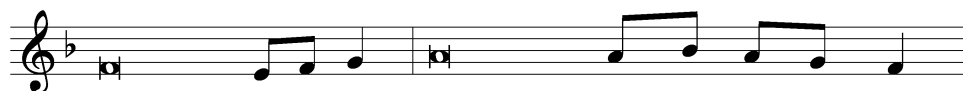
Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

Glory Be to God on High

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only - begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
 O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;
 have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer.
 You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.
 For you on - ly are holy; you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the
 Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, because your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in your eternal love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Jeremiah 20:7–13

Jeremiah found the courage to testify in the face of persecution and even in the midst of it. Proclaimers of the pure Word of God will always face persecution from without and within the visible church. Be comforted with the knowledge God will prevail.

⁷You deceived me, LORD, and I was deceived;
 you overpowered me and prevailed.
 I am ridiculed all day long;
 everyone mocks me.

⁸Whenever I speak, I cry out
 proclaiming violence and destruction.
 So the word of the LORD has brought me
 insult and reproach all day long.

⁹But if I say, “I will not mention his word
 or speak anymore in his name,”

his word is in my heart like a fire,
a fire shut up in my bones.

I am weary of holding it in;
indeed, I cannot.

¹⁰I hear many whispering,
“Terror on every side!
Denounce him! Let’s denounce him!”

All my friends
are waiting for me to slip, saying,
“Perhaps he will be deceived;
then we will prevail over him
and take our revenge on him.”

¹¹But the LORD is with me like a mighty warrior;
so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail.
They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced;
their dishonor will never be forgotten.

¹²LORD Almighty, you who examine the righteous
and probe the heart and mind,
let me see your vengeance on them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

¹³Sing to the LORD!
Give praise to the LORD!
He rescues the life of the needy
from the hands of the wicked.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: The Shadow of the Almighty

Psalm 91A

Refrain

He who dwells in the Most High will
rest in the shadow of th'Al-might-y.

Tone

Surely he will save you from the / fowler’s snare
and from the deadly / pestilence.

He will cover you with his / feathers,
and under his wings you will find / refuge.

You will not fear the ter- / ror of night,
nor the arrow that / flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in the / darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at / midday. **Refrain**

If you say, “The LORD is my / refuge,”
and you make the Most High your / dwelling,
no harm will over- / take you,
no disaster will come / near your tent.

For he will command his angels con- / cerning you
to guard you in / all your ways;
they will lift you up / in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot a- / gainst a stone.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

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Second Reading

2 Timothy 4:1–8

Paul knew all about persecution: how to give it and how to take it. After his conversion, he endured a ministry filled with persecution. His Savior never forgot him and reminded him of the courage he could have in Christ. Now Paul charges Timothy to proclaim the Word of God despite any persecution he may face. Proclaim the Word because people need to hear it.

¹In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ²Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

⁶For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

2 Corinthians 12:9

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

My grace is sufficient for you,

for my power is made perfect in weakness.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 10:5a,21–33

We should not be surprised, disappointed or angered about the persecution we (Christians) face. Look at the prophets, apostles and Jesus! The enemies of Christ have always been fearsome. In place of fear, find that same courage in Christ to witness in the face of any persecution.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions:

²¹“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. ²²You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

²³When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

²⁴“The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

²⁶“So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. ²⁷What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. ²⁸Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. ³⁰And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

³²“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day: Jesus, Priceless Treasure

CW 823



1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, fount of pur - est plea - sure,
2 In thine arms I rest me; foes who would op - press me
3 Sa - tan, I de - fy thee; death, I now de - cry thee;
4 Hence, all earth - ly trea - sure! Je - sus is my plea - sure,
5 Hence, all fear and sad - ness! For the Lord of glad - ness,



tru - est friend to me. Ah, how long in an - guish
can - not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing,
fear, I bid thee cease. World, thou shalt not harm me
Je - sus is my choice. Hence, all emp - ty glo - ry!
Je - sus, en - ters in. Those who love the Fa - ther,



shall my spir - it lan - guish, yearn - ing, Lord, for thee?
ev - 'ry heart be quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear.
nor thy threats a - larm me while I sing of peace.
Naught to me thy sto - ry told with tempt - ing voice.
though the storms may gath - er, still have peace with - in.



Thou art mine, O Lamb di - vine! I will suf - fer
Light - nings flash and thun - ders crash; yet, though sin and
God's great pow'r guards ev - 'ry hour; earth and all its
Pain or loss or shame or cross shall not from my
Yea, what - e'er I here must bear, thou art still my



naught to hide thee; naught I ask be - side thee.
hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.
depths a - dore him, si - lent bow be - fore him.
Sav - ior move me since he deigns to love me.
pur - est plea - sure, Je - sus, price - less trea - sure!

Our Father's Care for Us Creates Courageous Confessing from Us

- Expect Cruel Opposition
- Count on the Final Outcome

*Sermon by Rev. Gregg Bitter, adapted. Used by permission
Ministering Elder: Mark Harris*

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there 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.**

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture.

Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith.

Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

... Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

Offering – *The mail at church is being collected. Offerings may be mailed to:*

Peace Ev. Lutheran Church, 200 E. Beidler Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406

Let us pray:

God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn: Fight the Good Fight

CW 876



1 Fight the good fight with all your might; Christ is your
2 Run the straight race through God's good grace; lift up your
3 Cast care a - side, lean on your guide; his bound-less
4 Faint not nor fear, his arms are near; he chang - es



strength and Christ your right. Lay hold on life, and
eyes and seek his face. Life with its way be -
mer - cy will pro - vide. Lean, and the trust - ing
not, and you are dear. On - ly be - lieve, and



it shall be your joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
fore us lies; Christ is the path and Christ the prize.
soul shall prove Christ is its life and Christ its love.
you will see that Christ is Lord e - ter - nal - ly.

Silent prayer

Announcements

Acknowledgments:

Setting One from Christian Worship

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